The medical Post–Baccalaureate Program in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University is designed to give students who have the motivation, desire and commitment the additional skills and experiences that can propel them to become a competitive applicant for medical school. Strong applicants for medical school typically have excellent overall and science grade point averages (GPA), sufficiently high scores on their Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), strong letters of recommendation and a history of medical volunteerism and research activities. There are many students who possess good overall credentials; however they may be lacking in one or more of these areas. In addition, medical schools look for those intangible qualities that separate applicants, namely leadership, communications skills, planning and time management, and demonstrated self-directed active learning. The FAU Post–Baccalaureate (Post-BAC) Program is directed by faculty with extensive experience with medical school admissions and educators with significant experience in addressing the needs of individual students.

STUDENT VALUE ADDED PROPOSITION

The FAU Post-BAC provides a comprehensive curriculum to assist prospective medical school applicants in their personal and professional growth, with the ultimate aim of improving their opportunities for acceptance into a medical school or additional healthcare career opportunities:

- Medical School Level Course Work
  - Immunology – PCB 6238 Problem-based Immunology
  - Microbiology – BMS 6303 Clinical Microbiology
  - Morphology – BMS 6102C Integrated Morphology 1
  - Pathology – BMS 6601 Fundamentals of General Pathology

- Professional Skills Development
- MCAT Preparation
- Research Opportunities with Cleveland Clinic Florida
- Scheduled Community Clinical Volunteerism Opportunities
- Standardized Patient Involvement
- Simulation Center Training

The primary goal of the FAU Post-BAC is to identify those students for whom coaching and small group interaction with highly trained faculty and staff in an advanced curriculum would enable them to become more competitive candidates and enhance their relevant skills and competitive profiles for application for admission to U.S. medical schools. Through our innovative courseware structure, students will not only experience the rigors of graduate level education, but will receive enhanced personal and professional skills training, be introduced to advanced research techniques and presentations, and receive assistance in preparing to successfully achieve higher rankings on the MCAT. These complimentary parts of the FAU Post-BAC will better prepare the prospective medical student for the medical school admissions process.
1. The FAU Post-BAC program is designed as a career enhancer for students who did not get an acceptance into medical school because they are lacking one or more key prerequisites. By augmenting their skills, experiences and strengths, they will become more viable candidates.

2. The Program will provide a comprehensive curriculum that will assist prospective medical students in their professional and personal growth, with the ultimate aim of improving their opportunities for acceptance into a medical school or additional healthcare career opportunities.

3. The Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine Post BAC is offering medical school level courses taught by the same professors, with the same established curriculum used to teach our medical students. The FAU Post-BAC students will have the opportunity to learn and experience the same course load as our medical students, and therefore be able to demonstrate their proficiency and time management to prospective admissions officers.

4. By exposing the students to the rigors of advanced research, the students will have the opportunity to discover the world of clinical research. Working with Cleveland Clinic Florida (CCF) the students will be hands on in a research environment, and be expected to produce an abstract for submittal to a national or international meeting with the assistance of CCF faculty.

5. The students will participate in personal skills development, including planning, communications (written and oral – including preparation for interviewing and interviewing skills enhancement), leadership, time management, collaboration, brainstorming and teamwork. Admission reviewers are looking for depth of character and maturity as well as breadth of qualifications. These invaluable life skills will enhance the students personally regardless of their final career choices.

6. Students will have the opportunity to participate as standardized patients. As standardized patients, they will facilitate the medical school student’s interaction with patients in a controlled, orchestrated environment. By interacting with the medical students, the FAU Post-BAC students will learn the techniques for appropriate patient/doctor communications and interaction.

7. The FAU Post-BAC will provide the students with the opportunity to become facilitators in the advanced use of simulation training for medical students. This opportunity will introduce the students to a variety of medical scenarios, and develop the understanding and importance of good history and physical assessment techniques. The facilitator’s role consists of portraying the equivalent of the standardized patient (they will be the remote voice for the high-fidelity mannequins utilized in FAU’s Simulation Center) as well as directing the logical paths the scenarios will follow.

8. Physicians are dedicated to becoming lifelong learners. The intensity of medical school educational experiences requires the ability to not only recall information learned, but to synthesize and then apply the information acquired. By focusing on advanced learning styles techniques, the FAU Post-BAC will also provide the students with the tools they require to maximize their learning and retention and help them to determine what skill types are the best sets of learning modalities that suit them.

9. The MCAT testing is changing for 2015, with more focus is being placed on synthesis and transformation of ideas. This focus will be expanded upon by our faculty in addressing the new areas for the MCAT. We have enlisted the assistance of FAU graduate students to tutor the FAU Post-BAC students as required in the physical sciences, providing much more than a test learning environment. Additional focus will be applied to applying sound testing techniques as well as cognitive learning and transformational techniques to apply to the MCAT exam.

10. In order to prepare for the rigors of medical school application and training, the FAU Post-BAC faculty will counsel and advise the students on a one-on-one basis. The cadre of students will purposefully be kept small to facilitate the opportunity for interaction and discussion.

Successful physicians are highly proficient technically in critical thinking, diagnosis, treatment and interpersonal communications as reflected in their bedside manner. This success is engendered by a scientific aptitude, a high level of self-regulation, and a commitment to lifelong learning and improving the health and well-being of their patients. These are some of the qualities that applicants to this program will be assessed and, if admitted, will be helped to further develop.

The key steps in the admissions process will be:

1. completion of the FAU Post-Baccalaureate application (FAU Post-BAC)
2. completion of the FAU non-degree application process, and
3. completion of an onsite interview for selected applicants. The admissions committee is made up of the teaching staff for the FAU Post-BAC. Each applicant will also have a one hour interview with a member of the teaching staff. The applications will be reviewed; the admission staff will conduct telephone interviews, select candidates for onsite face-to-face interviews, and complete the decision process through the selection of the appropriate students for the program.

For more information on the FAU Post-BAC or to complete the application process, visit med.fau.edu/postbac or email us at POSTBAC_APP@fau.edu.

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