

## **BMSC FAQ Sheet**

- **What is the Biomedical Sciences (BMSC) Post Baccalaureate Program?** The University of South Carolina School of Medicine Post Baccalaureate program is a one-year certificate program aimed at helping pre-health students get into medical, dental, vet, or pharmacy school. This program is meant for students that need help bringing up their GPA in order to be academically competitive for admission.
- **How long is the BMSC Program?** 1 year (2 academic semesters)
- **Can I start in the summer?** No, there are no summer classes for the BMSC Program. Our program is one year with a set curriculum. All classes start in the fall of the year you are applying for and end the following spring semester.
- **Can I apply using just my GRE score?** Yes, you can apply with either a GRE, MCAT, or DAT score
- **What classes do you offer? Do I get to choose my schedule?** The BMSC program has a set basic curriculum but does give the student an option for one elective course each semester. During the fall semester students are required to take Human Cellular and Molecular Biology (BMSC 708) and Biochemistry (BMSC 707), and have the option of taking either Neuroscience (PHPH 750) or Immunology (MBIM 710) as an elective. During the spring semester our students are required to take Physiology (PHPH J701) and have the option of taking either Anatomy (MCBA710) or Genetics (HGEN722) as an elective course.
- **Where are the classes taught?** All classes are taught on USC School of Medicine Campus on Garner's Ferry Road.
- **Is there financial aid?** There is no scholarship available for the certificate program. However, financial aid is available through FAFSA, and many of our students take out Stafford loans. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.
- **How much does the program cost?** For the current academic year, in-state tuition for the program is \$15,750 and out of state tuition for the program is \$21,000.
- **What GPA has to be maintained for me to get my certificate?** A 3.0 GPA is required in order for a student to receive his or her certificate.

- **Can I transfer into the Biomedical Sciences M.S. Degree Program?** Yes, however if you transfer into the MS program you will be unable to get your certificate. The hours that were taken for the certificate program will be transferred to hours towards the MS program.
- **Will I automatically get into the USC School of Medicine if I complete this program?** No. While excelling in the certificate program demonstrates an academic preparedness and looks exceptional to the admissions committee, we are a state institution and therefore cannot guarantee acceptance. However, many of the students in our program are invited for interviews and the USC SOM admissions committee takes the grades earned in the fall semester into consideration.
- **What is your acceptance rate into professional school upon completion of the program?** Currently, our medical/vet/dental school acceptance rate is 72%.
- **Should I retake my MCAT score if accepted into the certificate program?** Yes. If you apply and get into the certificate program with a 21 MCAT score, it is advised that you retake the MCAT. While this score meets our program requirements for acceptance; it is below the average score for students accepted into the USC medical school and other schools across our region.
- **If accepted into USC for medical school, would I have to retake classes?** Yes. If accepted into the medical school at USC, you would take the entire first year curriculum with the first year class (i.e. you would not be able to skip courses). While our courses in the certificate program are taught by many of the same professors who teach the medical students at our institution and much of the material is the same, due to the length of instructional time the certificate courses are not as comprehensive as comparable medical school courses. Due to the additional instructional time, the courses medical students take are more in-depth and more detailed than those in the certificate program, therefore courses would not exactly be “retaken” since much of the material would not have previously been taught. However, students in the program would be at an advantage at having seen much of the material beforehand.
- For all other inquiries see the **Graduate Bulletin**