

## **Marshall University and Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine**

### **BS/MD Program Policy**

#### **I. Introduction**

The BS/MD program at Marshall University and the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine (MUJCESOM) is an accelerated seven-year program with the goal of providing high quality undergraduate and graduate medical education and postgraduate training programs to foster a skilled physician workforce to meet the unique healthcare needs of West Virginia and Central Appalachia. The Program will admit applicants who are residents of West Virginia; capable, qualified, and motivated to succeed in basic science and clinical studies and who upon graduation possess a high probability of meeting the health care needs of our state and region. Equally important and to add value to our learning environment is the infusion of students from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds to insure that our students are prepared for life and practice in an expanded environment. Therefore, qualified students from groups currently underrepresented in medicine, minority students, females and students from rural or underserved areas are especially encouraged to apply.

- Accelerated seven-year program for high school students who meet West Virginia resident requirements, defined by Marshall University's undergraduate Office of Admissions, and who are accepted into and attend Marshall University.
- Varying numbers of students each year based on funding and number of qualified applicants.
- Students successfully completing all requirements of the undergraduate portion of the BS/MD program will be offered guaranteed admission to Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. Students must complete the undergraduate requirements in three years.
- Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) is not required for those students successfully completing the undergraduate portion of the BS/MD program.
- Students successfully completing the undergraduate portion of the BS/MD portion of the program will receive a tuition waiver for medical school at Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. The tuition waiver will not exceed four years.

NOTE: (The BS/MD program does not replace the pre-medicine track at Marshall University. Students in the pre-medicine track generally complete four years of study at the University and earn a bachelor's degree before starting medical school. ).

#### **II. Applicant Requirements**

Marshall University selects students from a variety of academic, socioeconomic and personal backgrounds. Recruitment pipeline and outreach programs will help identify BS/MD qualified students from rural communities, students who are first generation college students, students who have little or no family financial support and students from underrepresented minorities in the field of medicine.

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or in compliance with U.S. immigration laws and current permanent residents of the State of West Virginia, per Marshall University Office of Admissions.
- Applicants must be current high school seniors or students just finishing all requirements for college entry who are accepted into Marshall and will begin undergraduate coursework in the same year of graduation Provisional Admission is acceptable pending admission requirements have been met and all required materials have been received. Students will be required to pay the Marshall University application fee.
- Applicants must have a minimum unweighted high school grade point average of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale at the end of their junior year of high school with the expectation that the applicant maintain academic success through their high school graduation.
- Applicants must have a minimum composite ACT of 30 or SAT composite 1390 minimum, and a minimum ACT math score of 27 or SAT 630 minimum from the same test date as the qualifying composite score.
- Applicants must apply to and be accepted for admission as a degree seeking student at Marshall University. Please see Marshall University Undergraduate Admissions. <https://www.marshall.edu/admissions/>.
- Three letters of recommendation are required to be submitted by the deadline, at least two of which must be from high school teachers who have had the candidates in class (math, science or an AP class) and are familiar with their academic performance.
- Applicants must take a situational judgment test in the format as established each year for the program, and prior to the deadline as required by the program.

### **III. Program Information and Requirements**

- Students accepted into the BS/MD Program must choose an undergraduate degree in Biological Science, Molecular or Cell Biology. Students must follow a pre-determined three year, undergraduate curriculum progression to successfully complete all requirements to matriculate into the medical school as part of the BS/MD Program. Students are required to know and track their degree requirements for graduation or for entrance to a professional school. Course offerings and course attributes are subject to change each semester. Please consult each semester's schedule of courses for availability and attributes. Accepted students will be required to have ongoing communication throughout the program with designated academic advisors and BS/MD Program Coordinator.

- BS/MD students will have the option to participate in the Honors Program. Students choosing to participate in the honors program should understand that they must fulfill all Honors coursework requirements in addition to the BS/MD requirements to receive Honors designation.
- Marshall University offers a variety of merit-based scholarships to students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement. In addition, students demonstrating financial need may be eligible for additional financial assistance. Students who wish to apply for scholarships, need-based financial aid and/or student loans must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1st of each year. All BS/MD students are expected to aggressively apply for all scholarships for which they are qualified; the Financial Aid Office and the Scholarship Resource Office on the main campus will work closely with successful applicants to the program.  
<http://www.marshall.edu/sfa/>
- Students successfully completing all of the requirements in the third year of the BS/MD program will be provided a tuition waiver for the last four years of the BS/MD program. Should students not complete their MD degree in four years, they will be required to pay for any additional course work.

#### **IV. Selection Process**

- Students will submit their online BS/MD program application and accompanying documentation by a deadline that will be announced when the application opens. Please note this is contingent upon acceptance to Marshall University as an undergraduate. Students must apply and be accepted into the undergraduate program at Marshall University prior to applying to the BS/MD Program. Provisional Admission is acceptable pending admission requirements have been met and all required materials have been received. Students will be required to pay the Marshall University application fee. Students must choose an undergraduate major in Biological Science, Molecular or Cell Biology.
- Applications will be reviewed by MUJCESOM Admissions Executive Committee and/or their designees. The Admissions Executive Committee is committed to a Holistic Review Process in the selection of applicants. Applicants must exhibit excellence in character, motivation and ideals and should possess the many personal qualities essential for a career in medicine. Applicants are evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: required minimum unweighted High School GPA, required minimum ACT/SAT scores, letters of recommendations, situational judgment test results and interviews. Equally important and to add value to our learning environment is the infusion of students, from a variety of cultural, ethnic and diverse life experiences to insure that our students are prepared for life and practice in an expanded environment
- All applicants will be sent notification in writing whether they have been selected for an interview.

- Finalists will be required to participate in interviews. Families are invited and encouraged to accompany finalists, and participate in selected activities over the course of the interview process depending upon the format of the interview process.
- The purpose of the interview is to assess motivation, personal characteristics and enthusiasm for medicine. In addition, the applicant has a chance to become acquainted with the campus in a general way, and at the same time provide the Admissions Committee better insight into his/her personal interests and attitudes. Interviews will be conducted at a time and place and in a format to be determined each year, and communicated to the finalists by the program coordinator.
- The MUJCESOM Admissions Committee is committed to a Holistic Review Process in the selection of our applicants. The evaluation will include the selection of students that exhibit maturity, stability, compassion, service, and a record of academic excellence. Applicants must exhibit excellence in character, motivation and ideals and should possess the many personal qualities essential for a career in medicine. Equally important and to add value to our learning environment is the infusion of students, from a variety of cultural, ethnic and diverse life experiences to insure that our students are prepared for life and practice in an expanded environment. It is the guiding principle of the school to treat all members of the community with respect, to provide a bias-neutral environment conducive to learning and working, and to ensure equal access to rights, privileges, and opportunities without regard to race, color, gender, gender orientation, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, pregnancy, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, or veteran status. The School believes differences should not just be tolerated, but celebrated, and those differences result in added value to the educational process.
- The MUJCESOM Admissions Committee by final vote will select the candidates who will be accepted into the program.
- The BS/MD Program is limited to students who progress directly from high school to the BS/MD program. The program does not allow deferred acceptance.

## **V. Notification of Applicants**

Candidates are notified in writing as soon as possible as to their admissions status once a final decision has been made. Candidates are advised if they are placed on a wait list. The waitlist is not ranked. The Executive Committee has the formal delegated authority from the Admissions Committee to move applicants from the waitlist to the accepted list based on the following criteria: underrepresented minorities in medicine, applicants from rural communities, applicants who have had experiences or indicate interest in serving in a rural community. Admission to the program is conditional upon matriculation into the Marshall undergraduate program. Applicants who are interviewed will be notified of their status by the MUJCESOM Office of Admissions. Selected applicants will be provided information explaining and specifying the mechanism for executing and confirming intent to enter the BS/MD Program at Marshall University and the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

## VI. Continuing Program requirements

A Steering Committee, comprised of faculty and staff representatives from both undergraduate and the medical school, will be responsible for providing program guidance, oversight and ongoing evaluation of undergraduate student progress. The Steering Committee has the authority to bring a student from the BS/MD program forward to the MUJCESOM Admissions Committee for failure to meet or non-compliance with program requirements. The Steering Committee will meet as needed.

- Students must achieve an overall cumulative college GPA 3.50 by the end of the three years of the undergraduate portion of the program.)
- Students must successfully complete at least 26 credit hours per year during undergraduate years
- Students must remain a student in good academic and institutional standing at Marshall University throughout the program
- Students must maintain certain established requirements during their program and continue to follow established curricular track for the BS/MD program.
- Students must maintain ongoing contact with their undergraduate premedical advisor and the Program Director.
- Students must participate in at least 85% of the enrichment programs offered during the three years of the undergraduate program (or be excused from participation due to extenuating circumstances in the judgment of the Program Director).
- Student must not be convicted of a felony during undergraduate years. Any felonies, misdemeanors or university disciplinary action received by the student while in the undergraduate program at Marshall University must be immediately reported by the student to the Program Director who will present it to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will review all documentation and may recommend disciplinary action to the MUJCESOM Admissions Committee. Disciplinary action may jeopardize the student's continuing involvement in the program.
- Students will be evaluated after every semester by the Program Director and academic advisors to ensure they are participating in, and are making academic progress towards, program requirements. Formal evaluation of student progress will occur at the end of each academic year. Should the student not be meeting the continuing requirements of the BS/MD Program, the student may be dismissed from the program. However, any actions by a student in the BS/MD program that could result in either dismissal from the university or a degree program will be governed by Marshall University policies regarding dismissal and appeal for the applicable college in which they are enrolled. Students who withdraw from Marshall University during the course of the undergraduate portion of the program will be terminated from the BS/MD program, unless an exception is granted by the MUJCESOM Admissions Committee for extenuating circumstances such as serious illness. The student must state in writing his

or her intention to return to the program within one calendar year from the date of withdrawal from the University.

NOTE – Student may be dismissed from the BS/MD program at any time during their undergraduate program for significant unexcused noncompliance with the continuing requirements. The MUJCESOM Admissions Committee shall decide upon these issues on a case by-case basis. Should a student receive an unfavorable decision from the MUJCESOM Admissions Committee, which would result in termination from the program, the student may file a written appeal within thirty calendar days of notification of the decision with the Appeal Committee. The committee shall render a written decision on the appeal within thirty calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal and this decision shall be final. The Appeal Committee will consist of two members of the MUJCESOM Admissions Committee, two representatives from the College of Science, and an undergraduate student selected by the Office of Student Advocacy and Parent Programs. Marshall University General Counsel's office will be present during the review of the materials to provide consultation. The Appeal Committee will be responsible for reviewing all relevant materials related to unexcused noncompliance with the continuing requirements.

#### **VII. Undergraduate Bachelor of Science Degree**

Students who successfully complete the undergraduate requirements of the BS/MD Program will receive their Bachelor of Science degree after successful completion of the first year of medical school. If the student is unsuccessful in completion of the first year of medical school, the issue will be referred to the MUJCESOM Academic Standards Committee.

#### **VIII. Medical School Matriculation Requirements:**

- All required prerequisites must be completed at Marshall University and must be passed with a grade of "C" or better by June 1st of the year of matriculation. The level of these required courses should be equal to courses for those majoring in these respective fields. If Advanced Placement or College Level Examination Program credits are on the college transcript, these may be accepted as a fulfillment of a prerequisite providing that there is evidence of proficiency in the subject: examples of proficiency may be successful completion of a more advanced course in that field.
- Students must have completed required premedical courses and be in good academic and institutional standing (Students must achieve an overall cumulative college GPA 3.50 by the end of the three years of the undergraduate portion of the program.)
- Participants successfully completing the undergraduate portion of the BS/MD Program are NOT required to take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) to matriculate into the Medical School.

- Students must submit required information through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) between June 1st and August 30th after the second year of their undergraduate program for admission and entry to the medical school during the fall immediately after they complete the third year of their undergraduate program. Deferral of entry into medical school is not permitted in this program.  
<https://studentsresidents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/applyingmedical-school-amcas/>
- Students must have satisfactorily completed an AMCAS initiated Criminal Background Check (CBC) prior to matriculation. <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medicalschool/article/criminal-background-check-service/>

*Policy was voted on and adopted by the Admissions Committee March 28, 2014. Policy was revised and adopted by the Admissions Committee February 24, 2015. Policy was reviewed, revised and updated by the Admissions Committee, March 16, 2021.*