

Dr. Ann S. Ferren MCAT Preparation Scholarship

Synopsis

Thanks to the generous financial support of Dr. Ann S. Ferren, a qualified RU student will be awarded a MCAT preparation course scholarship. This competitive scholarship is intended to offset a portion of the cost associated with an MCAT preparatory course, such as that provided by Kaplan Test Prep. The Pre-health Advisory Committee will review portfolios and select a recipient of this scholarship based on a competitive process.

Introduction

Admission to medical school is based on excellence in three major areas; academics, patient care experience through shadowing, and community service. Within the academic area there are three major contributors: overall GPA, science and math GPA, and MCAT score. It is not unusual for a RU applicant to excel in the areas of patient care experience through shadowing, community service and GPAs but have average or below performance on the MCAT. Low MCAT scores have been a major hurdle for several otherwise promising pre-medical students. Some students report that MCAT preparatory courses are effective for increasing scores, but such courses are quite expensive - some approaching \$2,000. This is cost-prohibitive for many students, placing them at a disadvantage to wealthier students.

Procedure

Students will prepare a portfolio that will be evaluated by pre-med advisors of the Pre-Health Advisory Committee. Award of the Dr. Ann S. Ferren MCAT Preparation Scholarship will be based on evidence for predicting success as a medical student as it is presented in the portfolio.

Composition of portfolio

The portfolio shall contain:

1. Academic transcript for all courses at the college level
2. A detailed plan of study for remaining coursework including identification of semesters that the work will be undertaken
3. A description of the student's patient care experiences through shadowing
4. A two page personal essay describing why the student wants to become a physician
5. A recommendation from a science faculty member
6. Scores on practice MCAT exams
7. A complete listing of all medical schools to which the applicant plans to apply, in addition to average GPA and MCAT scores for students admitted to these institutions during the previous year
8. A demonstration of financial need explaining why a Kaplan or other commercial review course is cost prohibitive

Minimum criteria

The student shall have at minimum:

1. Overall GPA of 3.5
2. A science/math GPA of 3.5
3. No grade lower than C in any course
4. No more than one C in any science or math course
5. Completed at least 75 semester hours of coursework
6. Been enrolled at RU for at least one academic year
7. An SAT (or comparable ACT) combined mathematics and critical reading score of at least 950
8. Completed at least 50 hours of patient care experience through shadowing
9. Completed at least 20 hours of community service
10. No violations of the Radford University Standards of Student Conduct