



## Xavier–University of Pennsylvania PASS-HBCU

(updated 12/6/22)

The [Penn Access Summer Scholars \(PASS\) Program](#) for highly-competitive students at partner HBCUs allows qualified students to participate in a consecutive, two-summer research experience with the opportunity for linkage admission into Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is waived for students who qualify for linkage admission into the medical school via PASS-HBCU. This program requires nomination by the Premedical Office for consideration by the Penn PASS-HBCU admissions committee.

**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.
- Satisfy at least one of the following:
  - Be a member of a racial or ethnic group historically underrepresented in medicine---African-American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
  - Be financially, educationally, or socially/other disadvantaged (examples listed below)
    - Financially disadvantaged: low-income household; recipient of a Federal Pell Grant, Federal Work Study, or other need-based financial aid; required to work during the academic year to pay for college; responsible for a dependent; other significant financial hardship).
    - Educationally disadvantaged: on track to be first-generation college graduate in your immediate family (i.e. you do NOT have a parent or caretaker who graduated from college); language other than English as primary language spoken in the home; diagnosed learning disability; attended an under-performing high school (low test scores campus-wide, sub-par instruction, limited resources/under-funded, low graduation rate or high drop-out rate).
    - Socially/other disadvantaged: other significant personal hardship or challenge that has been a barrier to your academic performance and/or pursuit of gaining admission into medical school (e.g. discrimination based on race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation, chronic illness, rural upbringing, etc.).
- 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).
- Successfully completed three (3) semesters of a roster of rigorous science 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.
- Earned cumulative overall and BCPM GPAs at Xavier of 3.6 or higher.
- Earned a minimum composite score of 29 on the ACT or 1300 on the SAT.
- Demonstrated leadership, strong qualities of character, and a clear and consistent motivation for medicine (supported by a strong letter of evaluation from a faculty member).
- 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-HBCU 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-HBCU 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 one (1) letter of evaluation for medical school from a BCPM or non-BCPM faculty member at Xavier and request to have the letter submitted to the Premedical Office EARLY (by January 1<sup>st</sup>); be sure to follow-up with the individual who agreed to write the medical school evaluation on your behalf.
- The PASS-HBCU nomination application is **due in the Premedical Office by January 15<sup>th</sup>**. 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 one (1) letter of evaluation will also be accepted through January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- NOTE: Official transcripts from colleges and universities attended OTHER THAN XU should be sent ELECTRONICALLY to Ms. Quo Vadis Webster **VIA EMAIL** at [qmwebste@xula.edu](mailto:qmwebste@xula.edu). 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-HBCU later on.

**What happens to applications after they are submitted to the Premed Office?** Following the January 15<sup>th</sup> 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-HBCU 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-HBCU 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-HBCU administrator in the spring of sophomore year. One (1) qualified Xavier student 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-HBCU 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 (\$4,000) 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.
- The PSOM 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.

**What are the conditions for linkage admission into the medical school?** Students who successfully complete the PASS-HBCU 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.
- They are strongly endorsed by the Premedical Office at Xavier.
- They are deemed to be a good fit for PSOM based on assessments by the Office of Admissions and the Program for Diversity and Inclusion at PSOM.
- At the time of application for linkage admission, have science and cumulative GPAs of 3.6 or higher.
- They 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 as judged by the COA.
- Meet all the other requirements for admission to PSOM.

Students who gain linkage admission to PSOM, will receive a merit-based scholarship of \$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.***