

**Marshall University and Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine**  
**MD Early Assurance Program Policy**

**Introduction**

The MD Early Assurance Program at Marshall University and the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine (MUJCESOM) is a program with the goal of preparing undergraduate students for success in the MD program. The Program will admit applicants who are Marshall University students, both in-state and out-of-state, who are 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, other minority students, females and students from rural or underserved areas are especially encouraged to apply.

There will be a varying number of students accepted into the MD Early Assurance Program each year based on funding and number of qualified applicants.

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) is not required for those students successfully completing the undergraduate portion of the MD Early Assurance Program. Students successfully meeting all requirements of the MD Early Assurance Program will be accepted into the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine upon completion of matriculation requirements.

**Applicant Requirements**

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have permanent resident visas, and currently enrolled in Marshall University.

Applicants must have successfully completed two years of full-time study at Marshall University at the time of application, and be currently enrolled as a degree-seeking student. Those with advanced standing due to Advanced Placement (AP)/dual credits are also eligible to apply.

Applicants must have completed the following MD prerequisites: one year each of general biology or zoology, general chemistry and organic chemistry, and all associated labs, at the time of entry into the program. Successful completion for purposes of this policy is a "C" or better in the class. Online science prerequisites are not accepted. If AP or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) 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. \*See Addendum in Admissions Policy (<https://icesom.marshall.edu/media/59306/addendum-to-policy-and-procedural-documents-admission-cycle-2021-effective-10272020.pdf> )

Applicants must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative combined GPA in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Math (BCPM) and 3.5 overall cumulative undergraduate GPA at the conclusion of the spring semester of their application year. Student transcripts will be obtained from Marshall University's internal data system.

Applicants must have a minimum composite ACT of 24 or composite SAT of 1160. Student scores will be obtained from Marshall University's internal data system.

Four letters of recommendation must be submitted by the writer prior to the established deadline. Letters must include two college academic letters (at least one from science faculty), a letter from an employer or volunteer supervisor, and one from a professional in the community.

The applicant must participate in an interview process as directed by the Program Director.

All applicants must meet the Technical Standards for the MD program at the time of application to the program, and also at the time for matriculation into medical school as noted in the MD Early Assurance Program Procedural document.

### **Selection Process**

Students must submit their online MD Early Assurance Program application and accompanying documentation by the deadline that will be announced when the application opens.

Applications will be reviewed by the MUJCESOM Admissions Executive Committee and/or their designees to select those who will be interviewed for the program. The Admissions Executive Committee is committed to a holistic review process in the selection of applicants to be interviewed.

All applicants will be sent notification via email whether they have been selected for an interview.

Finalists will be required to participate in an interview process as directed by the Program Director. The purpose of the interview is to assess motivation, personal characteristics and enthusiasm for medicine. The interview provides the Admissions Committee better insight into the applicant's personal interests and attitudes. Interviews will be conducted at a time and place to be determined each year, and communicated to the finalists by the Program Director.

At the conclusion of the interview process, the MUJCESOM Admissions Committee will make a final vote for selection of the candidates who will be accepted into the program. The Admissions Committee is committed to a holistic review process in the selection of applicants. Successful 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 criteria, including but not limited to: college academic records including a minimum college cumulative GPA of 3.5 and BCPM GPA of 3.5 or greater; ACT/SAT scores (applicants must have a minimum composite ACT of 24 or composite SAT of 1160), references, situational judgment test, and interviews.

It is the guiding principle of Marshall University 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. Marshall University believes differences should not just be tolerated, but celebrated, and those differences result in added value to the educational process.

### **Notification of Applicants**

Candidates are notified as soon as possible once a final decision has been made.

Selected applicants will be provided information explaining and specifying the mechanism for executing and confirming intent to enter the MD Early Assurance Program at Marshall University and the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

### **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. The Steering Committee has the authority to bring a student from the MD Early Assurance Program forward to the MUJCESOM Admissions Committee for failure to meet, or for non-compliance with, program requirements. The Steering Committee will meet as needed.

Students must achieve an overall cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.5 and a 3.5 GPA in BCPM during the undergraduate portion of the program. Students will be formally reviewed at the end of each semester to ensure the student is on track to meet the final GPA requirements.

Program participants must remain in good academic and institutional standing at Marshall University throughout the program.

During the undergraduate portion of the program, participants must successfully complete a selection of 30 credit hours of the 300-400 level courses as identified on the list of courses recommended for the MD Early Assurance Program (view list of courses at <https://icesom.marshall.edu/admissions/md-early-assurance-program/> under the Recommended Course List for Upper Level Requirements tab)

Program participants must maintain ongoing contact with their undergraduate premedical advisor and the MD Early Assurance Program Director.

Program participants must complete shadowing and volunteering requirements for the program as well as a professionalism course as directed by the Program Director. Shadowing and volunteering/community service experiences should align with general expectations for application to medical school.

Participants must meet all admissions requirements established by the medical school in accordance with the MD Early Assurance Program.

Participants will be expected to remain in the undergraduate portion of the MD Early Assurance Program for the two academic years immediately following acceptance into the program in order to complete all advanced required coursework, volunteering, shadowing and professionalism requirements prior to matriculation into medical school.

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.

Should the program participant not meet the continuing requirements of the MD Early Assurance Program, the student may be dismissed from the program. However, any actions by a student in the MD Early Assurance 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.

Program participants who withdraw from Marshall University during the course of the undergraduate portion of the program will be terminated from the MD Early Assurance 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/her/their intention to return to the program within one calendar year from the date of withdrawal from the University.

NOTE – A program participant may be dismissed from the MD Early Assurance 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 with the Appeal Committee within thirty calendar days of notification of the decision. The Appeal 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 is independent from the Steering Committee, and 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.

### **Medical School Matriculation Requirements**

Prerequisites for medical school that are completed after admission into the MD Early Assurance Program must be completed at Marshall University and must be passed with a grade of "C" or better by June 15th of the year of matriculation. The level of these required courses should be equal to courses for those majoring in these respective fields

Students must have completed all required premedical courses and must be in good academic and institutional standing at Marshall at the time of matriculation to medical school.

Participants successfully completing the undergraduate portion of the MD Early Assurance 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 1 to November 1 of the year prior to enrollment. A supplemental application will be automatically forwarded to applicants with a verified AMCAS application. The cost of filing the AMCAS and supplemental applications will be waived. AMCAS will require official transcript(s) from all colleges attended be provided for academic record verification purposes. Students must have satisfactorily completed an AMCAS initiated Criminal Background Check prior to matriculation into medical school.

A situational judgment test is required. Assessment platform will be determined by the MUJCESOM. The score will need to be released to the MUJCESOM before the application deadline.

Deferral of entry into medical school is generally not permitted in this program. A participant in this program must matriculate into medical school at Marshall the summer immediately after their undergraduate graduation. However, at the discretion of the Steering Committee, an exception for a deferral for no more than one calendar year may be considered for serious illness or other catastrophic event.