

Application Instructions for the Furman University and USC School of Medicine Greenville Early Acceptance Program 2019-2020

Eligibility: Juniors who have completed four semesters at Furman University are eligible to apply to the Early Acceptance Program at the USC School of Medicine Greenville. 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 spring semester of their junior year. (See “Required Coursework” section below.)

EAP Commitment: Applicants who accept the offer of admission to the USC School of Medicine Greenville 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.

Process and Deadlines:

October 1: EAP application opens for completion and submission. Link below.

(https://greenvillehealthsystem.formstack.com/forms/eap_application_2020)

December 1: Deadline for completed applications and three letters of recommendation to be submitted to the Office of Pre-Professional Advising at Furman University via online portals.

December/January: Qualified applicants interviewed by Furman Early Acceptance Program Committee.

February 1: Applicants selected by the Furman Early Acceptance Program Committee will be recommended to the USC School of Medicine Greenville.

March 1: Deadline for official transcripts to be submitted to the USC School of Medicine Greenville.

March/April: Recommended applicants will be interviewed and evaluated by the admissions committee at the USC School of Medicine Greenville.

April: Within 2 weeks of their interview, students will receive one of three possible updates on the status of their application to the EAP:

- 1) Offer of acceptance (if MCAT score available at the time of interview)
- 2) Decision will be made no later than July 31st following receipt of MCAT score
- 3) Application has been denied

May 1: First date that accepted applicants will be pre-approved by USC School of Medicine Greenville to submit an AMCAS application as an early assurance applicant. The AMCAS fee will be waived.

Accepted applicants have 2 weeks to formally accept the offer of admission to the USC School of Medicine Greenville. Acceptance of the offer is binding and requires a matriculation deposit of \$250 that will be applied to tuition.

July 31: Deadline for official MCAT score to be received by the USC School of Medicine Greenville. (Note that MCAT score release takes four weeks from the test date.)

Required Coursework: The following courses should be completed at Furman University with no grade below a C by the end of the spring semester of the junior year. The courses cannot be completed with a grade of “P”. Advanced placement (AP) credit should be used for only one of the courses.

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
Biochemistry (BIO 303, CHM 460, or SCI 220)
PHY 111: General Physics I

A Psychology course (PSY 111) and a Sociology course (SOC 101) must be completed by the end of the junior year. Although Physics 112 is not required by the USC School of Medicine Greenville, material from this course is covered on the MCAT.

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT): An official MCAT score must be received no later than July 31st in the summer following the junior year. There is no minimum MCAT score required. (Note that the average MCAT score for USC School of Medicine Greenville falls within the 67th-73rd percentile.)

Activities and Experiences: Applicants are expected to obtain healthcare experience (patient-focused observations) and participate in volunteer, community, and extracurricular activities as expected of all students preparing for medical school. A minimum number of healthcare experience hours are not required; however, students are expected to gain enough experience to enable them to demonstrate a broad understanding of the expectations, responsibilities, and accountabilities of a physician.

The Activities and Experiences section of the application is designed to give you the opportunity to highlight any clinical experiences, community service, work experience, leadership positions, extracurricular activities, awards, honors, or publications that you would like to bring to the attention of the committee. A maximum of fifteen (15) total experiences may be entered.

Experience Name: The name of the experience or the title you held during the experience. If this experience has no explicit name, choose a name that you feel best describes the experience.

Experience Dates: Include the start and end dates for each experience. Some experience types, such as awards, presentations, and publications, require only one date.

Organization Name: Enter the name of the organization through which this experience occurred.

Location: Indicate the city, state/country in which the organization is located or where most of your time was spent during this experience.

Experience Description: This is your opportunity to describe or summarize each experience. The space allotted for this description is 700 characters.

Most Meaningful Experiences: You may identify up to three (3) experiences that you consider to be the most meaningful. For the activity descriptions of these most meaningful experiences, you might want to consider the transformative nature of the experience, the impact you made while engaging in the activity, and the personal growth you experienced as a result of your participation. The space allotted for each most meaningful experience description is 2025 characters.

Core Competencies: Core Competencies for Entering Medical Students have been endorsed by the AAMC Group on Student Affairs Committee on Admissions. These competencies are divided into categories of Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, and Thinking and Reasoning. For each category, write a short statement (up to 700 characters) of how you have developed or are developing the skills required to fulfill these competencies. Refer to any of the activities or experiences that you believe are relevant.

Interpersonal: This category includes service orientation, social skills, cultural competence, teamwork, and oral communication.

Intrapersonal: This category includes ethical responsibility to self and others, reliability and dependability, resilience and adaptability, and capacity for improvement.

Thinking and Reasoning: This category includes critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, scientific inquiry, and written communication.

Letters of Recommendation: A letter of recommendation is a letter in which the author assesses your qualities, characteristics, and capabilities. Applicants must have three letters of recommendation sent to the Office of Pre-Professional Advising by **December 1** in the fall semester of the junior year. One of these letters must be from a science faculty member at Furman University. Instruction and waiver forms for the recommenders are included at the end of this instruction packet, and will be posted on the Furman University Office of Pre-Professional Advising website. All letters must appear on official letterhead of the organization with which the recommender is associated.

Additional Comments: The Additional Comments section is optional and can be used to include any information you would like to bring to the attention of the committee that does not appear in the previous sections of the application or in the personal statement essay. The space allotted for this section is 900 characters. If there is no additional information you would like to include, this section can be left blank.

Personal Statement: Some questions you may want to consider while writing this essay are:

Why have you selected the field of medicine?

What motivates you to learn more about medicine?

What do you want to communicate that hasn't been disclosed in other sections of the application?

The character limit for the essay is 5300 characters. You may want to compose your essay in another program and then paste it into the appropriate field.

Additional Essays: The following additional questions are included on the 2019-2020 EAP application:

Lifestyle medicine is an integral component of the curriculum at USC School of Medicine Greenville. Lifestyle factors including nutritional practices, physical activities, recreation and strategies to manage stress are critical determinants of health. Please discuss what you believe to be effective measures by which physicians can address these issues in the care of their patients.

Why are you applying to the USC School of Medicine Greenville through the EAP process?

Please provide any information regarding personal challenges/hardships that you have overcome.

Describe any past achievements, experiences, challenges, family or personal circumstances, interests, etc. that you believe would bring added value and diversity to the learning environment at the USC School of Medicine Greenville?

If you are not a South Carolina resident, what relationships, bonds, or interests do you have to the state?

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. I have completed the credit hour equivalent of a rising junior at Furman, but am not in my third 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 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?** In most cases, the required courses should be completed at Furman. The EAP committee will consider exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis.
- 3. How many students can apply to the Early Acceptance Program?** There is no limit to the number of students that can submit applications to be reviewed by the Furman Early Acceptance Program Committee. The Furman EAP Committee can recommend up to 10 students to be interviewed by the USC School of Medicine Greenville.
- 4. If I am interviewed by the USC School of Medicine Greenville as part of the Early Acceptance Program and do not receive an offer of admission, can I apply to USC School of Medicine Greenville 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 or rescind the offer of acceptance, you can apply to the USC School of Medicine Greenville as part of the early decision or regular decision cycle. You will also be required to interview again.
- 5. I am a 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 juniors.

Furman / USC School of Medicine-Greenville Early Acceptance Program Recommendation Form

Letter of Evaluation For: _____

Furman ID# _____

Recommender Name: _____

Applicant: Before you give this form to an evaluator acquainted with your qualifications for pursuing a health career, please check and sign, in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

I hereby waive my right of access to this letter of recommendation.
 do not waive

Applicant Signature

Date

The above student is applying to the Early Acceptance Program at the USC-Greenville School of Medicine as a rising junior. The student has been given a deadline of December 1st of the junior year to ensure that all application materials arrive in the Office of Health Careers Advising.

Students applying to medical school are required to submit letters of evaluation that detail that student's fitness for the profession. The admissions committee depends on the candid evaluations in order to select those students who are best suited to this demanding profession. Below are some suggestions for writing a letter of evaluation that the Office of Health Careers Advisor will copy and append to the Furman composite evaluation that will be included with the application.

In your letter confirm the length of time the student spent under your supervision, a brief description of the course or project undertaken by the student, and the work the student accomplished. Other comments that could be made if applicable are as follows:

- Interest and enthusiasm shown by the student
- Promptness and reliability in meeting whatever agenda was agreed upon
- Initiative shown by the student in asking questions and requesting certain experiences
- Appropriate balance between seeking help when necessary and showing suitable independence
- Ability to understand quickly any explanations given
- Cooperativeness
- Willingness to put in extra time
- Communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Manual dexterity
- Efficiency, neatness, and organization
- Ability to get along well with others in the lab
- Suitability for health professional school.

Comments that are specific and include examples are preferred to more general type statements.

Please return this form with your letter on official letterhead addressed to:

Health Careers Advisor
Office of Health Career Advising
Furman University
3300 Poinsett Highway
Greenville, SC 29613

OR email a scanned copy (on official letterhead) to: john.banisaukas@furman.edu

Furman / USC School of Medicine-Greenville Early Acceptance Program Recommendation Form

Applicant: _____ Evaluator: _____

Please evaluate the applicant by checking the appropriate column for each characteristic listed. Rate students on how they compare to other students you have taught or other students in your department or with whom you have worked. Please attach this sheet to your letter of evaluation and mail to the Health Careers Advisor at the address below or email a scanned copy. This form will accompany your letter in the letter packet assembled by the Health Careers Advisor.

	Top 5%	Top 10%	Top 15%	Top 25%	Top 50%	Lower 50%	No basis for evaluation
Intellectual Abilities:							
Ability to learn facts							
Ability to reason clearly							
Intellectual curiosity							
Intellectual honesty							
Adaptability to new knowledge & changing conditions							
Ability to learn outside prescribed channels							
Initiative in independent study							
Character Traits:							
Motivation & industry							
Personal standards of achievement							
Thoroughness							
Performance under pressure							
Consistency of performance							
Reliability							
Emotional stability & maturity of judgement							
Breadth of interests							
Interpersonal Skills:							
Communication skills							
Cooperation with others							
Warmth in relating to people							
Respect for the rights of others							
Social awareness & concern for others							

- Overall Evaluation:
- _____ Best Student This Year
 - _____ Exceptional (Top 5%)
 - _____ Outstanding (Top 10%)
 - _____ Excellent (Top 15%)
 - _____ Very Good (Top 25%)
 - _____ Average (Top 50%)
 - _____ Below Average (Lower 50%)
 - _____ Not Recommended

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return to:
 Health Careers Advisor
 Office of Health Career Advising
 Furman University
 3300 Poinsett Highway
 Greenville, SC 29613

john.banisaukas@furman.edu