

# Admissions & Student Affairs

*The atmosphere here is professional yet personal.*

Students at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine enter medical school with a wide variety of family backgrounds, life experiences and academic skills. The goal of our curriculum is to develop graduates into competent clinicians prepared to approach any patient in a confident, knowledgeable and well-organized manner. With such competency every student can be fully prepared to progress to a residency of choice.

During their years at SIU, students undergo educational experiences which not only prepare them for their chosen careers, but also encourage them to develop close associations with their classmates and the faculty. The small class size, excellent student/faculty ratio and collegial spirit of cooperation at the School create an atmosphere that encourages a style of interaction that is highly professional, yet warm and personal. The impact of this approach affects the quality of student life in every aspect including counseling, advising and financial aid.



*Dr. Erik J. Constance, associate dean for student affairs, with medical students*

## Selection Requirements

More information about admissions requirements can be found at [www.siumed/studentaffairs/admissions](http://www.siumed/studentaffairs/admissions).

- Must be a U.S. citizen or a foreign citizen with a permanent resident visa.
- Must be a legal resident of Illinois at the time of application submission.
- At least 90 semester hours of undergraduate work from accredited, U.S. or Canadian degree granting college or university. *Preference is given to those who will have earned a baccalaureate degree by the time of matriculation and who have sufficient recent academic activity to demonstrate their potential for success.*
- Applicants with foreign credits must have completed at least 60 semester hours of course work in the United States.
- Must meet the minimum grade point average requirements.
- Must meet the minimum Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) requirements.



*Students in class in Carbondale*

## Selection Factors

Applicants are selected for interview according to their strengths in academics, extracurricular activities, employment and volunteer experiences, in addition to place of residence. Preference is given to central and southern Illinois residents and to those from rural, inner-city or disadvantaged backgrounds. Selected applicants are required to interview.

The Admissions Committee looks beyond proven scholastic ability for evidence of responsibility, maturity, integrity, compassion, proper motivation, identification with the goals of the School, exploration of medicine as a career, service orientation and good interpersonal skills. Meeting the admissions requirements does not ensure admission, as the School is limited to admitting 72 freshmen. Although the Committee uses no quotas, active efforts are made to recruit qualified applicants from groups traditionally under-represented in the medical profession.

## Timetable for Application

<b>AMCAS submission</b>	<b>June - November 15</b>
<i>Submission deadline</i>	<i>November 15, 12:00 midnight EST</i>
<b>MCAT testing</b>	<b>January - September</b>
<i>Latest MCAT® considered</i>	<i>Sept. preceding Nov. 15 application deadline</i>
<i>Oldest MCAT® considered</i>	<i>3 years (e.g. 2007 for 2010 application)</i>
<b>Supplementary application submission</b> (sent to selected applicants only)	<b>July - February 1</b>
<i>Receipt deadline</i>	<i>February 1</i>
<b>Admissions interviews</b>	September - March
<b>Acceptance notification</b>	December, February, March and as needed after March 31
<b>Multiple acceptance decision deadline</b>	May 15

## Nondiscriminatory Policy

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, disability or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan program or other School-administered programs.

## Office of Student Affairs

Students will interact frequently with Student Affairs staff from the time they apply to the school through graduation and beyond. The office handles new student admissions and current student issues like registration, financial aid, residency applications, student activities and career counseling. Applicants are encouraged to visit [www.siumed.edu/studentaffairs](http://www.siumed.edu/studentaffairs) to learn more.

## Tuition and Fees/ Financial Assistance

The types and amount of tuition and fees charged to students are established by the Board of Trustees and are subject to change. A current tuition and fee schedule is available through the Student Affairs Office. SIU School of Medicine participates in all major Federal Student Aid programs. Students receive financial aid on the basis of their need as calculated on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Scholarship and grant aid is generally limited to students who demonstrate exceptional need.

The financial aid office provides short-term emergency loans as well as loan indebtedness counseling and assistance with securing loans and scholarships. Accepted applicants may contact the financial aid staff in Student Affairs.

## Housing

In Carbondale, most medical students reside off campus. Information about Carbondale housing can be found at [www.housing.siu.edu](http://www.housing.siu.edu).

There is no University housing available in Springfield. Student Affairs serves as an information source on the Springfield campus for private housing.

## Student Health

All SIU students are assessed a medical fee which provides for outpatient care and hospital benefits. Incoming students are required by Illinois law to document immunity to measles, tetanus/diphtheria, rubella, chicken pox and mumps. In addition, all medical students are required to be vaccinated against hepatitis B, or provide documentation of immunity or specific medical contraindications, and undergo yearly tuberculosis testing.

## Technical Standards for Admission

Students graduating from the School of Medicine must be able to meet the physical and emotional requirements of the academic program as set forth below.

A candidate should have the ability to:

- Communicate effectively in order to elicit and provide information;
- Perceive, interpret and communicate various aspects of physical examination, including palpation, auscultation and percussion;
- Learn to interpret basic laboratory tests;
- Learn to interpret diagnostic procedures [for example, venipuncture, lumbar puncture and arterial puncture];
- Learn to interpret EKGs and X-rays;
- Execute motor movements sufficient to perform a physical exam and provide emergency care to patients;
- Compare quantitative and qualitative differences to reason, analyze and synthesize and to problem solve;
- Exercise good judgment;
- Promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients;
- Develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients;
- Function effectively under stress;
- Adapt to changing environments;
- Demonstrate compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation;
- Comprehend three-dimensional relationships; and
- Demonstrate the emotional health required for full utilization of intellectual abilities.

## Student Organizations

Involvement in national organizations encourages the exchange of ideas, information and discussion of health care issues. Students may participate in the American Medical Student Association, the Student National Medical Association, the Latino Midwest Medical Student Association, the American Medical Women's Association, the Medical Student Section of the American Medical Association, and state and county medical societies. A chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society was established in 1985. Student organizations are described in detail at <http://www.siumed.edu/students>

The Medical Student Assembly serves the student body as an advocate group for student interests. Medical students also serve as voting members on a full range of University and School of Medicine committees including Graduate and Professional Student Council, Admissions, Student Progress, Curriculum and Educational Policy.

## Community Service Opportunities

Students are encouraged to participate in community service opportunities. In Carbondale, common service projects include volunteering for the Abundant Health Clinic and the Migrant Camp Health Clinic as well as for various shelters, local schools and fundraisers.

In Springfield, service projects include mentoring local grade-school children or volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. Details are on the Web site [www.siumed.edu/students/studenttostudent.htm](http://www.siumed.edu/students/studenttostudent.htm) under "Philanthropic Opportunities."

## Counseling

Counseling services are available for all medical students, with an emphasis on academic and personal counseling for students with special needs.

## Office of Alumni Affairs

Activities, services and programs are developed for the School's alumni with assistance from the Alumni Society's Board of Governors. Activities and services include the HOSTS (Helping Our Students To Succeed) program that connects alumni with fourth year medical students while students are interviewing for residencies, an Illinois online placement service, the Alumni News section in the School's *Aspects* magazine, an alumni Web site, assistance with the annual Alumni Fund Campaign, class reunions and other social events for alumni and students. For further information, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs. Illinois Practice Opportunities assistance is available to alumni and residents through the Illinois Practice Opportunities Web site at [www.siumed.edu/practice\\_ops/](http://www.siumed.edu/practice_ops/).

As of May 2009, 2,269 students have earned the M.D. degree at SIU School of Medicine. Those graduates in practice are pursuing a variety of medical careers:

Family medicine . . . . .	22%
Internal medicine . . . . .	21%
Surgery . . . . .	11%
Pediatrics . . . . .	9%
Emergency medicine . . . . .	7%
Psychiatry . . . . .	6%
Obstetrics and gynecology . . . . .	6%
Radiology . . . . .	4%
Anesthesiology . . . . .	4%
Pathology . . . . .	2%
Other . . . . .	8%

## SIU graduates are practicing in these Illinois communities:

Alton	DeKalb	Lincoln	Pittsfield
Amboy	DeSoto	Litchfield	Pontiac
Anna	Dixon	Macomb	Quincy
Belleville	Edwardsville	Mahomet	Red Bud
Belvidere	Effingham	Marion	Robinson
Benton	El Paso	Marissa	Rochelle
Bloomington	Eureka	Maryville	Rock Island
Bradley	Fairbury	Mascoutah	Rockford
Breese	Fairfield	Mattoon	Salem
Canton	Fairview	Metropolis	Sandwich
Carbondale	Heights	Moline	Spring Valley
Carlinville	Forrest	Monticello	Shiloh
Carmi	Freeburg	Morris	Springfield
Carrier Mills	Freeport	Morrison	St. Charles
Carrollton	Galesburg	Morton	Sterling
Centralia	Granite City	Mt. Carmel	Swansea
Champaign	Greenville	Mt. Carroll	Taylorville
Charleston	Hardin	Mt. Pulaski	Troy
Chatham	Harrisburg	Mt. Sterling	Tuscola
Chester	Havana	Mt. Vernon	Urbana
Chicago and suburbs	Herrin	Mt. Zion	Vandalia
Chillicothe	Highland	Murphysboro	Waterloo
Christopher	Hillsboro	Normal	Watseka
Collinsville	Jacksonville	O'Fallon	West Frankfort
Coulterville	Jerseyville	Olney	Wilmington
Danville	Joliet	Oregon	Woodstock
Davis Junction	Kankakee	Pekin	
Decatur	Knoxville	Peoria	
	Lawrenceville	Petersburg	

## M.D.-J.D. Degree Program

Recognizing the heightened level of interaction between medicine, law and health policy, SIU's Schools of Medicine and Law offer an M.D.-J.D. dual-degree program to accommodate the increasing number of individuals seeking a carefully structured, interdisciplinary education. The program leads to the awarding of degrees in medicine and law at the completion of a unique six-year program of academic and clinical study.

Students seeking to enroll in the M.D.-J.D. program are required to meet admission standards established by the School of Medicine and the School of Law. Students are admitted separately to each of these schools, filling a limited number of places available in the program. Students must apply concurrently to both schools for admission.

Inquiries for further information should be directed to Admissions in the Office of Student Affairs at the School of Medicine or the Office of Admissions at the School of Law.

## SIU School of Medicine Quick Facts

- 291 medical students; 274 residents and fellows
- 1 to 1 student to faculty ratio
- More than 230 active research projects
- 100% of medical students are residents of Illinois
- 100% of graduates say they are satisfied with their medical education
- 100% of graduates feel adequately prepared for residency training
- More than 370,000 patients served annually by SIU HealthCare formerly SIU Physicians & Surgeons
- SIU maintains 100 service sites in 50 Illinois communities
- Medical students begin clinical training in the first weeks of school
- 72 medical students enroll each year
- 60 Illinois counties served by SIU HealthCare

## MEDPREP

The Medical/Dental Education Preparatory Program (MEDPREP) was established in 1972 by SIU School of Medicine. It provides assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged students in preparing for and achieving success in health professions schools. The program operates on a year-round basis, beginning in June of each year. MEDPREP participants enroll as regular SIU Carbondale students pursuing a special preprofessional certificate. About 70 students participate in the program annually. Participation in MEDPREP does not guarantee admission to SIU School of Medicine or any other medical school, but there is an alliance program with the SIU medical school that allows acceptance under certain conditions.

Students prepare their academic plans through consultation with MEDPREP advisors and participation in courses such as orientation seminar and learning skills. The curriculum includes science review courses, basic skills classes and advanced enrichment

courses in biology. In addition, MEDPREP's status within the School of Medicine provides enrolled students with unique experiences and courses not usually available to preprofessional students.

Applicants must submit a completed MEDPREP application and official transcripts from all colleges attended unless transcripts are on file at SIUC. Also required are two letters of recommendation or a preprofessional committee evaluation letter. Early application is strongly recommended.



*Medical students in the courtyard in Springfield*