

Answering the #1 question: “What is the medical school admissions rate for students applying to medical school after graduating from Gordon College?”

As Gordon’s director of pre-health professions (HP), also known as the premed advisor, I can best field your question about the rate of acceptance into medical school. Though occasionally you may hear a particular number quoted, one can never be sure what that number actually means. The HP advisors I have met as a rule do not quote specific numbers because there really is no such single statistic. We know how many students applied and how many have been accepted each year, but this information does not necessarily address the question being asked. For example, you must also consider whether these applicants were applying to allopathic or osteopathic schools, or offshore/international schools. Were they reapplicants or first-time applicants? Also, especially when comparing schools, it would be important to know if the applicants were preselected or not. This is why there is really no simple answer.

At Gordon we do not preselect who can apply to medical school—anyone can apply, even if they are not well-qualified. There are always a number of such students who have low GPA and MCAT scores but very high hopes. On the other hand, very competitive schools have accepted Gordon students in the past, and that continues. About three to five students apply to allopathic or osteopathic medical schools from Gordon each year, and of these usually two or three are shoo-ins, and two are borderline and often still gain admission. My definition of borderline would be: Science GPA of 3.0 (out of 4.0), taking physics at another school during the summer, and scoring a 27 on MCAT. Though it may be true that such a person could be a great doctor, they will definitely have more of a challenge getting in. Gordon recently has also sent students to veterinarian, optometry, physician assistant, and nursing schools. I do my best to provide Gordon students with extensive, up-to-date advice on a variety of healthcare fields.

I believe Gordon’s premed program compares very favorably with other schools, and our students have the additional “small school” advantage of really getting to know their professors well, which definitely helps them when it comes time to request a recommendation. The HP seminar class I lead each year goes a long way to helping students understand the full range of what is available in medicine today. In this course the students discuss important topics (ethical issues) and meet various doctors and other practitioners of medicine each week. As other HP advisors have said, “The health professions program doesn’t get them in; the students get themselves in.” So, if one of our students does well academically, scores 30 or better on the MCAT, and has the distinctive mark of a Gordon student (this is a big plus), I have every confidence they will get in.

If you have any further questions, please follow the link below to Health Professions for additional information, or you can call or email me. Meanwhile, thank you for your question. It is asked all the time, even though, sorry to say, there is no simple answer.

Sincerely,

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Director of Pre-Health Professions
http://faculty.gordon.edu/ns/by/craig_story/health.cfm

The following is a brief overview of the history of health professions advising at Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts, composed by the current advisor, Dr. Craig M. Story, who took over the reins during the summer of 2004.

History of Gordon College

Gordon College itself was originally established as a school of Christian theology and missions in 1889 in Boston, Massachusetts. As the institution grew and desired a more rural location, the current Wenham campus site was purchased from Frederick Prince. The land, including several buildings and a large polo field, was originally known as Princemere. In 1970 the theological seminary was established as a separate institution and moved to a location in nearby South Hamilton, Massachusetts, and is known as Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Gordon College has since become widely known and respected for its quality liberal arts curriculum and rigorous academic standards.

History of Health Professions at Gordon

As is the case at most small schools, at Gordon health professions advising is typically a part-time position taken on by a professor in the Natural Science Division, or an adjunct faculty. The first faculty to have this official role was Dr. Richard Wright, now retired, of the Biology Department. Dr. Robert Herrmann, who remained active as an adjunct professor of chemistry until 1995, succeeded Dr. Wright in 1981. Dr. Herrmann came with experience as a former member of the Admissions Committee of Boston University of Medicine from 1969–1976. As part of his role at Gordon, he placed several premeds in university laboratories and local medical practices each summer and in some cases during the school year. Dr. Herrmann also established a premedical seminar course, which provided a forum for students to receive direct advising as well as meet various working health professionals who came to share their experiences with the students. Dr. Don Munro took over as prehealth professions advisor in 1995. Dr. Munro also came with much prior experience, having served in this role for many years at Houghton College. Dr. Munro continued the premedical seminar course, renamed Health Professions Seminar, which incorporated a weekly discussion of issues in biomedical ethics.

I have continued leading Health Professions Seminar, and I consider it a privilege to help students develop realistic goals and career direction through the course. I strive to direct students to the most up-to-date information and study preparation resources and to provide good general advice about medical school. I regularly attend meetings of the National and New England Associations of Advisors for the Health Professions to keep up on the latest changes and developments in the field. Seeing our students successfully enter health professions careers is a highly rewarding part of my job as a Gordon professor.



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