Furman University and USC-Greenville School of Medicine
Early Acceptance Program

**Program Description:** The Early Acceptance Program (EAP) provides up to five qualified Furman students with the opportunity to gain early admission to the USC-Greenville School of Medicine. This binding program is similar to the binding Early Decision program. The primary difference is that it will provide students with provisional acceptance to the USC-Greenville School of Medicine by the end of the spring semester in their junior year.

**Eligibility:** Rising juniors who have completed four semesters at Furman University are eligible to apply to the Early Acceptance Program at the USC-Greenville School of Medicine. Applicants must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.60 and a minimum EAP pre-requisite course GPA of 3.60 at the end of the fall semester of their junior year. (See “Required Coursework” section below.)

**Required Coursework:** The following courses must be completed at Furman University with no grade below a C by the end of the fall semester of the junior year.

BIO 111: Foundations of Biology
BIO 221: Genetics
CHM 110: Foundations of Chemistry
CHM 115: Kinetics, Thermodynamics, and the Environment
CHM 120: Organic Chemistry
CHM 220: BioOrganic Chemistry
PHY 111: General Physics I

The courses above must be completed at Furman (not at another institution) and cannot be completed on a Pass-No Pass basis with a grade of “P”. Advanced placement (AP) credit can be used for only one of the above courses.

A Psychology course (PSY 111) and a Sociology course (SOC 101) must be completed by the end of the junior year. Although Biochemistry and Physics II are not required by the USC-Greenville School of Medicine, material from those courses is covered on the MCAT. As such, applicants should plan to complete those courses by the end of the junior year.

**Additional Requirements:** Applicants are expected to obtain healthcare experience (patient-focused hours, observation) and participate in volunteer, community, and campus-wide extracurricular activities as expected of all students preparing for application to medical school. A minimum number of healthcare experience-related hours are not required; however, students are expected to gain enough experience to enable them to demonstrate during an interview a broad understanding of the expectations, responsibilities, and accountabilities of a physician.
Early Acceptance Program Application: The Early Acceptance Program Application will be available in the first week of August and will be posted on the Furman University Office of Health Careers Advising website. The completed application must be received in the Office of Health Careers Advising by October 1st in the fall semester of the junior year.

Letters of Recommendation: Applicants must have two letters of recommendation sent to the Office of Health Careers Advising by October 1st in the fall semester of the junior year. One of these letters must be from a science faculty member at Furman University. An instruction and waiver form for the recommenders will be posted on the Furman University Office of Health Careers Advising website when the application becomes available. A third letter will be required if the applicant is selected to be interviewed by the USC-Greenville School of Medicine in the spring semester of the junior year.

Application Process: The Early Acceptance Program Application must be received in the Office of Health Careers Advising by October 1st in the fall semester of the junior year. Applicants meeting the requirements will be interviewed by the Furman Early Acceptance Program Committee beginning in November in the fall semester of the junior year.

Applicants selected by the Furman EAP Committee will be recommended to the USC-Greenville School of Medicine by the beginning of the spring semester of the junior year. Applicants who do not receive a Furman EAP Committee recommendation will be notified at this time so that they can continue preparing for the normal application process. Applicants selected by the Furman EAP Committee will be required to submit a third letter of recommendation and a Supplemental Application by March 1st of the junior year.

All recommended applicants will be interviewed and evaluated by the admissions committee at the USC-Greenville School of Medicine in April. A final decision on acceptance via the Early Acceptance Program will be forwarded to all interviewed applicants by April 30th of their junior year.

Accepted applicants will be pre-approved by USC-Greenville School of Medicine to submit an AMCAS application as an early assurance applicant, thus confirming their acceptance in the AMCAS system as required. The AMCAS fee will be waived for the applicant.

Offers of acceptance will be contingent upon achieving an MCAT score at or above the minimum required percentile score and a final transcript from Furman University documenting that the applicant has successfully completed all requirements for graduation.

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT): Admission is contingent on an overall MCAT score greater than or equal to 504 (≥ 64th percentile). The official score must be received no later than July 31st in the summer following the junior year. (Note that the average MCAT percentile score for USC-Greenville School of Medicine falls within the 67th-73rd percentile.)

EAP Commitment: Accepted applicants must accept or reject their acceptance within 2 weeks; a matriculation deposit of $250 (applied to tuition) is required. Applicants who accept the offer of admission to the USC-Greenville School of Medicine through the Early Acceptance Program cannot apply to any other medical schools during the same application cycle. The EAP offer of admission must be formally rejected before applicants will be allowed to apply to other medical schools through AMCAS in the same application cycle.
Frequently Asked Questions:

1. I have completed the credit hour equivalent of a rising junior at Furman, but am in my first year. Am I eligible for the program? No. You must have completed four semesters at Furman before applying to the Early Acceptance Program.

2. I took one of the courses on a Pass-No Pass basis, but received a grade according to the Grade Option rules. Can the course still count towards the required courses? Yes. As long as the grade is a C or better and appears on your official transcript as such, the course meets the requirements for the Early Acceptance Program.

3. I have completed one of the required courses at another institution as part of a dual enrollment program. The course transferred to Furman for credit and appears on my transcript with a grade. Can it count as one of the required courses? No. The required courses must be taken at Furman University.

4. The USC-Greenville School of Medicine does not require CHM 220 (BioOrganic Chemistry) for regular admission, why is it required for the Early Acceptance Program? Because the acceptance decision will be rendered with less academic information available than for regular decision candidates, the Early Acceptance Program requires a grade for BioOrganic Chemistry to determine the applicant’s academic readiness.

5. Can I substitute a Biochemistry class for one of the required chemistry courses? No. Since all applicants will not have access to a Biochemistry course before the end of the fall semester of their junior year, it cannot be used as a substitution for one of the required courses.

6. If my official MCAT score will not be released before the July 31st deadline, but I receive a preliminary MCAT score report that indicates a possible score in the 64 percentile, will this meet the requirement? No. The Early Acceptance Program requires an official MCAT score to be available by the July 31st deadline. Official MCAT scores are released four weeks after the test date, so be sure to plan your MCAT date accordingly.

7. If I am interviewed by the USC-Greenville School of Medicine as part of the Early Acceptance Program and do not receive an offer of admission, can I apply to USC-Greenville School of Medicine as part of the early decision or regular decision cycle? If so will I have the opportunity to interview again? If you are not accepted into the Early Acceptance Program, you can apply to the USC-Greenville School of Medicine as part of the early decision or regular decision cycle. You will also have the opportunity to interview again.

8. I am a rising senior who is planning to take a gap year before medical school. Can I apply to the Early Acceptance Program? No. The Early Acceptance Program is currently designed for rising juniors at Furman.