

PRE-MEDICAL PROGRAM



West Point
READY 

READY TO SERVE. READY TO LEAD.



Pre-Medical Club cadets attended a presentation from neurosurgeon Dr. Mark McLaughlin



The Department of Chemistry and Life Science (CLS) and the West Point Dean's staff affiliated with the Pre-Medical Program are responsible for educating and training cadets in the appropriate academic disciplines as well as developing the tools they need to succeed in navigating the medical school application process. The Pre-Medical Program supports the mission of commissioning the best students into the Army Medical Corps by providing funding for the expenses related to clinical and research experiences, test preparation, and other endeavors required for cadets who seek to serve as Army physicians.

West Point graduates are an integral part of the military healthcare system. Two former Army surgeons general, the Director of the Defense Health Agency, LTG Telita Crosland, and countless leaders in Army medicine are alumni of the Academy. By Army regulation, the Department of Defense permits two percent of each West Point graduating class to attend medical school under military sponsorship. The Superintendent is responsible for the selection of cadet applicants for the Uniformed Services University (USU) and Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP). The management of this process is coordinated by a part-time pre-medical advisor in the Office of the Dean in concert with faculty from the Department of Chemistry and Life Science (CLS).

The medical school admissions process has become increasingly competitive in recent years. In 2022 alone, applications increased by 18% nationwide. According to official records from the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), approximately 36% of applicants for the 2021-2022 cycle matriculated into medical school. Funding provided by the Pre-Medical Program will support aspiring pre-medical cadets in each year group to demonstrate excellence and gain admission to top-tier medical schools through combined synergy from a full-time Pre-Medical Scholarship Program coordinator, physician shadowing and clinical opportunities,

research experiences, test preparation, Academic Individual Advanced Development internship opportunities, and other endeavors necessary for success in becoming an Army physician.

With over 250 cadets in the pre-medical program, interest in healthcare careers continues to expand. Cadets face stiff competition from their civilian peers and are at a marked disadvantage due to their busy schedules. Balancing a full academic load with military duties and physical fitness requirements affords cadets only a fraction of the time their civilian peers devote toward pre-med activities. For example, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) data demonstrate that the largest number of applicants who take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) study more than 30 hours a week for over 16 weeks. The majority of civilian medical school applicants take gap time after college graduation to study, perform research, and/or work in healthcare. The 47-month cadet experience does not provide extended free time to study for the MCAT, pursue intensive clinical experiences, or participate in protracted medical volunteer opportunities. Through the Pre-Medical Program, CLS aims to provide first-rate physician shadowing internships in environments that provide the rich experiences required to distinguish cadets from their civilian peers. As research has become an integral part of the pre-medical experience, private support will help to fund publication costs and travel to medical/scientific meetings.

Previous clinical opportunities have incorporated physician shadowing at Army medical centers including Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) in Maryland, Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in Texas, Madigan Army Medical (MAMC) in Washington, and Eisenhower Army Medical Center (EAMC) in Georgia. Research endeavors have consisted of malaria and HIV research with Walter Reed Army Institute of Research staff in Kenya, malaria research at the Australian Army Malaria Institute,

and investigation at world class academic centers including Cambridge and Harvard. In addition, the Pre-Medical Program has provided enrichment opportunities such as interview skills seminars, standardized test preparation, information seminars, guest speakers, and counseling by advisors. Through the efforts of faculty and staff members supporting the program, cadets in recent years have been accepted to top-tier medical schools including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Johns Hopkins, Baylor, Vanderbilt, Michigan, Brown, Dartmouth, Columbia, and Uniformed Services University. Almost all of these graduates (98-99%) perform their residency training in military hospitals and a significant majority serve full year careers as Army physicians.

The establishment of a full-time Pre-Medical Scholarship Program coordinator will ensure program implementation and coordination with cadets and faculty throughout the year. The coordinator will maintain strong collaborative relationships with WRNMMC, Uniformed Services University, partner labs, and schools engaged in civilian and military medical research. These enhanced academic, outreach and service, and research activities will improve the competitiveness of our cadets for medical school and scholarships such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Hertz, National Science Foundation, MIT-Lincoln Labs, and Goldwater. Gifts to the Pre-Medical Program will help ensure continued success in educating and preparing cadets to compete for coveted medical school appointments and improve our graduates' success in pursuing careers in military medicine. Leadership, clinical excellence, and strong character from West Point graduates will ensure that our service members receive the best medical care possible as we look to the future.



CDT Amrita Kaur presenting research at the annual AUSA conference



Cadets on summer shadowing AIAD at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center



Photo: Lee Ross '73

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Pre-Medical Program Endowment \$1.6 million

West Point Medicine & Life Science Forum	\$500,000 endowment/\$20,000 annual
Cadet Physician Shadowing	\$500,000 endowment/\$20,000 annual
1 Cadet	\$125,000 endowment/\$5,000 annual
MCAT Preparatory Program	\$375,000 endowment/\$15,000 annual
Cadet Medical Conferences	\$250,000 endowment/\$10,000 annual

MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE



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as of April 6, 2023