

**University of Kentucky College of Medicine  
2015 Program Change RE: Prerequisites for Admission**

**Summary**

In lieu of a program change form (which is not available for professional programs or required by University Senate rules), this cover letter serves as an overview and summary of proposed changes. In an effort to better prepare students for our M.D. program, the College of Medicine (COM) proposes to revise the M.D. program prerequisites for admission. As such, the COM proposes a change to Senate Rule 4.2.3.3, and new language for the University Bulletin, both related to admission to the College of Medicine.

**Rationale**

Nationally, medical education is under a period of substantial changes. The requirements for medical school entry and graduation have been revised and continue to undergo refinement of the standards. Colleges of medicine need flexibility in their admission requirements in order to optimize their medical education. As such, it does not seem appropriate to have detailed requirements in the Senate Rules, but rather reserve the specifics for the University Bulletin. The COM requests a change in the Senate Rule 4.2.3.3, paralleling the language approved by the University Senate in 2013 for the College of Pharmacy prerequisites for admission.

**Current Senate Rule 4.2.3.3**

Applicants for admission to the College of Medicine, in addition to meeting general University requirements, must meet the requirements of the College of Medicine and be accepted by the Medical Colleges Admissions Committee. Applicants normally will be required to have taken the MCAT and to have completed a liberal arts degree program in an accredited college of arts and sciences. However, consideration may be given to applicants who have completed only two or three years of college if their academic background and other credentials demonstrate superior ability. Applicants must be prepared with the following minimal requirements or their equivalent: two semesters of physics which includes laboratory work; two full-year courses in chemistry with laboratory, including organic chemistry; two semesters of biology with laboratory; and one year of English with emphasis on communicative skills.

**Proposed Senate Rule 4.2.3.3 (tracked changes version)**

Applicants for admission to the College of Medicine M.D. program, in addition to meeting general University requirements, must meet the requirements of the College of Medicine and be accepted by the ~~Medical Colleges~~College of Medicine Admissions Committee. Applicants normally will be required to have taken the MCAT and to have completed a liberal arts degree program in an accredited college of arts and sciences. However, consideration may be given to applicants who have completed only two or three years of college if their academic background and other credentials demonstrate superior ability. ~~Applicants must be prepared with the following minimal requirements or their equivalent: two semesters of physics which includes laboratory work; two full-year courses in chemistry with laboratory, including organic chemistry; two semesters of biology with laboratory; and one year of English with emphasis on communicative skills.~~ The required pre-medicine coursework

shall be listed the University Bulletin. Consideration for admission will be based on a holistic review of the applicant's previous academic record, potential for academic achievement, standardized admission test scores, assessment of communication skills, contribution to diversity, integrity, commitment, motivation, character, maturity and emotional stability.

**Proposed Senate Rule 4.2.3.3 (clean version)**

Applicants for admission to the College of Medicine M.D. program, in addition to meeting general University requirements, must meet the requirements of the College of Medicine and be accepted by the College of Medicine Admissions Committee. Applicants normally will be required to have taken the MCAT and to have completed a liberal arts degree program in an accredited college of arts and sciences. However, consideration may be given to applicants who have completed only two or three years of college if their academic background and other credentials demonstrate superior ability. The required pre-medicine coursework shall be listed the University Bulletin. Consideration for admission will be based on a holistic review of the applicant's previous academic record, potential for academic achievement, standardized admission test scores, assessment of communication skills, contribution to diversity, integrity, commitment, motivation, character, maturity and emotional stability.

If the change in Senate Rules is approved, the COM would propose new language for the University Bulletin to alter the existing admission requirements for students matriculating for the 2017-2018 academic year. This consists of two changes. First, the addition of biochemistry as a requirement within the chemistry courses and, second, a designation of semesters for the English requirement, so that language is consistent. An overview of the current and proposed prerequisites for admission to the M.D. program is provided below.

**Current University Bulletin College of Medicine**

**"ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR THE STUDY OF MEDICINE"**

Medical science and practice involve complex relationships between physical, biological, psychological, cultural, and environmental aspects of human behavior. In the preparation for medical school, fundamental undergraduate college training in biology, chemistry, physics and English is essential. Minimal requirements are satisfied with the equivalent of two semesters of studies in physics; two semesters in the biological sciences; four semesters in chemistry, including organic chemistry; and at least one year of English with emphasis on communication skills such as reading, writing, and speaking.

**Proposed University Bulletin College of Medicine**

**"ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR THE STUDY OF MEDICINE" (tracked changes)**

Medical science and practice involve complex relationships between physical, biological, psychological, cultural, and environmental aspects of human behavior. In the preparation for medical school, fundamental undergraduate college training in biology, chemistry, physics and English is essential. Minimal requirements are satisfied with the equivalent of two semesters of studies in physics; two semesters in the biological sciences; four semesters in chemistry, including organic chemistry and biochemistry; and at least ~~one year~~two semesters of English with emphasis on communication skills such as reading, writing, and speaking.

**Proposed University Bulletin College of Medicine**

**“ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR THE STUDY OF MEDICINE” (clean copy)**

Medical science and practice involve complex relationships between physical, biological, psychological, cultural, and environmental aspects of human behavior. In the preparation for medical school, fundamental undergraduate college training in biology, chemistry, physics and English is essential. Minimal requirements are satisfied with the equivalent of two semesters of studies in physics; two semesters in the biological sciences; four semesters in chemistry, including organic chemistry and biochemistry; and at least two semesters of English with emphasis on communication skills such as reading, writing, and speaking.

## **Appendix: National Changes in Medical Education**

For medical schools, the requirements for entry, the content being taught and the expectations of graduate skills have all had new standards established over the last five years. In his March 2012 address, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) President and CEO Dr. Darrell Kirch described the need for a different kind of physician to appropriately respond to important shifts under way in health care. That same year, the AAMC announced the most significant changes to the Medical Colleges Admission Test (MCAT) in decades. Content would now require students to have a more advanced knowledge in the fields of biochemistry, sociology and psychology. The new MCAT released this year (2015) still contains two natural science sections, but a much larger focus of each (25% of biological/biochemical section and 25% of chemical/physical section) is biochemistry. Organic chemistry contributes a mere 15% of the chemical/physical section of the exam.

In terms of medical school graduation standards, in 2013, the AAMC published the Physician Competency Reference Set (PCRS), which established a common list of learner expectations in medical education. In 2014, the AAMC published the Core Entrustable Activities for Entering Residency (CEPAER), which defined the core skills all medical students should be able to perform before graduating medical school. In addition, the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) restructured all standards for medical school accreditation beginning in 2015. These new standards expanded the list of skills that must be taught by medical schools to include interprofessional education and self-directed learning. These considerable changes in the process and outcomes of medical education remain in a state of flux. Medical schools across the United States are experimenting with curricular changes to redesign the current medical education model to meet these new requirements. As new educational standards are developed, the medical education program of today will undoubtedly become obsolete in the upcoming years.