

BRYANT SCHOLARS PRE-ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

Enhancing the Physician Workforce in Rural Areas

As the state's leading educator of physicians practicing in Missouri, the MU School of Medicine is in a key position to improve the supply and distribution of physicians in rural Missouri. Although it can't single-handedly solve Missouri's rural health physician shortage, the school does have unique capabilities to enhance the physician workforce.

In response to the challenge, Dean Lester R. Bryant requested the creation of the Bryant Scholars Pre-Admissions Program in 1995 to address the shortage of physicians in rural areas of the state. In medical school the Rural Scholars Program was designed to encompass four distinct but related curriculum and clinical components. The sequential programs provide students with ongoing exposure to rural medicine.



Program Components

- Bryant Scholars Pre-Admissions Program
- Rural Scholars Program
 - Summer Community Program
 - Rural Clerkship Program
 - Rural Elective Program

Outcomes

- Program participants are more likely to choose a primary care specialty and twice as likely to choose family medicine as their specialty when compared to non-participants
- 56% of Bryant Scholars practice in a rural location
- 64% of Bryant Scholars practice in Missouri



School of Medicine
University of Missouri



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The Lester R. Bryant Pre-Admissions Program

Overview

Rural background students are more likely to practice in rural areas when compared to their non-rural classmates. Students are pre-admitted during college in an effort to keep rural students in state for medical school and ultimately rural practice.

Students accepted into the pre-admissions program are offered acceptance into a particular entering class of the MU School of Medicine, conditional upon achieving certain academic standards, demonstrating ongoing professional conduct, and participating in required activities.

The Selection Process

Acceptance into the Bryant Scholars Program is based on high academic achievement, commitment to a career in rural medicine, personal characteristics expected of quality physicians, and a small-town or rural background in Missouri.

Program Requirements

Bryant Scholars must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.30, a cumulative math/science GPA of 3.30, and earn A or B grades in the required courses.

Bryant Scholars are required to take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) during the program for matriculation into the MU School of Medicine. Students must achieve a minimum MCAT score set by the MU School of Medicine.

Students are required to attend three of four retreats and online webinars. All summer retreats are mandatory and take place at the School of Medicine in Columbia. The annual summer retreat and an online winter retreat are designed to assist with the transition to the school's patient-based learning curriculum and to promote discussion of topics relevant to rural medicine.

Bryant Scholars are required to enter a mentoring relationship with a rural physician during their junior year in college. Students spend at least 20 hours a year with their rural physician mentor, job shadowing and devoting time to career guidance and professional development. Additionally, Bryant Scholars are required to log 20 hours of other health related experiences (including attending two rural lectures per academic year), and eight hours of community service per year.

Other requirements include completion of a series of 6 asynchronous online modules during the final two years of undergraduate school addressing a variety of health topics to prepare them for medical school and future rural practice.

Upon matriculation, Bryant Scholars join the Rural Scholars Program and must meet curricular requirements while attending medical school.

To be eligible to apply for the Bryant Scholars

Pre-Admissions Program students must:

- Have an undergraduate graduation date two academic years from the time of application.
- Show high academic achievement during high school.
- Have a minimum 3.30 cumulative GPA and minimum 3.30 math/science GPA.
- Have A or B grades in required lecture and lab courses already taken at the time of application.
- Show evidence of leadership and interest in a variety of extracurricular activities.
- Be a Missouri resident.
- Have a rural permanent home address in Missouri. Rural is defined as a home address with a Rural-Urban Community Area (RUCA) Code of 2-10. If your home address has a RUCA code of 1, you are ineligible to apply for the program.
- Be full-time enrolled at public or independent four-year college or university in Missouri or a contiguous state (Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska).
 - Students who attend out of state colleges or universities in contiguous states are eligible to apply to the Bryant Scholars Pre-Admissions Program, but must be a Missouri resident.
 - Students currently enrolled at a two-year public or independent college in Missouri or a contiguous state are eligible to apply, but must provide proof of acceptance at a four-year public or independent college or university in Missouri or a contiguous state. Upon acceptance into the Bryant Scholars Program, students must provide enrollment verification at the four-year college or university they are attending.