

*Information for Medical, Dental, or Similar Health Professions
Schools Arranging Visits to Xavier Through the University's
Premedical Office* (updated 8/23/2005)

General information about Xavier and its Premed Program:

Xavier University of Louisiana is America's only historically-black Roman Catholic institution of higher education. The University is composed of a College of Arts and Sciences, a College of Pharmacy (offering Pharm.D. degrees only), and a Graduate School (Master's Degrees in Education only). Although Xavier is a small liberal arts institution in philosophy, the University has one of the nation's largest enrollment of African Americans in science-related fields as indicated by the enclosed profile of the University.

Xavier's premedical program has experienced tremendous growth in recent years. In the early-1970's the University was placing approximately 5 students into medical or dental school each year. Xavier is now placing approximately 80 students/year into allopathic medical school, approximately 60/year into pharmacy, and another 50/year into osteopathic, dental, podiatry, optometry, veterinary, public health, or biology/chemistry graduate school. *For perspective, Xavier has been #1 nationally in placing African Americans into medical school every year since 1993. XU has been #1 nationally in placing African Americans into pharmacy for even longer.*

A recent study indicates that African Americans in Xavier's premedical program are more than twice as likely to persevere and gain entry into medical, dental, etc. school than are African Americans with similar academic preparation nationally upon entering college.

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Specific Information for Individuals

Wishing to Arrange Campus Visits Through Xavier's Premedical Office

General: Xavier's Premedical Office does not sponsor a single "health professions day". Instead, recruiters from health professions schools are invited to arrange recruitment visits on an individual basis at their own convenience during either spring or fall semesters. Approximately 40 to 50 health professions schools from across the nation arrange visits through the Premedical Office each year.

Suggested Dates for a Recruitment Visit:

Fall: Any M-F between Labor Day and the Friday before Thanksgiving *except* November 1—All Saints' Day, when New Orleans traditionally honors its dead in the French/Spanish-derived tradition.

Spring: Any M-F from the last week of January through the third week of April *except* the Mardi Gras/Easter holidays (the Friday-Wednesday ending on Ash Wednesday and the Wednesday-Monday of Easter)

Summer: None. Although XU has a rather large summer school, most students only come to campus for classes and immediately leave for jobs when classes dismiss.

Suggested Time of Day for a Recruitment Visit: The majority of Xavier students live off campus and many of them have part-time jobs to help pay for their education. As a result, there is no single time of day when all or even a majority of XU's premedical students are free to attend meetings. Therefore, recruitment visits are generally more effective if they extend for two or more hours so that students who are in class at one time can attend at another. Past experience has shown that a two-hour period between 9 am and noon or 1 and 4 pm will attract the most students.

How to Make Arrangements for a Visit: Contact Xavier's Premedical Office at (504)520-7437. The individual who answers the telephone will check to see if the day and time you wish to come is available. If so, he/she will take your name and address. You will then be sent a letter confirming the time and date chosen. Finally, personnel in the Premedical Office will set up a recruitment table in a heavily-travelled atrium in the Science Building and publicize your visit. Recruiters should report to the Premedical Office (Science 108) in the Science Building when arriving on campus. Please note that the Premedical Office only arranges recruitment visits by individuals who are
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recruiting for the health professions for which XU's Premedical Office provides support—Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Optometry, Podiatry, and Public Health. *Individuals wishing to recruit for other schools should contact the University's GradStar Office or individual departments.*

Housing While in New Orleans: Xavier is located in the approximately geographic center of New Orleans about a ten minute drive from the Central Business District-SuperDome-French Quarter area where **every** national chain has at least one major hotel (There are 25,000+ hotel rooms in that area of the city).

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Additional information about Xavier's Premedical Program is on the Premed website at www.xula.edu/premed/ (Xavier's website is www.xula.edu.)

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A Brief Overview of Graduate and Professional Advising at XU

Xavier's system for advising students interested in attending graduate or professional schools distributes responsibilities among five offices in order to ensure that such advice is readily available when needed by students. Because Xavier is a small institution with a strong tradition of doing whatever is best for its students, these offices readily share information and work together cooperatively as need arises.

The following is a brief description of the five offices which are available to XU students who are interested in entering graduate or professional school.

GradStar: The GradStar Office is the most general of the five. It provides assistance to students interested in any graduate program. Departmental liaisons help the director of GradStar plan and implement its various activities. Personnel in the GradStar Office do not provide academic advising (see below) to students at XU.

Pre-Engineering: Pre-Engineering is officially a part of the Physics/Engineering Department. As the name suggests, it serves primarily to help 150+ students at Xavier who wish to become engineers. Because Pre-Engineering is within an academic department, it provides academic advising for students.

Pre-Law: The Pre-Law Office is officially housed within the Department of Social Sciences but serves students from any major who are interested in attending law school. The Pre-Law and GradStar Offices also work jointly in conducting reviews for the LSAT, recruiting students to the University, etc.

Pre-Medicine (including dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, podiatry, chiropractic, and Public health/health care administration): XU's Premedical Office offers assistance to any student in any major who is interested in one of the above health professions. However, because most students interested in the health professions at Xavier are in Biology or Chemistry, the Premed Office is essentially a joint project of those two departments. However, it is purposely officially separate from both in order to guarantee that the needs of premedical students do not become subservient to the desires of the two departments. Personnel in the Premedical Office do not provide academic advising for students in their role as personnel in that office. However, biology or chemistry faculty who work part-time in the Premedical Office may provide academic advice to some students within their respective departments. The Premedical and GradStar Offices regularly exchange information, recruit jointly (with Pre-Engineering) for XU's summer programs, and work together to coordinate activities which impinge on both.

Pre-Pharmacy: The Pre-Pharmacy Office is officially a part of the Office of Student Affairs within XU's College of Pharmacy. It provides both academic advising and guidance regarding the application process for students interested in entering XU's College of Pharmacy.

A note about academic advising at Xavier: All undergraduate students enrolled at Xavier are assigned a faculty member as an academic adviser at the time they matriculate at the University. In most cases, a student's academic adviser is in the academic department in which he/she is majoring. More than 90% of the freshmen entering XU each year declare a major at the time they apply for admission.