Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2014

Joey Freeman

To Expand Medicaid or Not

Medicaid was planning to expand, which was crucial for hospitals. For instance, Grady hospital has a huge number of people who visit who cannot afford to pay. But now, under the expansion of Medicaid, there is a method for these people to receive money to improve their financial health. However, the state court ruled that people did not have to expand it. Georgia has decided to not expand the Medicaid program.

Philanthropy

Thanks for donating all the items to St. Mary’s Hospice House. They really appreciate it. Brad plans on posting a link for a volunteer even if anyone is interested. It will be on the Facebook page soon.

Next meeting is October 29th and November’s meeting will be on Thursday. The estimated cost of the new PA shirt will be roughly $10-$15. Joey’s session tonight was about choosing a PA career path, and seeing if PA is right for you. He plans to have another topic before next month’s meeting. Membership dues are $15 as well.

Point system

Members receive points by attending meetings, bringing philanthropy items, attending Joey’s information session, attending field trips, and retweeting, sharing and reposting PA events/information. If you receive 20 points or more, you will receive a “Dedication to membership” award. The top 3 members will be given gift cards!

Mercer Admissions Group

Laura Ellison (Director) and Professor Amy Steel are here to speak about the program!

Philip Tobin is from the military and this is the second PA program he has been working with. Asif Saberi is a critical care specialist and is on campus half time. Ami Steel is the clinical coordinator and the chair of the admissions committee. Ami has been with Mercer since 2008. Martha Sikes is the pharmacy course director, bringing in very unique skills of pharmacology for the students. Heather Schmidt is the emergency medicine PA.

Why the Mercer program?

Mercer’s program is an accredited program, without an accredited program you cannot practice. They share a PANCE formula that predicts students’ performance. It calculates the prediction with the GRE, GPA, and other courses. They have access to very important people from people all over Atlanta and the state. Most candidates say that what sets them apart is “family environment”. Students and faculty are a large part of each other’s lives. Student
activities are very big. Students have opportunities to hold leadership opportunities at the school and nationally. PA students share gross anatomy cadavers with the PT program as well. They have helped to establish an advanced cardiology residency. A residency program takes students that are interested in higher levels of medicine and shoves all that experience into one year. Mercer is able to bring in teachers that are known in the national medical field. They are very involved in underserved areas (i.e. immunization clinics, Good Samaritan Gwinnett clinic, farmworkers clinic, Hispanic health fairs, and head-start immunization program.

Curriculum Overview

- 28 month Curriculum
- 13 month didactic phase
- 15 month clinical phase
  - 9 Core Rotations (5 weeks each)
  - 2 Elective Rotations (5 weeks each)
- Masters of Medical Science (MMSc)

Clinical Phase

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency Medicine</th>
<th>Family Practice</th>
<th>Internal Medicine - OP</th>
<th>Internal Medicine - IP</th>
<th>Pediatric Medicine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>Women’s Health</td>
<td>Orthopedic Medicine</td>
<td>Behavioral Medicine</td>
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International medical Missions

- Les Cayes, Haiti 2012
- Waslala, Nicaragua 2013
- Nicaragua 2014
- Huaquillas, Ecuador 2014
- TBA 2015

PANCE Exam Pass Rate: First time takers 93% Overall

Mercer Graduates Selected for Residencies
On average they receive roughly 500 applicants and enroll 50 students. Applications are available online at CASPA.

**Q&A**

Estimated Total Cost: $872,028

Q: How many outstanding perquisites can you have?

If applying during the Fall, you are allowed to have 4 outstanding prerequisites. By the summer time, it drops down to 3 outstanding prerequisites.

Q: What if I don’t have all my patient care hours at the time that I submit my application, but I will by the time that I start school?

You can continue updating your hours. Also, make sure that you have a plan as to how you will be attaining them.

Q: What if I retake the GRE?

We take the highest combination of scores.

Q: When is the cycle?

The cycle to start in 2016 opens in October and closes in March.

Q: Do hours have to be paid?

No, some volunteer hours will count AS LONG AS THEY ARE PAIENT CARE. Shadowing does not count. Shadowing is necessary in order for you to know if you made the right decision in choosing PA as your career.

Q: What is the average age of your PA students?

The average age is 24.

Q: What in the prerequisites have changed?
Mercer’s program no longer requires abnormal or development psychology. They also accept AP/IB credit for intro to psychology.