Welcome to Science in the Evening University of Maryland

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College of Computer, Mathematics, & Natural Sciences
What we will do tonight

- Sign in sheet- serves as evidence of advising if you are ready to register
- Overview of program
- Courses and schedules
- Career goals
- Expectations of students
- Your questions- please ask now, someone else wants to know the answer

- Special discussion for pre-meds re MCAT_{2015}
- If you want follow up with me please make advising appointment, not conversation tonight
Introductions

- General Information
  - sie.umd.edu

- Advising & Information resources
  - CMNS Undergraduate Academic Programs Office
    - Dr. Presson, Assistant Dean, SIE Director and Academic Advisor
    - Advising apt link is on SIE website
    - CMNS UAPO office 301 405 6892
      - Elaine Shaw-Taylor Coordinator
      - Email jpresson@umd.edu

- Admissions, Registration, Billing
  - email oes@umd.edu

- Pre-Health Professions Advising Office
  - Prehealth.umd.edu
Nature of program  SIE.umd.edu

- Started 1996
- Part-time evening
- Courses only for SIE students
- UMD science courses
  - Same courses as taken by undergraduate UM Biological Science Majors
  - Carries reputation of UMCP undergrad courses and curriculum- UMD transcript
- Most students in SIE are interested in health professions, so we offer courses related to these interests
  - But, we serve students with a wide range of career goals.
- Most faculty are adjuncts. Some are UMD faculty. Have extensive teaching experience.
- Courses are “calibrated” against daytime curriculum
  - But, SIE students are “above average” and for the most part do well.
Admission to SIE, provisional

- A Bachelor’s degree from accredited university, official transcript required
- GPA 2.5
- Non-degree seeking status

International students.. difficult

- SIE will accept foreign credits as pre-requisites
- Many professional programs do not accept foreign credits as pre-reqs
- Many professional schools do not accept non-citizens / non residents at all
Admission to SIE, final 
... math

- Science courses at UMD require a high degree of math proficiency – ready to take calculus
  - Arithmetic
  - Exponents
  - logs
  - graphs
  - Algebra

- By UMD policy Math preparation is measured by the math placement test
  - MPE is taken after conditional acceptance to SIE
SIE is ideal for students who:

- Are career changers and need all of the course pre-requisites for their graduate or professional school program
- Have taken some courses but not all of them and need a flexible program to take just the courses they need
- Have completed most lower level pre-requisite courses and wish to take upper level biology courses
- Who wish to work while taking courses
  - But not too much
  - No more than 40 hrs / week
  - No travel, taking work home etc
SIE is not as useful for students who:

- Have taken many science courses and are looking to increase their GPA by repeating courses
- Students who have finished all pre-requisites plus additional coursework
- Students in these situations may look to more formal full time post-bac or professional masters programs
Advising resources

- SIE.umd.edu
  - Plans of study for pre-med, predent
  - Advice for mcat preparation

- General academic advising- Dr. Presson
  - Pre-health, pre-vet, grad school, others
  - Apts by link on SIE advising webpage

- When you are ready to apply to professional school- Health Professions Advising Office
  - HPAO- has restrictions on who it will serve. Check SIE or prehealth website, or Dr. Presson.
  - Prehealth.umd.edu
Rules, regulations

- Runs by same rules as all UMD programs
- Things like repeats, drops, adds, withdrawals all dictated by UMD rules
- Exceptions to policy petitioned by same rules that govern all UMD students
- Courses same as those taken by degree seeking students, same rules, same content
expectations of students

- Courses are UMCP CMNS undergraduate courses
- Expect to be treated like you are 19
  - Follow the rules
  - Pay attention to the expectations
  - Respect your instructors and TAs
  - Be mindful of academic integrity
- The best predictor of success is class attendance
  - Don’t miss class
  - Don’t come late
  - Don’t expect special treatment “because I work”
    - med schools will not honor and respect our courses if we make exceptions to the standard undergrad standards rules
More expectations.. grading

- Grading is determined by faculty, just like it was when you were an undergrad
  - Don’t expect a better grade than you earned because “you worked so hard”
  - or because your grade will keep you out of med school..
  - Or..
  - Don’t expect me to override faculty grading. I cannot do that in our day program and cannot do it in SIE.

- SIE courses are challenging, difficult
  - But you can be successful
Academic honesty

- DO NOT CHEAT
- All work handed in for credit must be done by the student
- Not copied from any other source
- In students own words, paraphrased, not quoted
- Referenced when appropriate
- All cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be handled by the UM Student Judicial Review Office
Money issues & rules tuition, dates, etc oes.umd.edu

- SIE courses carry in state tuition
  - Part-time per credit charge at UM MD in-state rate
  - Out of state applies for summer, daytime, winter
- No financial aid
  - Terp payment plan: http://www.umd.edu/bursar/TPP.html
- SIE Program follows all UM Undergraduate policies
  - Testudo.umd.edu
  - E.g. drop add period, Drop with a W date, repeat policy
  - Exceptions to policy request go thru the CMNS Students Services Office in 1300 Symons Hall.
- SIE has special rules for paying tuition. Consult website and keep track of emails
Is this the right time for you to start the program?

- Other commitments
  - Job
  - Family
- Financial situation
- Academic preparation
SIE courses

- Course descriptions and schedules on sie.umd.edu
- Semester schedules on SIE website, also on Testudo.umd.edu, filter by Science in the Evening
- Undergrad Biology, Chem / Biochem, Physics
  - Our courses chosen to maximize MCAT and DAT performance
    - Note on required courses listed by AAMC and med schools… often not enough to do well on mcat
- Basic courses offered every semester
  - **Bio1, general micro, Cell biology**
  - **gen chem 1 & 2, orgo 1 & 2, biochem,**
  - **phys 1 & 2**
- Other courses offered once a year
  - **Misc Biol courses**-
    - **Genetics, immunology, special topics, biostat**
- **Some course we DON’T offer**
  - **English, calculus, soc science**
- SIE schedule allows two courses a semester
- All course pre-reqs must be met
Day, summer, winter

- Same courses and more offered day and summer but not part of SIE
- Day courses – SIE students can register first day of classes
- Summer – open registration to all students
- Day and summer do NOT carry in state tuition for out of state students
How long will it take

- In a hurry? Take the long way
- For medical and dental
  - Optimal preparation to take tests and apply --3 years of course work
  - Some students will decide to take shortcuts and try to do it in 2 years - up to you
  - MCAT and DAT are critical and cannot be rushed

Typical program of study
- On SIE website for medical and dental
- Other health related programs on prehealth.umd.edu
- For other programs consult Dr. Presson

| Plan 1. Optimal preparation for MCAT with coursework starting any Fall semester |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Semester | # | Courses | Courses |
| Fall | 1 | BSCI170 & 171 Principles of Cellular and Molecular Biology | CHLM131/132 Gen Chem 1 |
| Spring | 2 | BSCI222 Genetics | CHEM231/232 Orgo 1 |
| Summer Term | 3 | PHYS121 | PHYS122 |
| Fall | 4 | BSCI223 General Microbiology | CHEM241/242 Orgo 2 |
| Spring | 5 | CHEM271/272 Gen Chem 2 | BSCI330 Cell Biology |
| Fall | 6 | BSCI Scientific Readings or other upper level BSCI | BCHM463 Biochem |
| Spring | 7 | BSCI440 Physiology | STAT464 Biostat; Prepare for MCAT; Consider the UMD MCAT Preparation Program |
| | | May take MCAT; June Apply | |
| Glide year | 8 | Consult with Dr. Presson; take courses to improve academic record. | |
Where should you start?

First semester if you have NO undergraduate science courses - for almost all career paths
  - BSCI70/171
  - CHEM131/132

If you have already taken science courses
  - Start in a place to ensure success
  - If you have C’s in past courses, should retake before moving on to the next course.
  - We do NOT recommend taking a course if you had the pre-req more than 3 years ago. Retake the pre-req.
    - We will enforce this for chemistry courses
  - If you are uncertain about where to start make an apt to talk with Dr. Presson
How successful will you be in SIE courses?

- UM sciences courses are hard, have high expectations
- Only about 15 - 20% of SIE students apply to med / dent each year thru UMD. These tend to have high GPAs & test score
- Those that don’t apply Are taking only one course or two in SIE Or did not get the grades they hoped for
- about 50 – 70% of those that apply are accepted each year
General questions about program

And non premed predent

If you want a one on one apt with Dr. Presson use link on SIE.umd.edu
Information for pre-med and pre-dent students
The application cycle, medical and dental school

- Take courses- all recommended not just those “required”
- Take MCAT or DAT in late May or early June
- Apply through central portal June
- Do secondaries over summer
- Glide year, Sept through May
  - Interviews and acceptances Sept through April
MCAT, DAT, application

- Only time to take MCAT or DAT - May - June
- Only one time to apply – June
- don’t plan to apply later in summer
- MCAT tends to be conceptual, DAT tends to be fact oriented
- Practice, practice, practice
  - Should you pay for a prep course?
  - umd MCAT prep
The glide year

- ASSUME you will have to apply again
  - Take more courses
  - Get more relevant experience
- Correct any weaknesses
Success factors for professional

- Grades, Grades, and did I say Grades?
- Test scores
- Passion for your chosen field
- Relevant experience
- Community service
- A pleasant, congenial presence
- Being special
Selling yourself

- Why the change in career? Does it make sense?
- Your motivations for your new field
  - The role of personal experience with your new field
    - Good and bad
  - Critics of the health care system- but not too strongly
- Your accomplishments in your current field- how to think about it relative to medicine
- Making up for past mistakes
  - Rule of thumb- two solid years of mostly A work in rigorous science courses
Med school and MCAT\textsubscript{2015}
the new medical school landscape

**MCAT 2015**

- Started January 2015
- **Scientific Foundations for Future Physicians**
- Broader and more integrative
- Passages test ability to read and interpret scientific studies
- More topics in biology
- **Biochemistry, statistics, and experimental design**
  Physics and chemistry passages often in life sciences context
- Social science section
- Normalized scores
the new medical school landscape

Admissions requirements for matriculation Fall 2017 and beyond

- Emerging slowly
- May be move away from specific course requirements
- But at the same time more courses are needed to do well on mcat
- Many schools want biochem
Fall 2018 MCAT prep information session

- Watch SIE website