

EARLY SELECTION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

GWU Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and GWU Milken School of Public Health

Second Semester Sophomores

2025

PURPOSE

The Early Selection Program of The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences gives talented and committed students who have achieved academic distinction and present significant clinical experience the ability to pursue non-science coursework in more depth, as well as provisional early assurance of admission to the GW M.D. program. We require that students who are chosen for Early Selection creatively modify the traditional premedical curriculum during their last two years of college. **Students must pursue a non-science major or minor.** Any student majoring in a science must minor in a non-science area. Students already intending on a non-science major will not have to change. This program is focused on Columbian College and School of Public Health students. Students from other schools within GWU will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and must provide a non-science minor in their academic plan. There is a separate program for the School of Engineering with information at <http://smhs.gwu.edu/academics/md-program/admissions/joint-programs/early-selection>.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

- **Residence:** Applicants must be in the second semester of their sophomore year. Applicants are required to have spent two years (four semesters) in an undergraduate college of The George Washington University and to have completed roughly 60 semester hours of coursework by the end of the semester during which they apply. Coursework at other universities will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, as will AP or IB credit. After application and acceptance to the program students must be committed to spend the remaining intervening 2 years at GW regardless to how many credits they have accumulated. Students transferring into their sophomore year at The George Washington University are ineligible. Those with less than 60 hours at GW will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Students are required to have two more years of undergraduate academics to complete at GWU. This is not an accelerated program. Only students who are U.S. or Canadian Citizens or hold U.S. Permanent Residency at the time of application are eligible to apply.
- **Courses:** During the first two years of college, students are encouraged to independently pursue their educational goals, while meeting the curricular requirements of the school. We require that applicants have completed a minimum of two semesters of chemistry **and** two semesters of biology or physics by the end of the semester during which they apply to the Early Selection Program.

Applicants must have a minimum 3.5 overall GPA to apply, with no grade below a B- in science coursework.

- **College Entrance Exam Scores:** **SAT or ACT scores are required** Students must self-report SAT or ACT scores on the application and submit high school transcripts. If SAT/ACT scores are not on the high school transcript, official scores must be sent from the College Board directly to the Medical School of Admissions Office. These are the only test scores that we expect to receive. Scores must be competitive.

- **Application:** In addition to the application, the student will be required to submit a description of academic goals for the last two years of college. Please include a two-year projection of specific full-time coursework. Students must explain how their coursework and academic plans will change if they are accepted. An honest and complete statement of planned courses (including course names and numbers) and projects will be expected. The application, three letters of recommendation (at least one letter should be from a GWU science professor) and other materials **must be received by March 25**. Late and incomplete applications will not be processed. Applicants are requested not to submit materials before February 1. Those applicants chosen for interview will be invited in April/May. The School of Medicine's Committee on Admissions will review applications and make final decisions by July. Accepted students are required to meet with the Associate Dean of Admissions and Coordinator of the Early Selection Program, to finalize any program changes.

SELECTION

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences is committed to selecting gifted and altruistic students who can be expected to have distinguished careers as physicians. The Committee is looking for students who will take advantage of the opportunities in this program, as well as the unique opportunities in the M.D. program. Criteria will include high school performance, grades in the first two undergraduate years, highly competitive performance on the SAT or ACT, extracurricular activities, healthcare experiences, service, or research experience, letters of recommendation, content and presentation of the application.

Please note this is a very competitive program. Selected applicants will be those academically gifted students who appear to have, in addition to the maturity necessary to make a career decision at this stage, the ability to make the best use of the broad range of undergraduate educational opportunities that selection for this program will encourage. Clinical and service experiences are required at the time of application. An important consideration for selection will be the student's planned educational program during the remainder of the undergraduate years. We require continued academic rigor, continued service and clinical activities.

We regret that due to the large numbers of well-qualified students, not all can be chosen. All decisions are made by the Committee on Admissions and are confidential and final.

PREPARATION FOR MATRICULATION IN MEDICAL SCHOOL

It is our intent to matriculate all students selected under this program. However, to ensure that our medical students are of the highest caliber, both academically and personally, acceptance into the M.D. program is provisional. All stated requirements on the M.D. Admissions website must be met, as well as indicated here and on the Early Selection acceptance contract. Early Selection students must complete an AMCAS and secondary application in early summer prior to matriculation. Students will be required to have a criminal background check before matriculation into the M.D. program. M.D. students are subject to drug screening.

Each semester the Associate Dean of Admissions will review semester grades. Students must maintain full-time status. In addition, the students **must submit changes in their course schedules** for review by the Associate Dean of Admissions. Students are also required to submit an updated resume at the beginning of each semester. Early Selection students must complete the competencies listed on the M.D. website. Students are **required** to take the MCAT and submit a score of 512 or higher to the Associate Dean of Admissions by January of the year student would matriculate to medical school. In extremely rare circumstances, students may retake the MCAT with the

Associate Dean of M.D. Admissions' permission. Completion of planned courses, completion of degree in the 2-year time span, meeting all requirements for admission to medical school, maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.6, no Cs or below in science coursework, competitive MCAT scores (to be determined at the time of application), and having had no substantiated allegations of inappropriate academic or personal comportment will be required. Should you leave The George Washington University, no matter the reason, your Early Selection acceptance contract is null and void. If questions arise suggesting that a student may not be acceptable to the medical school, the student will be warned in writing of a review of the student's file.

Students will be invited to attend seminars and socials with their fellow program members. Students must maintain their relationship with their undergraduate academic advisors.

A grade below a B-, a grade of Incomplete, or a semester GPA below 3.6 will be grounds for review and can be grounds for the student being dismissed from the program. All study abroad coursework must have grade equivalents reported. If there is a concern, the student will be reviewed by the Early Selection committee before a decision about his/her suitability for medical school is made. An Early Selection student who is admitted to the program is expected to have a strong interest in attending The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. The University asks that the student solidify his/her commitment by applying to The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences via the AMCAS Early Selection Program during the summer following the junior year. Students will apply to AMCAS in the summer before senior year as an Early Selection Student only applying to GW.