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At the risk of sounding immodest, our pre-med program is excellent. Over 90% of students who complete our program successfully and apply to a medical or other professional school get accepted. In many years, this reaches 100%. Although we did not have a 100% acceptance rate last year, we did for the two years prior to that. Many of our students receive multiple acceptances. We have had students with acceptances at up to 5 different professional schools, including several out of state schools which are hard to get into for Ohio residents (since we have so many medical schools in Ohio, the other states' schools do not see a need to accept Ohio students). We have also had students receive full four year scholarships to Ohio State Medical School and Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (note: receiving a scholarship such as this is not common and should not be expected by incoming students, but I believe it is quite an accomplishment that some Shawnee State students have received these awards).

Just as important as acceptance rates, are the accomplishments of students after they get admitted to a medical or professional school. Overall, our students report that they are well-prepared for their medical or professional school programs. In many cases, Shawnee State students report being more prepared than students from other places. Former students have often e-mailed me while in medical school to talk about how they are acting as tutors for other medical school students in immunology and cadaver anatomy. We have also had Shawnee students win awards for their performance at medical school. These included second in the graduating class, best first year physiology student, medical student research award, and many others.

One of the things which sets Shawnee State apart from many other schools is our pre-med curriculum. Our B.S. in Biology degree is divided into three tracks. The pre-med students should follow the Biomedical Sciences Track. This track is designed to meet all the minimum requirements for admission to medical and professional schools, plus provide the students with coursework that will help them succeed when they get there. So, in addition to requiring the standard general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics which everyone has to take to get into medical school, we also require a set of courses collectively labeled biomedical science electives. These courses include cadaver anatomy, neuroanatomy, diagnostic microbiology, histology, and immunology among other things. All of the courses on this list are medically related and will be helpful to students when they get to medical school. Some of these courses are even unique to Shawnee State. For example, our Advanced Human Anatomy course (cadaver anatomy) actually has undergraduate students doing all the dissections. Most schools have graduate students do the dissecting and just show these prosected cadavers to the undergraduates. We are the only public university in the state to have undergraduates doing cadaver dissection. In our diagnostic micro course, we give students simulated patient samples and medical histories and they have to diagnose and treat the patients in a real time situation before the patients get worse or die. All of our medical science related courses incorporate numerous case studies to relate the concepts to clinical practice. Even though they are some of the hardest classes students will ever take at the university, our pre-med students greatly enjoy

these courses and most of them take all of the biomedical science electives instead of just choosing 6 as is required for the degree.

I contribute the success of our pre-med program mostly to the dedication of our students to succeed. Students coming into Shawnee wanting to be a doctor, dentist, veterinarian, or other health professional know that it will not be an easy program and that they must work hard to achieve their dreams. We push them to do the best they can and provide them with numerous resources to help them make it through the program and do well in medical school. All of our pre-med students have a personal faculty advisor (usually Dr. Oliver or myself) who will help them throughout their four years. We also have a very active pre-med club which provides students with an opportunity to meet others interested in the same areas. The pre-med club has social activities, invites speakers on different areas of medicine, invites speakers from the admissions offices of the various medical schools, takes trips to visit the medical and professional schools, has MCAT study guides for students to check out, organizes practice MCATs, helps students find shadowing opportunities, and many other things. Faculty also help each pre-med student with preparation of their application, particularly the personal statement, and do practice interviews before they go to their actual med school admissions interviews. We also offer research opportunities for students in anatomy, microbiology, immunology, and chemistry. Many of our students find that research experience enhances their applications. At some bigger schools, undergraduate research consists mostly of washing test tubes while the grad students do all the real work. That is not the case here. Our undergraduates participate fully in all aspects of research.

Overall, I think we have a great pre-med program and students coming out of Shawnee State do very well in medical and other professional schools. We have a set of pre-med recruiting materials which we hand out during pre-med day each year. I will send some of them over to you.

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### Mini-Biography

Dr. Burns is a microbiologist interested primarily in host-pathogen interactions of bacteria. In addition to teaching microbiology, immunology, and biochemistry classes, Dr. Burns actively involves undergraduate students in his research. His research is focused on attachment of the respiratory pathogen *Bordetella bronchiseptica* to animal cells.