Welcome to Science in the Evening
University of Maryland

Director: Dr. Joelle Presson, Ph.D, Assistant Dean.
College of Computer, Mathematics, & Natural Sciences
What we will do tonight

- Sign in sheet- serves as advising if you are ready to register
- Introductions
- Overview of program
- Courses and schedules
- Career goals
- Expectations of students
- Your questions- please ask, someone else wants to know the answer
- Special discussion for pre-meds re MCAT2015
- If you want follow up with me please make advising appointment, not conversation tonight
Introductions

Who are you?

SIE Director and academic advisor
- Dr. Presson, Assistant Dean CMNS
- Advising apt link is on SIE website sie.umd.edu
- Email jpresson@umd.edu

General Information
- sie.umd.edu
- CMNS Undergraduate Academic Programs Office
  - Elaine Shaw-Taylor Coordinator
    - 301-405-6892
    - 1322 Symons Hall

Admissions, Registration, Billing
- Email sie-oes@umd.edu

Health Professions Advising Office
- Prehealth.umd.edu
- Support for SIE medical and dental school applications with 24 UMD science credits semester of application
Nature of program

- Started 1996
- Part-time evening, you take what you need and have pre-reqs for
  - Courses and program follow UMD curricula, rules, schedules
  - Students are UMD part-time, non-degree seeking
- SIE courses are UMD science courses
  - Same courses as taken by undergraduate UMD prehealth students
  - SIE is NOT accelerated- the full curriculum for medical or dental school takes five academic semesters plus one summer
  - Sections reserved for SIE students- small
  - 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.
- Course staffing
  - Faculty are UMD instructors & adjuncts.
  - TA’s are usually undergraduate degree seeking science majors
- Cost
  - in-state per credit tuition rate plus pro-rated fees
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
- trig

By UMD policy Math preparation is measured by the math placement exam

- MPE is taken after conditional acceptance to SIE
SIE courses

- All courses in the evening—four nights a week—
  - you can take two courses a semester
- undergrad Biology, Chem / Biochem, Physics courses
  - Recommended courses maximize MCAT and DAT performance and competitiveness for admission
- 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
  - **Bio2, Genetics, Physiology, immunology, special topics**
  - **Some course we DON’T offer**
    - English, math, soc science
- All course pre-reqs must be met before registration
Typical schedule

- Part time, cannot do SIE full time
  - Even if you could do full time it would not shorten time to complete the full course sequence given the pre-requisites

- Two courses a semester
  - CHEM course MW
  - BSCI course TuTh
  - PHYS often taken in summer

- For medical and dental
  - Optimal preparation to take tests and apply --3 years of course work
  - 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

<table>
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<th>Plan 1. Optimal preparation for MCAT with coursework starting any Fall semester</th>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Glide year</td>
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</table>
What classes should you start with?

- 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
Day, summer, winter available to SIE studies… with restrictions

- SIE students must register for at least one SIE course in each semester at UMD to remain in program
  - You can take semesters fully off, but if you are registered at UMD you must have at least 1 SIE course to remain in the program

- Day courses
  - SIE students can register first day of classes

- Summer
  - open registration to all students, but few courses in the evening
  - PHYS1, 2 offered in summer in evening are are manageable
  - Few biology courses in summer, and all meet during the day
  - I do NOT recommend chemistry in summer

- Winter
  - usually misc upper level biology & online genetics

- Day, summer, winter do NOT carry in state tuition for out of state students
Is SIE right for you?
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
- work while taking courses
  - 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. These students can enroll in SIE but…..
  - A GPA based on 120 or so undergrad credits is hard to raise
  - SIE students typically do better in SIE than they did as undergrads, but often not good enough
  - Professional schools sometimes not impressed by repeated courses
How successful will you be in SIE courses?

- It depends on you
- SIE 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 60 – 70% of those that apply are accepted each year
Is this the right time for you to start the program?

- Other commitments
  - Job
  - family
- Financial situation
- Academic preparation
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
General questions about program

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?
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_{2015}
SIE considerations in acceptance to med school

- Undergrad GPA
- Foreign undergrad
- Need SIE GPA 3.5 or higher
- The more SIE credits the better, especially if low undergrad GPA
- Need MCAT score 505 or higher, the higher the better
the new medical school landscape

**MCAT 2015**

- First offered January 2015
  - Based on HHMI Scientific Foundations for Future Physicians & input from medical school faculty
- 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
  - Includes neurobiology, biological basis of behavior
- Normalized scores
SIE MCAT information session

- This Saturday
- 2pm -5pm
- 0200 Symons Hall
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 & genetics
    - Use MSAR
      - https://apps.aamc.org/msar-ui/#/landing
### The New Medical School Landscape

- **AAMC** best place for everything about medical school admission
  - [Aamc.org](https://www.aamc.org)
  - [https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam](https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam)
  - [https://www.aamc.org/data/facts/](https://www.aamc.org/data/facts/)

### MCAT Scores and Acceptance Rates

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UMD SIE data on MCAT vs admissions

New MCAT—about 75 SIE students have taken—out of about 300 premeds in that time

Students took between 7 and 50 SIE credits
About 60% of those were accepted
Score on MCAT depends on mastery in courses—which is reflected in grades

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<th>MCAT score</th>
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SIE GPA vs new MCAT