TO PROSPECTIVE PREMEDICAL STUDENTS:

William & Mary is proud of the educational experience we offer to premedical students. We presently have as many as 800 undergraduate students interested in health careers. In the current freshman class alone, over 300 students have expressed some interest in medicine. Over the last ten years, we have maintained an overall success rate of 50-65% acceptance into the allopathic medical schools, depending on the year, compared to a national acceptance rate of approximately 40-45%. Students having a B+ average or better have had a success rate of 65-85% acceptance into the allopathic medical schools. Our strongest students are routinely accepted by the finest medical schools in the United States. Comments from admissions officers at the Virginia medical schools indicate that William & Mary students are consistently among the very best in their class.

William & Mary offers an environment of relatively small classes, strong academic standards and warm faculty-student relationships. To prepare for the MCAT and medical school admission, students must complete a core curriculum that includes courses in biology, chemistry, and physics, as well as sociology and psychology. Some medical schools also have mathematics and English requirements. The premedical curriculum is described in the course selection handout on my website. While premeds may pursue any major they wish, popular majors include Biology, Chemistry, Kinesiology and Health Sciences, and Neuroscience. The Association of American Medical Colleges encourages undergraduate students to build a broad foundation of course work in the humanities and social sciences. William & Mary’s strong liberal arts curriculum provides an ideal environment in which to build this foundation.

Before applying to medical school, students must gain experience in clinical settings. William & Mary students volunteer at two local hospitals, as well as at Eastern State Hospital (a mental health/substance abuse facility) and three local free clinics. Two local volunteer rescue squads welcome experienced student EMTs, and some students work part-time at local hospitals as emergency department scribes. Our Health Careers Club offers opportunities for students to learn from their more experienced peers through regular meetings and a peer mentorship program, and the Cohen Career Center links students to internship and shadowing opportunities. Additionally, several of the Virginia medical schools sponsor annual Open House events; these, as well as many other resources and opportunities for premedical students, are announced via my health professions advising listserv.

William & Mary participates in two early assurance programs, one with Eastern Virginia Medical School and the other with the VCU School of Medicine. Our students apply to these programs in the spring of the sophomore year. Students accepted by these programs are assured of a space in medical school upon graduation from William & Mary if all program requirements have been met.

I would be delighted to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me by email at any time.

Sincerely,

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