(4) Students Applying to Medical School:

The following are some recommendations for students interested in applying to medical school. They were written in consultation with Professor Ron Markle, coordinator of the Premedicine major. If you are interested in applying to medical school, it is essential that you schedule an appointment to speak to one of the premedicine advisors early in your college career so that they can apprise you of the application process in more detail. Within your freshman or sophomore years, make an appointment to speak to a premedicine advisor by calling 865-7620 or stopping in at the advising office in 213 Whitmore. There is an excellent summation of this process on the "Premed" website: www.science.psu.edu/premed/. This should be reviewed before meeting with a premed advisor.

In addition to the courses required for the chemistry major, the following courses are considered necessary for successful application to medical school*:

BIOL 110, 230

BMB 211 or 401

and the following courses are considered desirable

BIOL 240, 472

STAT 200 or 250

MICRB 201

It is also desirable to select courses from the disciplines of psychology, sociology, statistics, religious studies, health policy administration, and foreign languages (especially Spanish). The new MCAT in 2015* will test in some of these areas!

*Note that some medical schools might have additional requirements. It is important to check out each medical school of interest in order to ensure you meet all course requirements.

Other factors important for admission to medical school are demonstrated leadership in extracurricular activities. Note that one activity as a leader is better than several activities in which you are just a member. Experience in the health care industry, either as a volunteer or for pay, is essential. Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)* scores ≥ 9 or 10 (i.e., in upper half of those taking test) are also important.

One need not major in premedicine, or even a science major, to be successful in gaining admission to medical school. However, it is critical to maintain a high GPA (≥ 3.60) in the necessary (and desirable) science courses and to learn about the admissions process. Familiarize yourself with the MCAT website, the American Medical College Application Service (MD programs) and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (DO programs) organizations, and plan on

applying early.

*New MCAT in 2015 will require psychology, sociology, and biochemistry.

(5) Students Seeking Advanced Degrees in Pharmacy:

If you are interested in seeking an advanced degree in pharmacy (a doctor of Pharmacy or Pharm.D. degree) the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) maintains a helpful web site that contains useful career information as well as answers to frequently asked questions:

http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/Pages/default.aspx

Some things to keep in mind are:

i) It is not necessary to complete a four-year degree before applying to pharmacy programs, but the majority of Pharm.D. candidates do so.

ii) In addition to the courses required for the chemistry major, Pharm.D. programs typically require courses in general biology, microbiology, and anatomy and physiology. Requirements vary among schools and you are advised to check the particular schools of interest to you. Some PSU courses of relevance are:

BIOL 110, BIOL 230, BIOL 240, BIOL 472, and MICRB 201

Introductory courses in microeconomics and statistics might also be useful.

iii) Most pharmacy programs require applicants to take the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT). The test covers both general aptitude and content knowledge in fields relevant to pharmacy and is similar to the MCAT test for medical school applicants. You should prepare to take this exam in the spring of your junior year.

iv) A summary for "Applying to Pharmacy School," plus other health professions, can be found in the College's website for premedicine, Undergraduate Preparations.

www.science.psu.edu/premed/ugprep-and-committeeinfo