USF partners with UCF to offer accelerated medical school program to honors students

Note: This same accelerated option, with guaranteed admission to the USF College of Medicine, will be offered to eligible freshmen enrolled in the USF Honors College.

Tampa, FL (June 26, 2002) - The University of South Florida College of Medicine will offer eligible high school graduates the opportunity to earn a University of Central Florida bachelor's degree and a USF medical degree in seven years, under a new collaborative agreement announced today.

The UCF/USF Accelerated Medical School Program will begin this fall with entering freshmen who have been admitted to The Burnett Honors College at UCF, meet the program's eligibility requirements, and have a strong interest in becoming doctors.

The UCF students will be guaranteed admission to the USF College of Medicine, if they continue to meet all academic benchmarks as they progress through the rigorous program. The collaborative program expands upon a 7-year honors medical degree program that began at USF in 1985 and still exists for freshmen admitted to USF's Honor's College.

USF's first medical education partnership with UCF builds upon the Florida High Tech Corridor, the I-4 connection between Tampa and Orlando, that has been the focus of growing economic and biotechnology development.

"This partnership with our sister school will permit UCF students skilled in the sciences to stay in Florida for their medical school education and to complete both their bachelor's and M.D. degrees in a shorter time frame," said UCF President John Hitt. "This collaboration is reflective of our ongoing cooperative relationship with USF, which benefits our constituencies and our state in so many ways."

"This is a powerful partnership that will have real benefit for our citizens," said USF President Judy Genshaft. "Joining our strengths, we'll have better education and better research."

"We believe this collaboration will lead to more innovative partnerships in medical education and research with our neighboring university in Orlando," said Robert Daugherty, MD, PhD, dean of the USF College of Medicine.

The path to an MD degree takes at least eight years for most freshmen entering college - four years to earn a bachelor's degree and another four years of medical school.

The accelerated medical degree program will allow qualified UCF students enrolled in The Burnett Honors College to complete their senior undergraduate year concurrently with the first year of medical school at USF.

The Burnett Honors College would oversee students' progress for the first three years of the program. The USF College of Medicine would oversee the remaining four years, including the student's overlapping senior undergraduate year and first year of medical school. The accelerated
program will offer strong pre-medical school advising, early clinical experiences, and the opportunity for undergraduates to interact with medical school faculty.

Following successful completion of the fourth year - done in residence at USF as part of the first year of medical school - the student will receive a bachelor's degree from UCF. USF will award the MD degree when the 7-year program is successfully completed.

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Fact Sheet
UCF/USF Accelerated Medical School Program

Entering UCF freshmen must meet the following eligibility criteria to join the accelerated program:

- Florida resident
- SAT score of 1300, or equivalent ACT score
- Unweighted grade point average of 3.7
- Admission to The Burnett Honors College at UCF
- Complete application to USF Accelerated Medical School Program after admission to Burnett Honors College

The Burnett Honors College at UCF Component (Years 1-3)
To remain in the program the first three years, the UCF student must:

- Maintain the required Grade Point Average - No less than overall 3.5 GPA in science and all other undergraduate courses the first year; 3.6 the second year; and 3.7 the third year.
- Submit two letters of recommendation from UCF faculty and successfully interview with the USF College of Medicine Admissions Committee at end of freshman year.
- Complete all courses needed for admission to the USF College of Medicine AND for completion of the student's undergraduate major. Includes a new Seminars in Medicine course taught by USF medical faculty in junior year.
- Complete 40 hours of advisor-approved clinical experience, such as service in an emergency room, physician's office or clinic in the Orlando area.
- Obtain an overall Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) score of 30 or better, with no individual score less than 8. This test would be taken the summer between the student's sophomore and junior years.

USF College of Medicine Component (Years 4-7)
Students who meet all these requirements would enter the USF College of Medicine in their
senior undergraduate (fourth) year. They must successfully complete the first-year medical school curriculum at USF's Tampa campus to earn their bachelor's degree from UCF and to continue in USF's medical school program the remaining three years.

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