Welcome to Science in the Evening
University of Maryland
College of Computer, Mathematics, & Natural Sciences
Director: Dr. Joelle Presson, Ph.D, Assistant Dean.
What we will do tonight

- Sign in sheet
- Overview of program
- Expectations of students
- Courses and schedules
- Career goals
  - Dental, medical school, other health professions, graduate school
- New medical school admissions landscape
- how to get to medical, dental, professional or graduate school
- Your questions- please ask now, someone else wants to know the answer
Introductions

- General information
  - sie.umd.edu

- Advising & information resources
  - CMNS Undergraduate Academic Programs Office
    - Dr. Presson academic advisor for SIE
    - Linda Dalo, 301 405 6892
    - Email ldalo@umd.edu, jpresson@umd.edu

- Admissions, office of the registrar and billing-- OES
  - Janet LoBiondo
  - email oes@umd.edu

- Pre-Health Professions Advising Office
  - Prehealth.umd.edu
  - Meredith Laurie SIE Pre-health office contact
What to do if your questions are not answered tonight

- **Call Linda Dalo**
  - ldalo@umd.edu
  - 301 642 8026
  - Ask questions
  - Make an apt to speak with Dr. Presson

- **Email OES**
  - oes@umd.edu
Nature of program  SIE.umd.edu

- Started 1996
- Part-time evening
- UMD science courses
  - Same courses as taken by undergraduate UM Biological Science Majors
  - Not a formal postbac program
  - Carries reputation of UMCP undergrad courses and curriculum

- 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. Have extensive teaching experience.
- Are the courses hard? Yes. They are “calibrated” against daytime curriculum
  - But, SIE students are “above average” and for the most part do well.
Admission to SIE

- A Bachelor’s degree from accredited university
- 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
SIE courses

- Variety of undergrad Biology, Chem / Biochem, Physics
- Many basic courses offered every semester
  - Bio1, gen chem 1 & 2, orgo 1 & 2, biochem, phys 1 & 2, Cell Bio
- Other courses offered once a year
  - Misc Biol courses
  - Calculus
  - Biostat
- Semester schedules on SIE website
- SIE schedule allows two courses a semester
- All course pre-reqs must be met
How long will it take

- For medical and dental
  - Optimal preparation to take tests and apply --3 years
  - Some students will decide to take shortcuts and try to do it in 2 years- up to you

- Typical program of study
Where should you start?

- First semester if you have NO undergraduate science courses- for *almost* all career paths
  - BSCI105
  - CHEM131/132

- If you have already taken science courses
  - Start in a place to ensure success
  - If you have C’s in past courses, probably should retake before moving on to the next course.
  - We do NOT recommend taking a course if you had the pre-req more than 5 years ago. Retake the pre-req.
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
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
Is SIE right for you?

SIE can:

- prepare students for health related graduate or professional school, including:
  - Medicine, dentistry, physicians assistant, physical therapy, optometry, and other health related professional schools;
  - Graduate school in cell biology, microbiology, or physiology, and related disciplines

- be a starting point for students interested in other graduate programs,
  - but will not likely provide all of the courses needed for non-health related careers. Dr. Presson has the expertise to advise students on how to prepare for these fields. Such programs include:
    - Graduate school in ecology, evolution, environmental science, conservation biology, wildlife management, neuroscience, genetics.
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 to enhance their transcript.
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 and additional coursework, applied to medical school, and did not get in.
- Students in these situations may look to more formal post-bac or professional masters programs
Alternatives to SIE

- Medical and dental school – formal postbac programs
  - Come in many different versions
  - Full time programs
  - Special master’s programs
  - Aamc.org

- Other health related careers, options more limited

- Traditional graduate school as an alternative to postbac
  - Limited opportunities
How successful will you be in SIE courses?

- SIE courses are UM undergraduate science courses
- UM sciences courses are hard, have high expectations
- SIE students tend to be more motivated than average undergraduate and so generally do well in courses
- On average, SIE students tend to have a post-bac GPA fairly close to their undergraduate GPA
Is this the right time for you to start the program?

- Other commitments
  - Job
  - family
- Financial situation
- Academic preparation
MATH and SIE

Science courses at UMD require a high degree of math proficiency – ready to take calculus

- Arithmetic
- Exponents
- logs
- graphs
- Algebra
- Some trig

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

- MPE is taken after conditional acceptance to SIE
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
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
Academic honesty

- 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
Advising resources

- General academic advising - Dr. Presson
  - Including general information about professional or graduate school
  - Course scheduling
  - Apts by 301.405.6892

- 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
Using the HPAO

- Prehealth.umd.edu
- Attend workshops and events as much as required
- 24 credit rule
- Sign up for prehealth list serve
- Register with HPAO office winter of year you will apply to professional school
- Have all letters of recommendation sent there
- Meet with HPAO advisor fall of year you will apply
- Committee letter
Getting & using information

- Stay in tune, in touch, pay attention
- SIE Website !!! !!! !!!  www.sie.umd.edu
- Blackboard
- Email
- Plan ahead
  - This is a University of Maryland Program. We follow dates, deadlines, rules, of the University
  - Pay attention to UM closings– and not- umd.edu
  - Don’t expect the impossible
- Problem?.. Ask.. 301.405.6892
  - If you don’t get an answer, ask again.
Postbac pitfalls..

- Being in a hurry
  - Do not apply until you are ready

- Being naïve
  - Don’t believe the “stated” requirements and deadlines
  - Don’t think your ‘special circumstances’ will be considered
    - But, past errors may be forgiven if you have changed

- Being uninformed.
  - Do your homework, find out what it takes to get where you want to go
    - Use the professional websites- AAMC, ADEA
    - Pay attention to the advice of the HPAO & Dr. Presson
    - Contact schools you are interested in applying to
Success factors

- Grades, Grades, and did I say Grades?
- Test scores
- 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
The application cycle, medical and dental school

- Take courses
- 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
The glide year

- ASSUME you will have to apply again
  - Take more courses
  - Get more relevant experience
- Correct any weaknesses
MCAT, DAT, application

- Only time to take MCAT or DAT - May - June
- Only one time to apply – June
- don’t plan to apply later
- MCAT tends to be conceptual, DAT tends to be fact oriented
- Practice, practice, practice
  - Should you pay for a prep course?
  -
the new medical school landscape

New MCAT

- Starting January 2015
- Scientific Foundations for Future Physicians
- Broader and more integrative
- Life science sections will include more topics in biology
- Biochemistry, statistics, and experimental design will be tested more explicitly
- Social science section
- No writing section
the new medical school landscape

- New admissions requirements for matriculation Fall 2016
  - Still being worked out, so far only Harvard has formally announced
  - Probably will be more flexible in terms of courses, but more demanding in terms of content
Course advice to UM pre-med students
For MCAT & Admission combined

- Biology
  - BSCI105, 222, 223, 330, 440

- Chemistry
  - CHEM131/132, 231/232, 241/242, 271/272

- Biochemistry
  - BCHM463

- Math
  - MATH220, STAT464

- Social science - NOT OFFERED IN SIE
  - PSYC100, SOCY100
Don’t be in a hurry

- If you are in a hurry, take the long way.
- Our recommendations are to get you optimally prepared before you take the MCAT and apply.
- Don’t try to take shortcuts to apply sooner.
Money issues & rules tuition, dates, etc

- 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