

FAQs & PREREQS

Resources for Prehealth Advisors

MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Autumn 2009

MWU: Together, We'll Build Your Future



**By Karen D. Johnson, Ph.D.
Vice President for
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On campuses around the country, the first turning leaves of fall mark the promise of a new academic year—new students, excited faculty, a time for learning. As prehealth advisors, you have the challenge of working with a new group of students who share the dream of becoming a healthcare provider. While you are tasked with providing recommendations and evaluations, you also have the opportunity to advise your students on the professional school that will be the best “fit” for their goals and needs.

One goal of the application process is simply to get accepted into a particular program. Perhaps a more difficult obstacle is to find the program where your students will not only succeed, but excel. Many schools offer the desired degree, but how do you determine the many intangible qualities of the academic culture—from teaching to mentored research to clinical opportunities and community service?

This year, Northwestern University has worked to focus our message to prospective students and advisors—to help you understand what makes us unique and special. We have talked to our students and have listened to them discuss the sense of family they feel on our campuses. They have emphasized the open door policy, and the understanding that the faculty are working with them to make them successful throughout our challenging curricula. They mention the interdisciplinary nature of our student body, and how everyone works alongside their colleagues with a common purpose.

From these discussion groups, we have honed in on a simple phrase that captures the essence of Northwestern University’s academic culture: “Together, We’ll Build Your Future.” We know our students are here because they have always wanted careers in healthcare. Our faculty and staff appreciate that their role is to help our students achieve their dreams. Our classrooms and laboratories reflect a supportive, hands-on environment, where students can practice their skills under the careful tutelage of an experienced educator and mentor. This partnership of student and faculty, working together, is the foundation of all of our degree programs.

Want to hear more from our students? Visit our web site at www.northwestern.edu and click on either the “Downers Grove Campus” or “Glendale Campus” main tabs, and watch the video of our students explaining what they love most about the university. The theme is consistent across programs and between campuses: Together, We’ll Build Your Future. At Northwestern University, we have a clear vision of who we are, what we do best...and how we can help your students achieve their dreams of fulfilling careers in healthcare.



Doors Open in 2011 for College of Dental Medicine-Illinois

Midwestern University plans to open a new school of dental medicine on its Downers Grove Campus in the fall of 2011. The College of Dental Medicine-Illinois will be located in a new state-of-the-art academic building and help fill a critical need in the healthcare sector as more dentists retire and an aging population requires additional dental care.

“This will be the first new school for dental medicine in the Chicagoland area in 90 years,” said Frank Licari, D.D.S., MPH, M.B.A., Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the new college. “We believe that students who graduate from our program will be well-prepared for a successful practice.”

The new College is applying for initial accreditation and plans to begin accepting applications in the summer of 2010. An inaugural class of 125 students will matriculate in the fall 2011. Upon completing a four-year, intensive classroom and clinical training program, students will earn a Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree. The integrated curriculum will include coursework in basic sciences, behavioral sciences, clinical sciences, preclinical simulation, and patient care clinical rotations.



Students will soon be able to earn a Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree on the Downers Grove Campus.

The College has begun recruiting faculty members and M.A.J. (Lex) MacNeil, D.D.S., has taken over as the inaugural Dean. Prior to his appointment at MWU, Dr. MacNeil was the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Associate Professor in the Department of Oral Health Sciences at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Faculty of Dentistry in Vancouver, Canada.

Ideal candidates for the program would possess a strong science background, good communication and cognitive skills, a commitment to helping others, and demonstrate interest in the field of dental medicine.

The University also plans to establish a dental clinic in the Chicagoland area by 2013 to provide students with clinical experience and offer needed dental care to the community.

New Doctor of Health Sciences Degree

Midwestern University recently added a new Doctor of Health Sciences (D.H.S.) degree program on the Downers Grove Campus. The Doctor of Health Sciences degree is a four-year, part-time program designed for working occupational therapists, physical therapists, and other licensed health professionals.



Students can earn a Doctor of Health Sciences degree on the Downers Grove Campus.

The D.H.S. degree program is approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and prepares licensed health professionals to become leaders in their respective fields. The degree is intended for health professionals who wish to enter academia, pursue areas of clinical research, or gain extensive knowledge and skills in a concentrated practice area.

Evening and weekend coursework combined with independent study will enable students to complete degree requirements on a part-time basis while they maintain full-time employment.

This degree will also meet the increased demand for health professionals with advanced degrees to serve in a variety of roles. “There is an acute shortage of faculty and clinician-researchers within the physical therapy, occupational therapy, and several other health professions,” said Sandra Levi, PT, Ph.D., Program Coordinator for the D.H.S. degree and Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at Midwestern University.

Glendale Adds New Physical Therapy Degree

Midwestern University is planning on expanding its educational offerings on the Glendale Campus with the addition of a new Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) degree.

The new program will include a full-time, continuous, 36-month curriculum designed to deliver the academic and clinical education required to prepare students for their professional role as key members of the healthcare team. Physical therapists work in hospitals, orthopedic and sports medicine, outpatient clinics, pediatrics, geriatrics, and rehabilitation hospitals and clinics

The Physical Therapy Program at Midwestern University, Glendale, is seeking accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association (1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org). This fall, the program submitted an Application for Candidacy,

which is the formal application required in the pre-accreditation stage. Submission of this document does not assure that the program will be granted Candidate for Accreditation status nor does it assure that the program will be granted Accreditation.



The University is seeking approval for a Physical Therapy program on the Glendale Campus.

Building Educational Experience

Midwestern University has begun building new facilities and new opportunities for students. Two new clinics will open their doors on the Glendale Campus providing future optometrists and dentists with additional clinical experience. In addition, a new science building in Downers Grove will provide much needed lab and academic space for students.

In spring 2010, the Midwestern University Dental Clinic and the Midwestern University Eye Institute will join six current specialty areas at the Midwestern University Clinic to offer high-quality care from fully-licensed practitioners who are also dedicated

MWU faculty members.

The MWU Dental Clinic will house 244 chairs and two operating suites, and will provide all aspects of dental patient care, as well as serve as a resource for community dental referrals for specialty services such as cone beam X-ray imaging.

The MWU Eye Institute will include 60 exam units, and will provide primary eye care for the community as well as specialty services in electrodiagnosis; prosthetic eyes; sports vision; low-vision clinic; pediatrics and vision testing; and advanced contact lens clinic.

Both new Clinics will offer the added benefit of serving as training sites for MWU students under close faculty supervision.

On the Downers Grove Campus, 180,000 square-foot of new academic space is slated to be completed in 2011. The building will enhance student learning with five-stories of academic space including a new student testing center, basic science labs, classrooms, and a new anatomy lab. The building will also include an osteopathic manipulative medicine lab and dental simulation lab.



Rendering of a new science building for the Downers Grove Campus

Educating Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS: 2009



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Incoming Classes 2009		Enrollment Snapshot:	
Osteopathic Medicine	201	Total Students:	2,082
Pharmacy	211	Female:	61%
Physician Assistant Studies	85	Male:	39%
Physical Therapy	48	States Represented:	43
Occupational Therapy	38	Foreign Countries:	13
Master of Science in Biomedical Science	35	<i>including Canada, India, South Korea, Bulgaria, Taiwan, Russia, Bahamas, Kenya, Thailand, Japan, Germany, China and Italy</i>	
Clinical Psychology	15		
TOTAL:	633		

GLENDALE, ARIZONA: 2009

Incoming Classes 2009		Enrollment Snapshot:	
Osteopathic Medicine	254	Total Students:	2,079
Pharmacy	134	Female:	48%
Dental Medicine	112	Male:	52%
Physician Assistant Studies	87	States Represented:	46
Master of Arts in Biomedical Science	75	Foreign Countries:	6
Master of Science in Biomedical Science	15	<i>including Canada, United Kingdom, Ukraine, India, Jordan and Taiwan</i>	
Podiatry	33		
Occupational Therapy	30		
Cardiovascular Science/Perfusion	24		
Nurse Anesthesia	23		
Clinical Psychology	11		
Optometry	52		
TOTAL:	850		

