



XAVIER
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

Premedical Office

Xavier–University of Pennsylvania PASS Program

(updated 7/24/25)

The [Penn Access Summer Scholars \(PASS\) Program](#) is a pre-medical enrichment program that supports the recruitment of students to Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania with demonstrated academic success and a broad range of perspectives and experiences, who show promise of having an impactful career in medicine. Selected students must participate in a consecutive, two-summer research experience with the opportunity for linkage admission into Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. PASS participants who satisfy the Penn PASS linkage admission requirements will be eligible to seek linkage admission to Perelman School of Medicine **without taking the MCAT**. This program requires nomination by the Premedical Office for consideration by the Penn PASS admissions committee.

The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected class.

What are the qualifications to apply to the program? By the time nomination applications are due on January 15th (i.e. in the spring semester of sophomore year at Xavier), applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Entered Xavier as a first-time freshman and major in an academic discipline within the [College of Arts and Sciences](#).
- Be on track to graduate with a bachelor's degree from XU in the spring of senior year and to enter medical school that same year (must complete all 8 semesters at XU; early degree completion **not** allowed).
- Matriculated into Xavier with at least a 29 on the ACT or at least a 1300 on the SAT. *If you are interested in and eligible for this opportunity but did NOT take the ACT or SAT, please contact the Premed Office to discuss a potential alternate option for review.*
- Earned cumulative overall and BCPM GPAs at Xavier of 3.7 or higher. (GPA requirement updated 5/22/25)
- Successfully completed three (3) semesters of a roster of rigorous science courses (biology, chemistry, physics, and math) courses at Xavier.
- Completed the following courses: Two semesters of General Chemistry lecture and lab; at least one semester of Organic Chemistry lecture and lab; at least one semester of General Biology lecture and lab; at least one semester of college-level mathematics; and at least one semester of English.
- Demonstrated leadership, strong qualities of character, and a clear and consistent motivation to study and ultimately pursue a career in medicine (supported by two letters of recommendation, with at least one from a faculty person).
- Demonstrated a significant distance traveled, obstacles overcome, evidence of resilience, and grit which collectively demonstrate the ability to complete and succeed in medical school.
- Demonstrated a genuine interest in becoming a physician by gaining relevant experience in a patient-care setting (e.g. volunteering, paid employment, internship, shadowing, etc.) and/or participating in a premed summer enrichment or research program.
- Demonstrated a genuine interest in medicine as indicated by participation in the group and individual meetings conducted by the Premedical Office for freshman and sophomore students, including submission of personal statement and post-secondary experiences form to the Premed Office for review throughout enrollment.
- Demonstrated a genuine interest in attending Perelman School of Medicine at University of Pennsylvania as indicated by meeting the above-mentioned requirements and participating in any information or recruitment sessions offered to Xavier students by the School of Medicine.

- *NOTE: If you have questions or concerns about any of the above-mentioned requirements that must be met at the start of the spring semester of sophomore year, please contact the Premedical Office no later than the summer between freshman and sophomore years.*

How does an XU student apply for program nomination? Students interested in the program and who meet the qualifications listed above must do the following **EARLY IN THE FALL OF SOPHOMORE YEAR**:

- Submit Personal Statement, Post-Secondary Experience (PSE) Form, and Penn PASS Application Essay Prompt Responses to the Premed Office for review **at least once** between May 15th after freshman year and December 1st of sophomore year (submission of subsequent revisions is highly recommended). Detailed application instructions are discussed during Freshman Premed Biomedical Honor Corps Meetings, the One-on-One Freshman Premed Assessment Meeting in the spring of freshman year, the Sophomore Premed Overview Meeting in the fall of sophomore year, and in multiple email messages sent during the freshman and sophomore years.
- The PASS application instructions, PSE Form, and Auto-Calculation GPA Worksheet in Excel are available in the Premedical Office's XULA Portal at <https://my.xula.edu/groups/34/feed> under "Resources/Forms".
- Collect at least two (2) letters of evaluation for medical school (one letter must be written by a Xavier faculty member who taught you a BCPM or non-BCPM course) and request to have the letters submitted to the Premedical Office **EARLY** (by January 1st); be sure to follow-up with the individuals who agreed to write medical school evaluations on your behalf.
- The PASS nomination application is **due in the Premedical Office by January 15th**. The application consists of three (3) parts: online application, critiqued/revised PSE Form, and Auto-Calculation GPA Worksheet in Excel. Your official ACT/SAT score report, official transcripts from other colleges attended, and at least two (2) letters of evaluation will also be accepted through January 15th.
- NOTE: Official transcripts from colleges and universities attended **OTHER THAN XU** should be sent **ELECTRONICALLY** to Ms. Quo Vadis Webster **VIA EMAIL** at xupremed@yahoo.com. Your unofficial Xavier transcript will automatically be accessed by Premedical Office staff, and therefore, you do NOT need to submit an official XU transcript as a part of the application process. You may, however, be required to submit your official Xavier transcript to PASS later on.

What happens to applications after they are submitted to the Premed Office? Following the January 15th application deadline, the Premed Office will review applications, supporting materials, and engagement in Premedical Office advising activities since freshman year and choose up to five (5) qualified students to present to the PASS admissions committee at University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine for consideration.

What do students do after they are nominated by the Premed Office for the program (if applicable)? Application materials for students who are nominated/endorsed by the Premed Office will be forwarded to the PASS admissions committee at University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine by early February for consideration. Selected students will be invited for an interview with a PASS administrator in the spring of sophomore year. Up to two (2) qualified Xavier students may be selected for acceptance into the program by the admissions committee at the School of Medicine.

What do students do after acceptance into the program? Acceptance notifications will be made in the spring of sophomore year, following the interview. The accepted student is expected to complete the requirements for degree completion at Xavier within four (4) consecutive years and follow the policies outlined in the acceptance letter which include, but are NOT limited to, the following:

- Students participating in the PASS program are required to spend two consecutive summers (after their sophomore and junior years) on the University of Pennsylvania campus doing mentored research and participating in various enrichment experiences. The latter includes shadowing of clinicians, didactic presentations on medical topics and issues, physicians sharing their career narratives and visits to medical student-led community clinics. During their summer experiences, students will receive a stipend in an amount to be determined, and housing will be provided at no cost to the students.
- Students will submit an official copy of their academic transcript to the PASS program after each semester of study for their remaining undergraduate career at Xavier University of Louisiana.
- At the mid-point of each semester the students will check-in with the Premedical Office to review the students' progress that semester; XU students should participate in Premed Office advising activities with their applying class.

- The Perelman School of Medicine reserves the right to deny participation in the PASS program or withdraw a student from the program if the student has misrepresented or omitted material information in the application process or fails to maintain good academic and disciplinary standing. Further, PSOM may remove or withdraw any student whose performance in the program is unsatisfactory or whose behavior is disruptive or otherwise incompatible with the University or PSOM's behavioral standards for students.

What are the conditions for linkage admission into the medical school?

1. Students who successfully complete the PASS program will be eligible to seek linkage admission to PSOM without taking the MCAT if they:
 - Are strongly recommended by their University of Pennsylvania research mentor.
 - Are strongly endorsed by the Premedical Office at Xavier.
 - Are deemed to be a good fit for PSOM based on assessments by the Academic Programs Office.
 - At the time of application for linkage admission, have BCPM and cumulative GPAs of 3.7 or higher.
 - Certify they have not taken the MCAT and will not take the MCAT.*
 - Have continued to demonstrate leadership and strong qualities of character at their undergraduate institution.
2. Students seeking linkage admission are required to have taken the following courses by their graduation, passing each course with a B or higher: genetics, anatomy, histology/cell biology and biochemistry or equivalent courses. While not required, prospective applicants are encouraged to also take microbiology, statistics/epidemiology and/or immunology.
3. Meet all the other requirements for admission to PSOM.
4. Students who gain linkage admission to PSOM, will receive a merit-based scholarship of no less than \$35,000/year, along with any available need-based aid.

****Students who have taken the MCAT will NOT be considered for linkage. If the MCAT is taken, students must apply through the regular admissions process.***