What are the Academic Support and Enrichment Activities of ACCESS-MED?

Academic support is provided in the form of:

- Academic Support sessions in math and science provided by the Success in the Sciences Enrichment Program.

- Academic advising and individual academic planning

- Scholarship and internship information

Enrichment and greater exposure to the medical profession are offered through:

- All-day conferences at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School on topics such as gene therapy, sports medicine, cardiology, and forensic pathology

- Workshops at Rutgers University on health-related issues such as diabetes, AIDS/HIV, cancer, sickle cell anemia, etc.

- Organized trips to various medical schools

- ACCESS-MED participants may gain experience in biomedical research by undertaking projects with faculty at Rutgers University or RWJMS.

- Academic enrichment (with college credits) during the summers is available through the jointly sponsored Biomedical Careers Program (BCP).

Need More Information?

For further information on the ACCESS-MED Program, contact:

The Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences (O.D.A.S.I.S.)
Nelson Biological Laboratories
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
604 Allison Road, Room A201
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854-8000

Phone: 848-445-6878
Fax: 732-445-6879
Email: odasis@biology.rutgers.edu
Website: http://odasis.rutgers.edu

Completed applications are accepted twice a year (first week of September and first week of classes in January). They must include a current transcript and letters of recommendation.

Sponsored in part by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

MCAT Program is co-sponsored by New Jersey Medical School & NJ Educational Opportunity Fund Central Office

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The ACCESS-MED Program

Office for Diversity and Academic Success In the Sciences

RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

The Access-Med Program

While underrepresented populations constitute about 24 percent of the U.S. population, they only make up less than 8 percent of our country's physicians. The significant talent in these underrepresented groups is greatly needed to help deliver quality health care for all citizens and to make breakthroughs in biomedical science.

ACCESS-MED is a consortia program for undergraduates offered by Rutgers University, Seton Hall University, and Rutgers- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. It was formed to provide academic enrichment, support, and counseling for groups currently underrepresented in medicine. Participants also receive career guidance and assistance with applying to medical school.

One of the most exciting features of ACCESS-MED is the opportunity to gain early admission to Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS) in the senior year at Rutgers University. Students admitted to this "transitional year" of ACCESS-MED take courses at RWJMS and Rutgers University, simultaneously completing the B.A. degree requirements and earning credits toward the M.D. degree.

How is the ACCESS-MED Program Organized?

ACCESS-MED is organized into two major phases (I and II) to serve admitted students. In addition, however, a strong Pre-Phase I Program is offered to help students successfully complete the requirements for acceptance into Phase I.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Pre-Phase I

- Complete general biology, general chemistry, and one semester each of college English and mathematics.
- Academic support (e.g. Tutoring, advising, etc) and enrichment are provided.

Phase I

- Attend seminars and workshops at Rutgers University and special medical conferences at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.
- Interact with health care professionals and obtain career counseling and academic assistance as needed.
- Continue Phase I activities throughout the completion of the B.A./B.S. Degree.

MCAT Preparation Program

- Unique and extensive preparation program conducted from October through April (including spring break); sessions are held twice a week
- Receive academic support in key content areas of biology, chemistry, physics, and verbal/writing skills

In the junior year, students have the option of applying to Phase II or applying to other medical schools.

Phase II

Participants accepted into this phase have simultaneously been admitted to Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In their senior year, students take medical school courses during their fall semester. RWJMS courses count toward the B.A./B.S. degree.

Graduation

How Do Students with Potential and Determination Become Part of the ACCESS-MED Program?

Eligibility requirements for Phase I :

- To be eligible for admission, a student must be of African descent, Puerto Rican, Mexican American, or Native American. Other Hispanic students may be considered if they have significant financial need, demonstrated by a NJ Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) grant or other major federal grants (i.e. Pell Grant, NJ TAG).

- Completion of one year each of general biology and general chemistry, and one semester each of college mathematics and English. Completed courses should demonstrate competitive grades!
- An overall GPA of 2.9 or better
- Transfer students may apply to Phase I after satisfactory completion of at least one semester of academic course work at Rutgers University and meeting the Phase I requirements cited above. * Student must show competency in their Rutgers science courses. *

Eligibility requirements for the MCAT Program:
- Completion of one year each of Physics and Organic Chemistry.
- An overall GPA of 3.2 or better
- Must register to take a critical writing course offered by the English Dept in the Fall entitled: *Science, Medicine and Society*

Eligibility requirements for Phase II :
- To be eligible for admission, a student must be of African descent or Puerto Rican. Other Hispanic students may be considered if they have significant financial need, demonstrated by a NJ Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) grant or other major federal grants (i.e. Pell Grant, NJ TAG).

- An overall GPA of 3.4 or better
- Students must be eligible for graduation from Rutgers University at the end of the "transitional year" at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.