

McNeese Physician Preparatory Pathway Program (P⁴)

High school freshmen interested in becoming doctors or entering a healthcare profession are invited to the McNeese Physician Preparatory Pathway Program (P⁴), sponsored by SIU School of Medicine, Springfield Public School District 186 and the Sangamon County Medical Society. The McNeese P⁴ Program places freshmen high school students alongside medical students and other professionals for a rigorous curriculum introducing them to the field of medicine and exposing them to physicians and multiple career possibilities.

The McNeese P⁴ Program is a four-year, after-school program featuring two, 2-week modules of learning during the academic year. It recruits a talented group of students who want to become physicians or enter the healthcare field, provides support, leadership opportunities and a variety of hands-on experiences to assist them in pursuing this career goal. The McNeese P⁴ Program students are expected to remain in the program throughout their high school education.

The selection process for The McNeese P⁴ Program begins with submission of an application packet. Only incoming high school freshmen are eligible. The application must include evidence of high academic performance (GPA at least 2.5) and attendance rate of at least 80%. **The selection committee welcomes all applicants and favors potential first-generation college students.**

Additional Facts About the Program

- A program director monitors participants' grades, attendance and behavior in high school, as well as during The McNeese P⁴ Program activities.
- Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA in high school, or greater, to remain in The McNeese P⁴ Program.
- All students must be enrolled in a rigorous high school curriculum. Disciplinary problems, attendance issues, or other matters that impact a student's success in the program will be reviewed The McNeese P⁴ Program administrators.

Questions regarding P⁴ should be directed to:

- Lesley Barfield-Robinson, Program Director, lbarfield@siumed.edu at SIU School of Medicine, 217-545-7334
- Terrance Jordan, Director of School Leadership/F.A.C.E. tejordan@sps186.org at Springfield School District 186, 217-525-3000

McNeese Physician Preparatory Pathway Program (P⁴) 2025– 2026 Application

EACH APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN:

1. **One letter of recommendation**: teacher or school administrator
2. **Personal essay** explaining interest in P⁴, career plans and other goals. Essay should be typed, double-spaced and **not more than 250 words**. (submit with application)
3. **A summary of student experiences** (form attached)

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Wednesday August 13, 2025

Complete the application; sign and return, along with the essay and recommendation sheet to one of the following:

- Lesley Barfield-Robinson lbarfield@siumed.edu at SIU School of Medicine
- **Please note: All District 186 students applying must submit their applications online at <http://www.sps186.org>.**

If you do not complete a particular section of the application, please explain why.

Prospective P⁴ Student Interviews will be held August 25-29, 2025. Applicants will be notified of the times and other details.

A parent informational meeting and white coat ceremony will be held at 5:30 pm on October 15, 2025. All new students are strongly encouraged to attend. Current pipeline students may attend as well.

First Module is October 20-23 & October 27-30, 2025

Second Module is January 26-29, 2026 & February 2-5, 2026

Graduation will be on Thursday February 12, 2026

Daily Schedule

3:30-4:00 p.m. Meal

4:00-6:00 p.m. Modules

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Student Name _____

School _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Student Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

e-mail address: (print clearly) _____

Gender: _____ Birthdate: _____

Do you have regular access to the Internet? Yes _____ No _____**Parent(s) / Guardian Contact Information:****Parent/Guardian 1**

- Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____
- Address if different from student _____
- Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
- e-mail address: (print clearly) _____

Parent/Guardian 2:

- Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____
- Address if different from student _____
- Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
- e-mail address: (print clearly) _____

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Student Experiences

Extracurricular, school, civic and/or religious activities; volunteer experiences, pastimes, hobbies, etc. Make copies of this page as needed.

If you have nothing to put in this section, please explain why.

Organization _____

Dates worked/served/participated _____

Number of hours _____

Summary of Experience/Lessons learned:

Organization _____

Dates worked/served/participated _____

Number of hours _____

Summary of Experience/Lessons learned:

School Administrator/Teacher Reference

Please complete one form to help evaluate the following student as a prospective participant in the Physician Pipeline Preparatory Program (P⁴).

Student Name _____

Administrator Name/position _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

Student's GPA (must be at least 2.5 on 4.0 scale; may use 8th grade GPA) _____

Please rate the student in the following areas as **Exceptional, Above Average, Average, or Below Average**. Explanatory comments are welcomed.

Attendance Record (must be at least 80%) _____

Interactions with teachers _____

Interactions with students _____

Communication skills _____

Leadership skills _____

Level of maturity _____

Acceptance of responsibility _____

Please describe the qualities or characteristics that make this student an exceptional candidate for the Physicians Pipeline Preparatory Program (continue on back, if necessary)

Administrator's Signature _____

Please seal this form in an envelope and return it to the student, who will include it with his/her application. Thank you!