

**SIU** SCHOOL  
*of* MEDICINE

**STUDENT VIEW BOOK**  
**2021-2022**



## Welcome from the Dean and Provost

JERRY KRUSE, MD, MSPH

You are entering medicine at a most exciting time. The need for physicians has never been greater. New technologies, new philosophies of learning and new team-based, interprofessional curriculums are revolutionizing how we teach medicine.

When you visit SIU School of Medicine, you will feel the excitement — a renewed energy that comes from the constant flow of innovation that permeates our entire campus and culture.

I've been a part of SIU School of Medicine since 1984, and have witnessed the growth of the medical school and its practice plan, SIU Medicine. The people

here are wholly dedicated to ensuring that you experience the very best medical education in the world.

That's proven in our continual dedication to innovation and the recognition it brings. We modernized problem-based education, standardized patients and simulation-based training. We are one of only two schools in the world to receive the Stellar Award for excellence in medical education from the Association for Medical Education in Europe. And we are the only U.S. medical school to receive two consecutive accreditations with no citations from ACGME. They found us flawless, twice.

At SIU, you'll learn from some of the most celebrated medical educators in the country. Opportunities to gain clinical experiences, to work on research studies and to join community service projects keeps our learning interactive — and fun.

That's our Triple Aim +1: Health Care that is more Effective, Efficient, Equitable — and Enjoyable.

I am excited to meet you and help you join the ranks of physicians who are making a difference in our community for better health care education, better health care and better health.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Kruse".

## Our Mission

The mission of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine is to optimize the health of the people of central and southern Illinois through

EDUCATION

PATIENT CARE

RESEARCH

AND

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

As a medical student at SIU School of Medicine, you'll experience all these elements of health.



## Why SIU?

### A PROVEN RECORD OF INNOVATION

SIU offers a world-class medical education in a supportive, student-centered, academic environment. You'll be immersed in clinical encounters, research and community service opportunities throughout your training.

The School of Medicine is renowned for its education innovations and attention to clinical skills, professional behavior and evaluation. You will learn both the science and art of medicine, using the latest and most effective methods. You'll also practice teamwork with the multitude of faculty, staff and other learners on our campuses.

The educational curriculum begins with a foundational year in Carbondale and the remaining three years in Springfield. SIU Medicine's outpatient clinics, as well as our partnerships with local hospitals in Springfield and the surrounding communities, provide our students with a well-rounded, diverse population. Their health care needs reflect society.

## Quick Stats

Class size: 80

Student/Faculty ratio: 1:1

Spirit: camaraderie, cooperation, professional yet approachable

Minimum MCAT Score: 24/498



"As an SIU alumnus and a faculty member since 1991, I've seen the excellence in medical education grow. Here you'll find the highest caliber of faculty to help you every step of the way."

Dr. Erik Constance, '88  
Associate Dean for Student Affairs



"I have always loved SIU. The professors and staff have a vested interest in the students on both a professional and personal level."

Dr. Kelly Higgins, '01  
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs



# Undergraduate Medical Curriculum

4 YEARS FOR A STRONG FOUNDATION

## YEAR 1

Welcome to SIU! You'll begin your four-year program on the Carbondale campus, where you can enjoy a university environment. Studies focus on learning about the normal human anatomy and physiology. Beginning in the first week of school, you will meet real patients in a supervised clinic setting alongside a physician mentor. You'll join a tutor group with six fellow freshmen to work case-based activities. You'll build a strong foundation of basic clinical skills that dovetail with basic science concepts.

## YEAR 2

You'll head to Springfield for the remaining three years of study, where a plethora of medical resources await you. Here in the state capital, you will learn and apply skills in the heart of the Mid-Illinois Medical District. You'll have access to large medical facilities and hundreds of full-time, basic science and clinical faculty. Working in multidisciplinary rotations, you will get a broad perspective of case-based, small group learning units.

## YEAR 3

We've re-imagined year 3 as a year filled with a series of multidisciplinary clinical clerkship rotations, integrating basic science with patient care. You will have more clinical time to take a "deep dive" and immerse yourself into your chosen specialty. You'll work in clinics in all the medical disciplines, including experiences in both hospital-based and ambulatory settings.

## YEAR 4

Ready for residency? You'll have time to complete your requirements and choose from 200 electives designed to help students with final preparations for residency. Courses on residency readiness will refine your skills for the next step in training. Special emphases include primary care, rural care, surgical specialties, emergency medicine and research. Opportunities for a self-designed curriculum also are possible.



## Curriculum Guidelines

SIU School of Medicine has built a reputation as an innovator in medical education. The overall focus of curriculum is on clinical case-based, self-directed learning in a small group setting. The goal is to foster integration of the basic and clinical science knowledge as students solve patient, community and population problems. Clinical experiences beginning in the first month of the curriculum ensure that all content is learned in a clinical context. Students use both real and simulated patients for their training.

Emphasis on issues such as community health care and the psychosocial issues of medicine demonstrate SIU's focus on caring while curing and treating patients as people rather than medical conditions.

Students should be exposed to a variety of clinical settings throughout their entire undergraduate education and should be expected to show progressive development of skills and professional behaviors.

Learning of basic and clinical sciences shall be integrated. Active learning in small group settings should be encouraged. The curriculum shall develop the flexibility necessary for students to function in the rapidly evolving health care delivery system and in a variety of roles such as individual patient care, community health and preventive medicine.

All curricular events should be evaluated; such evaluations should be diverse in style and performance-based. The following content areas should receive emphasis in the curriculum: history and physical examination skills, medical practice management, health policies, evidence-based medicine, resource acquisition and medical informatics and opportunities to explore diverse career choices.

Where appropriate, curriculum should be managed by interdisciplinary teams that cross geographical and calendar barriers.

## Student Selection Requirements

Visit our web page at [siumed.edu/studentaffairs](http://siumed.edu/studentaffairs).

## Financial Aid

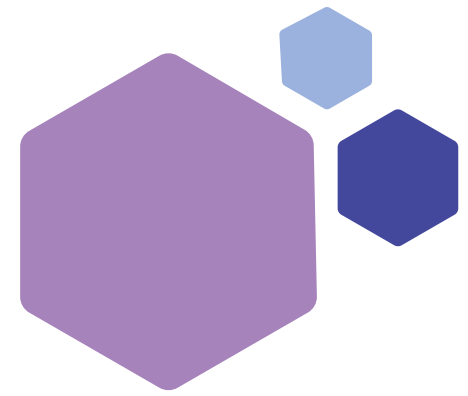
SIU School of Medicine offers a high-quality, high-value education to its students. We are in the top 25% in affordability of all US and Canadian allopathic medical schools. Consider the average costs of other Illinois medical schools:

2020 average costs of attendance\*

- \$73,737 - Illinois private medical schools
- \$55,577 - Illinois public medical schools (not including SIU SOM)
- \$48,615 - SIU School of Medicine

\*Cost of attendance figures includes tuition and fees, other budgeted items including living expenses and health insurance costs.

The School assists in financial aid packages. We participate in all major federal student aid programs. Students' financial need is determined by filing the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov). Most financial need is met by combining various loan programs. Scholarship and grant aid is generally limited to students who demonstrate exceptional need.



"I like the self-directed learning, and I enjoy a smaller campus — everybody knows everybody else. This is one of the friendliest and most encouraging schools I've seen."

Dr. Beth Hiatt, '14

## Curriculum Goals

### COMPETENT, COMPASSIONATE PHYSICIANS

The goal of our curriculum is to prepare students to be physicians who are compassionate, tolerant and respectful in caring for patients and trustworthy and truthful in all of their professional dealings understand the scientific basis of medicine and are capable of applying that knowledge in the practice of medicine are highly skilled in providing care to individual patients are self-directed, life-long learners capable of employing systematic approaches for promoting, maintaining and improving the health of individuals and populations understand the roles of other health care professionals and who collaborate with and learn from them in fulfilling their roles as clinicians and patient advocates skilled in the critical appraisal of new scientific

knowledge and its application to clinical practice recognize and accept limitations in their knowledge and clinical skills and who are committed to improving their knowledge, ability and habits and patterns of practice are responsive to the changing environment of health care recognize that spirituality and cultural beliefs are important elements of the health and well-being of patients advocate for the interests of patients over self-interest and their own personal rewards

#### Primary Care and Ambulatory Care

The School requires a clinical rotation in family and community medicine. Since 1981, more than 2,800 students have participated in the program, working alongside more than

160 central and southern Illinois physicians. In addition to primary care, other clinical rotations offer students more than one-quarter of their clinical experiences in non-hospital settings. Some of these experiences include opportunities to work in rural communities. Full-time and community faculty work side-by-side with students in their practices to provide students with valuable clinical experiences.

#### Humanistic Medicine

Good interpersonal skills and professionalism are essential to the practice of medicine. Development of these skills, which help build trusting physician-patient relationships, is continuously evaluated by the faculty. The

use of small group learning throughout the curriculum encourages team building, enhances communication skills and plays a major role in building interpersonal skills. Interpersonal skills have equal weight with knowledge and clinical reasoning skills in the assessment process.

The Department of Medical Humanities emphasizes the psychosocial, ethical and legal dimensions of the practice of medicine. Its standardized patient experiences allow students to interact with a number of different types of patient scenarios so students have many opportunities to fine-tune professional behavior.



## Clinical Skills

Clinical skills are at the heart of patient care, and we offer many resources to help you reach “professional” status.

A Doctoring Streamer pairs students with mentors.

Clinical experiences include caring for real and standardized patients (healthy people trained to represent actual patient problems).

The curriculum emphasizes interview and physical examination skills to correlate basic science knowledge with patient problems.

Other doctoring activities include peer- and self-assessment skill building, physicians’ attitudes and conduct sessions, and medical humanities issues including physician/patient relationship, ethics, death and dying, geriatrics program and practice management.

### Evaluation and Promotion

Evaluations are designed to measure competence in knowledge, skills and attitudes. Decisions regarding progress are made on the basis of whether students demonstrate the prescribed levels of competency. Oral and computer-based examinations, faculty evaluation of cognitive and non-cognitive attributes, and performance-based examinations are used to evaluate students’ knowledge, attitudes, concepts and skills.

Performance-based examinations give students the opportunity to demonstrate their clinical skills and abilities with standardized patients. These exams, in which students’ interviewing and physical examination skills are observed

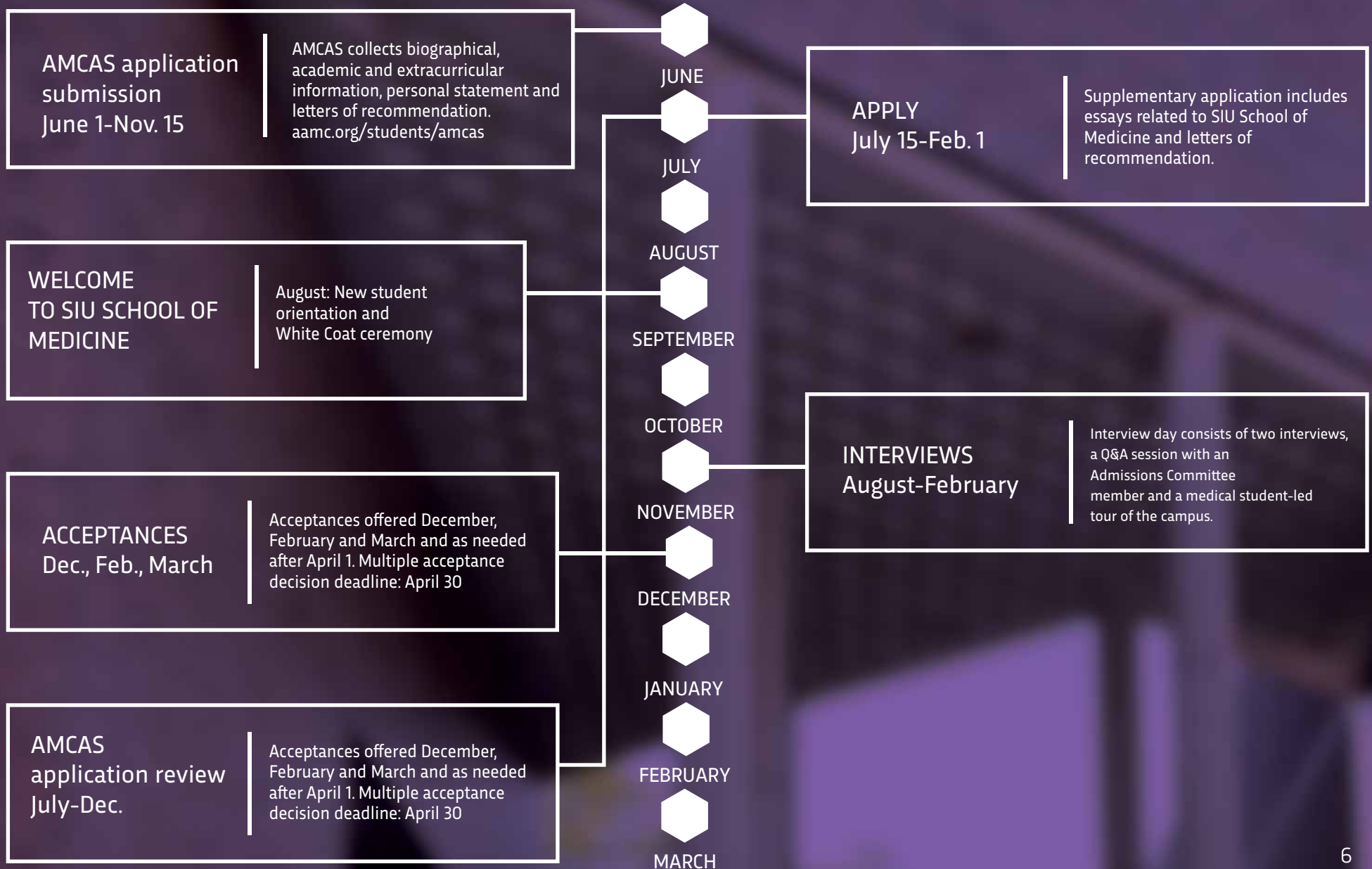
by faculty, occur with increasing frequency throughout the first three years of study. Feedback provided by faculty observers helps students recognize strengths and weaknesses and provides advice to improve performance.

After completing all clerkships, students are required to participate in the fourth year (senior) clinical competency examination, which assesses their ability to apply knowledge and clinical skills in a “real life” medical setting. Students are evaluated and receive feedback regarding inquiry strategy, diagnosis development, test selection and interpretation and patient management.

All students are required to take the US Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 before beginning clerkships and must pass Step 1 of the USMLE to

graduate. All students must sit for both USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills components to graduate. Course designations of honors, pass or fail are included on students’ official transcripts.

# ADMISSION PROCESS







## Admissions & Student Affairs

PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL TOUCH

[siumed.edu/studentaffairs/admissions](https://siumed.edu/studentaffairs/admissions)

Admission into medical school is highly competitive. Meeting or exceeding the academic requirements does not ensure admission. The SIU Admissions Committee looks beyond academic qualifications for evidence of responsibility, time management skills, maturity, integrity, social awareness, compassion, service orientation, proper motivation, identification with the goals and nature of the school, exploration of medicine as a career and good interpersonal skills.

Preference is given to established residents of downstate Illinois and other underserved locations in the state of Illinois (including rural and inner-city areas).

### General Requirements

- Must be a US citizen or possess a permanent resident visa
- Must be a legal Illinois resident for the MD program. Out-of-state applicants are considered only for the MD/JD program.
- Must meet minimum Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) and grade point average standards
- Must have completed at least 90 credit hours of undergraduate work at an accredited, U.S. or Canadian degree-granting college or university

### Academic Preparation

SIU School of Medicine does not have any premedical coursework requirements, but it is highly recommended the following coursework be completed:

- 1 year of general biology
- 2 years of chemistry, including organic chemistry
- 1 year of English composition
- 1 year of general physics
- 1 year of math, including statistics
- 1 semester of biochemistry, cell/molecular biology, physiology, genetics



## World-class Education

In 2020 SIU School of Medicine received the inaugural Stellar award for institutional excellence from the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE).

In the previous decade, the School had received five of AMEE's Aspire to Excellence awards for various facets of its educational program: for student assessment, student engagement, social accountability, medical simulation, and curriculum delivery and innovation. SIU is one of only two medical schools in the world to hold as many as five Aspire Awards.



## Diversity

SIU School of Medicine values diversity in all its forms. The School seeks to attract and enroll a diverse group of students well suited to meet the mission of the school. Guidance and support for faculty, students and staff is provided through the school's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and other resources.



Contact Dr. Wendi El-Amin  
Associate Dean for Equity,  
Diversity and Inclusion  
217-545-7334  
[wel-amin@siumed.edu](mailto:wel-amin@siumed.edu)

### Outside Activities

Successful applicants often have a high level of involvement in activities outside of the classroom. These include numerous student groups, sports, music, science or social science research, physician shadowing, community service, philanthropy and employment.

### Other Selection Factors

The admissions committee admits students who are responsible, mature, compassionate and motivated.

Applicants are selected for interview according to their strengths in academics, extracurricular activities, employment and volunteer experiences, in addition to place of residence. Preference is given to central and southern Illinois residents and to those from rural, inner-city or disadvantaged backgrounds. Selected applicants are required to interview.

Although the committee uses no quotas, active efforts are made to recruit qualified applicants from groups traditionally under-represented in the medical profession.

### Support

We provide personal, academic and career counseling for medical students. Our small class size allows us to individualize academic support services to suit students' needs. Seniors are available to tutor underclassmen in course material. Our faculty provides review sessions and subject exams to aid in preparation for the USMLE. Career advisement is available for students having difficulty choosing a specialty for residency.

We pride ourselves on offering maximum support for the success of our students. We maintain a close-knit community from student life to counseling, advising and financial aid.

### Office of Student Affairs

Students will interact frequently with Student Affairs staff from the time they apply to the school through graduation and beyond. The office handles new student admissions and current student issues like registration, financial aid, residency applications, student activities and career counseling.

### Nondiscriminatory Policy

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, disability or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan program or other School-administered programs.

In 2019, Dean Jerry Kruse, MD, MSPH, declared that SIU School of Medicine would become an anti-racist institution. Opposition to racism

is a tenet within the school's 2020 strategic plan and our anti-racism task force includes students.

### Tuition and Fees / Financial Assistance

The types and amount of tuition and fees charged to students are established by the Board of Trustees and are subject to change. Nearly all SIU School of Medicine students receive some form of financial aid. Financial need is determined by completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The financial aid office provides short-term emergency loans, debt counseling and help securing loans and scholarships.

Click [here](#) to view a sample student budget.



## Admission, Retention & Graduation Technical Standards

Students graduating from the School of Medicine must be able to meet the physical and emotional requirements of the academic program as set forth below.

A candidate should have the ability to:

- communicate effectively in order to elicit and provide information
- perceive, interpret and communicate various aspects of physical examination, including palpation, auscultation and percussion
- learn to interpret basic laboratory tests
- learn to interpret diagnostic procedures (e.g., venipuncture, lumbar puncture and arterial puncture)
- learn to interpret EKGs and X-rays.
- execute motor movements sufficient to perform a physical exam and provide emergency care to patients
- compare quantitative and qualitative differences to reason, analyze, synthesize and problem solve
- exercise good judgment
- promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients
- develop mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients
- function effectively under stress
- adapt to changing environments
- demonstrate compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation
- comprehend three-dimensional relationships
- demonstrate the emotional health required for full use of intellectual abilities

## Objectives for Graduation

- 1 THE PATIENT ENCOUNTER /CLINICAL SKILLS
- 2 KNOWLEDGE OF THE BEST POSSIBLE CARE FOR PATIENTS
- 3 COMMUNICATION & TEAM SKILLS
- 4 COMMUNITY/PUBLIC HEALTH/PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
- 5 SELF-ASSESSMENT/ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS
- 6 PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR



## The Personal Touch

### RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

#### Student Organizations

We support and encourage you to be active in student organizations, such as the American Medical Student Association, the Student National Medical Association, the Latino Midwest Medical Student Association, the American Medical Women's Association, the Medical Student Section of the American Medical Association and state and county medical societies. A chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society was established in 1985. The Medical Student Assembly serves the student body as an advocate group for student interests. Medical students also serve as voting members on a full range of University and School of Medicine committees including

Graduate and Professional Student Council, Admissions, Student Progress, Curriculum and Educational Policy.

#### Counseling

Counseling services are available for all medical students, with an emphasis on academic and personal counseling for students with special needs.

#### Office of Alumni Affairs

With assistance from the Alumni Society's Board of Governors, our Alumni Affairs Office works closely with students on various activities and services, including the HOSTS (Helping Our Students To Succeed) program

that connects alumni with fourth-year medical students while students are interviewing for residencies, the Alumni News section in the school's Aspects magazine, communication through social media and the alumni website, assistance with the annual Alumni Fund Campaign, class reunions and other social events. For further information, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs.

## Medical Student Life

Tightly knit classes = friends for life

Carbondale activities

Dozens of interest groups

Membership to YMCA

SCOPE literary magazine

Winter Ball

5K to benefit charity

## Community Service Opportunities

We encourage students to get involved in our community. Students are invited to:

- Mentor local elementary school students
- Volunteer at free health clinics
- Join the Springfield Collaborative for Active Child Health
- Serve on the SCOPE Literary Magazine committee
- Donate time to local social service agencies
- Participate in public awareness events
- Help at the annual Day of Service
- Participate in mission trips to help vulnerable populations



## MEDPREP

Need a little mentoring before medical school? The Medical/Dental Education Preparatory Program (MEDPREP) was established in 1972. It provides assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged students in preparing for and achieving success in health professions schools.

The program operates on a year-round basis, beginning in June of each year.

MEDPREP participants enroll as regular SIU Carbondale students pursuing a special pre-professional certificate. About 70 students participate in the program annually. Participation in MEDPREP does not guarantee admission to SIU School of Medicine or any other medical school, but there is an alliance program with the SIU medical school that allows acceptance under certain conditions.

Students prepare their academic plans through consultation with MEDPREP advisors and participation in courses such as an orientation seminar and learning skills.

The curriculum includes science review courses, basic skills classes and advanced enrichment courses in biology. In addition, MEDPREP's status within the School of Medicine provides enrolled students with unique experiences and courses not usually available to pre-professional students.

Applicants must submit a completed MEDPREP application and official transcripts from all colleges attended unless transcripts are on file at SIUC. Also required are two letters of recommendation or a pre-professional committee evaluation letter. Early application is strongly recommended.

## More Than MDs

### PROGRAMS FOR YOUR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

#### MD/JD Degree

Recognizing the heightened level of interaction between medicine, law and health policy, SIU's Schools of Medicine and Law offer an MD/JD dual-degree program to accommodate the increasing number of individuals seeking a carefully structured, interdisciplinary education.

The program leads to the awarding of degrees in medicine and law at the completion of a unique, six-year program of academic and clinical study.

Students seeking to enroll in the MD/JD program are required to meet admission standards established by the School of Medicine and the School of Law. Students are admitted separately to each of these schools, filling a limited number of places available in the program. Students must apply concurrently to both schools for admission.

#### MD/MPH Degree

The principles of preventive medicine, public health and health policy are gaining prominence in the area of health and health care. We are progressive in training physicians to have an understanding of the interplay of outside factors in the health of individuals. SIU's School of Medicine and College of Education and Human Services offer a concurrent degree program leading to the degrees of Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Master of Public Health (MPH).

Students seeking to enroll in the five-year program are required to meet the admission standards established by the School of Medicine and the Graduate School. Application to the program is competitive, with only three individuals admitted per year. Inquiries for further information should be directed to Admissions in the Office of Student Affairs at the School of Medicine or the SIU Graduate School.



# Unprecedented

## OUR POINTS OF PRIDE

- Only US medical school to have two consecutive accreditations from the LCME with no areas of concern
- Only medical school to receive five Aspire to Excellence awards from the Association for Medical Educators in Europe
- Three faculty members have received the renowned Hubbard Award, the highest award given in medical education: Howard Barrows, MD; Jerry A. Colliver, PhD; and Reed Williams, PhD
- First medical school to publish detailed objectives of entire MD curriculum
- First medical school to implement a clinical performance exam
- First to establish a MEDPREP program, designed to help educationally and economically disadvantaged students prepare for health professions schools
- First to designate an African American woman a chair of OB-GYN: Ponjola Coney, MD
- First plastic surgeon in central Illinois: Elvin Zook, MD
- Among the first medical schools to establish medical humanities department
- Second US medical school to implement standardized patients
- One of the few schools to have a medical history museum on campus

### Research

Give your CVs an added edge through research experiences, from (cont') basic and clinical science to education research in medical education and medical humanities.

### Mentored Professional Enrichment Experience (MPEE)

An optional eight-week elective between the first and second years of medical school. During subsequent years, students can continue research projects in Springfield.

### Trainee Research Symposium

Medical students, residents and graduate students can submit an abstract and prepare oral or poster presentations at this annual spring event on the Springfield and Carbondale campuses.

### Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

This honor medical society encourages the submission of research projects for funding by the national AOA. Each medical school can submit one project. SIU SOM medical students have an impressive history of success in the AOA award competitions.

### Fellowships

Apply for research related fellowships, including the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-National Institutes of Health Research Scholars Program.



## Alumni Achieve

SIU School of Medicine graduates have developed their talents in countless ways to enrich the lives of others at the local, national and international levels, from private practices and community clinics to sophisticated tertiary care centers.

Some are university professors or volunteer faculty for health professions schools, while others are researchers or apply clinical research findings to everyday medicine. Some serve their communities through military careers

or government service. And many more serve their communities through mission work, volunteer activity and civic engagement. We are proud of their service, their accomplishments and their commitment.



"SIU gave me a great foundational education to build on. It taught me new communications skills and cultural sensitivity."

Dr. Susan Nagele, '81



"SIU's training encourages problem solving. You're not learning a cookbook of what to do; you're learning an approach to thinking about the problem."

Dr. Regina Rabinovich, '82



"I am so grateful for what the school has done for me. The curriculum struck a unique blend of autonomy and accountability."

Dr. Traves Crabtree, '95



"SIU taught me to be an efficient and effective physician and lifelong learner, no matter what situation I encounter, and to always incorporate compassion, respect and integrity."

Dr. Antoine LeFlore, '07

# SEE YOU AT THE TOP

**Top 10%** of schools whose students agreed that basic science education was presented in a way that was relevant for clinical training (2011-13)



**Top 5%** of US medical schools that include education about the role of community health and social service agencies (2011-13)



**Top 15%** of schools offering a field experience elective in community health (2011-13)



**Top 15%** of schools who employ a top percentage of women as full time faculty (as of 2012)



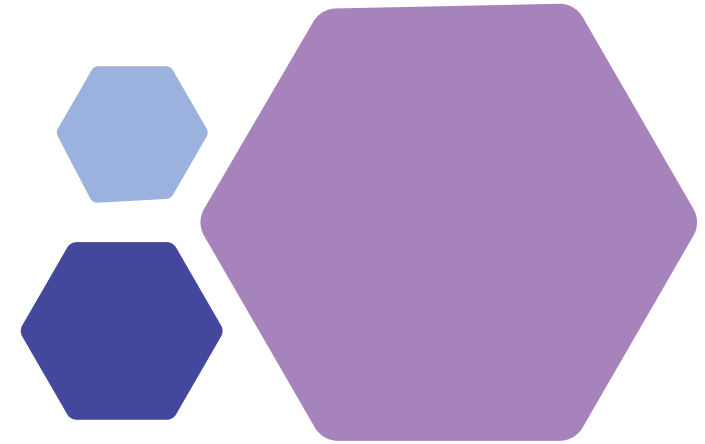
**Top 10%** of medical schools for graduates working in primary care medicine (2010-12)



**Top 25%** of schools instructing medical students in women's health







#### CARBONDALE

Office of Student Affairs  
Lindegren Hall, Room 132  
Mail Code 6503  
Southern Illinois University  
Carbondale  
600 Agriculture Drive  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
PHONE: 618-453-1531  
FAX: 618-453-3144

#### SPRINGFIELD

Student Affairs: 217-545-2860  
Admissions: 217-545-6013  
admissions@siumed.edu  
Financial Aid: 217-545-2224  
financialaid@siumed.edu  
Registrar: 217-545-0890  
registrar@siumed.edu

[Like us on Facebook](#)

[Watch us on YouTube](#)

[See our photos on Zenfolio](#)

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

[Read about us in Aspects](#)