



500 College Hill • Liberty, Missouri 64068-1896

February 1, 2011

TO: Students who have applied for admission to the Premedical Advisory Program
FROM: Members of the Premedical Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Premedical Advisory Program is not only to help students prepare for graduate study in the health professions but also to support William Jewell College's mission of providing students "an outstanding liberal arts education that cultivates leadership and service..." The Committee encourages students to take advantage of the opportunities available to them off campus as well as on campus. The primary challenges to the student are performing well in the classroom while, at the same time, demonstrating that s/he is a thoughtful and self-disciplined person who is responsive and sensitive to the needs of society.

The Premedical Advisory Program provides advising for students interested in preparing for doctoral work in allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, optometry, and veterinary medicine. Normally, students first apply for admission to the program in January of their second year of college. Following the receipt of the application, together with information about the student's academic credentials, members of the Premedical Advisory Committee will interview each student.

Following the interviews of all applicants (normally before spring break), members of the Committee will meet (often after spring break) and determine the most appropriate action to be taken on each student's application. Each student should receive a letter from the Committee *before the end of the spring semester* containing information about the Committee's decision.

Admission to the program is an indication the Committee feels that the student is compiling an admirable academic record and has been able to demonstrate a clear interest in working toward a career in health-care. In the opinion of the Committee, such a student ought to have a reasonably good chance for admission to a professional school. (Of course, the Committee can only provide assistance and guidance to the student and cannot guarantee that the student's efforts to be accepted by a medical school will be successful.)

Some students are admitted to the program on a *conditional* basis. In such a case, the Committee is suggesting that the student *may* have the potential for admission to a professional school. However, there are concerns or deficiencies, which will be specified by the Committee, that are likely to need to be addressed before the student can become a strong candidate in the eyes of a professional school's admission committee.

There are also instances in which a student who applies to the program is *not* admitted. The Committee's primary concern is providing sound advice for each individual. The members of the

Committee may feel that they cannot, in good conscience, encourage a student to think that admission to a professional program is likely, and they will ask the student to consider alternatives. Such a person may certainly still choose to apply to professional schools and may still seek counsel from members of the faculty. A student who is not admitted to the program is always welcome to reapply and to be re-interviewed the following year.

Students who are admitted to the program as sophomores should reapply as juniors, if they are still interested in the program. The Committee must readmit the student in order for him/her to continue to receive all of the services of the Committee.

The Committee treats each applicant individually and makes a decision based only on that person's application, academic credentials, and perceptions of the student that come from the interview and other contact with members of the Committee. Having a large number of applicants does not cause the Committee to place a limit on the number of persons who can be accepted into the program. The Committee does not rank applicants other than to make decisions about acceptance into the program.

All students who are interested in the program are supplied information and advice about their chosen career path and about alternatives. *Only* students who have been admitted to the program are offered a letter of recommendation sent under the auspices of the Premedical Advisory Committee. The committee also provides these admitted students with mock interviews (when we know that the student is about to begin interviews at the professional schools).

A letter of recommendation from the Committee is written by a member of the Committee and is sent to the professional schools of the student's choice. The document is created using comments that the student has solicited from faculty and staff in various disciplines and programs, input from members of the Committee, and other information compiled by the Committee. The author of the letter extracts facts and quotations that give the professional schools an accurate representation of the student, of the student's capabilities, and of the student's preparation for professional study.

Students who have questions about the processes mentioned above are encouraged to talk with members of the Committee.

2010-11 Premedical Advisory Committee

Dr. Tara Allen (BIO), co-chair

Dr. Ed Lane (CHE), co-chair

Dr. Maggie Brewer (PHY)

Dr. Ruth Edwards (NUR)

Dr. Paul Klawinski (BIO)

Dr. Jason Morrill (CHE)

Dr. Randall Morris (PHI)

Dr. Shane Price (CHE)

Dr. Lori Wetmore (CHE)