



Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University

### Joint Bachelor's/M.D. Program

An innovative joint-degree offering, the **Joint Bachelor's/M.D. program** allows you to transition seamlessly from a bachelor's degree to the M.D. program at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University.

During your first four years, you can complete a bachelor's degree at Seton Hall in any subject of your choosing, as long as you take all of the prerequisite courses required for the School of Medicine (for listing visit [www.shu.edu/jointMD](http://www.shu.edu/jointMD))

Once you complete your bachelor's degree, you will continue to the next phase of the program, which starts in July. The School of Medicine (SOM) has designed an innovative curriculum that may allow students to complete an M.D. in three years. After this point students may begin residency throughout the Hackensack Meridian system. Residency spots in the Hackensack Meridian system are guaranteed for all graduates of the School of Medicine (subject to specializations offered by the system). Alternatively, at the end of the three years, many students may choose to pursue other options such as intensive research, a global health immersion, an intensive community health immersion, an intensive clinical experience or the pursuit of a joint-degree in areas ranging from Business to Engineering.

This joint-degree offering with the School of Medicine is exclusive to Seton Hall University. If you meet all of the outlined requirements, you are guaranteed an interview with the School of Medicine during your fourth year of undergraduate study. This is a tremendous advantage as only about 10 percent of the applicants to the School of Medicine will be called in for an interview. Additionally, 25 percent of the seats in the School of Medicine are reserved exclusively for Seton Hall students. This means that as a Seton Hall student, you are in a very strong position to gain entrance to the School of Medicine. However, your performance during the interview will be a primary factor in determining your admission to the School of Medicine.

For more information visit [www.shu.edu/jointMD](http://www.shu.edu/jointMD)

### Scholarships

Students in the joint-degree program will qualify for significant undergraduate scholarships from Seton Hall to cover up to four years of your bachelor's degree. These scholarships will be automatically awarded to students upon admission to Seton Hall University.

Students will find out about scholarship offers from the School of Medicine in the fall of their senior year at Seton Hall, after all required documents and interviews are completed with the School of Medicine. We anticipate generous scholarship awards will be available to many students because Hackensack Meridian *Health* has established a \$100-million endowment fund to provide scholarships to students enrolled in the School of Medicine.

### Admission Requirements - Incoming freshmen need:

- To apply no later than December 15
- Minimum GPA 3.6 or higher (unweighted)
- Minimum Test score – ACT composite of 30 or 2 part SAT score 1400 (not less than 650 on ERW and M section)

### In order to transition successfully to the M.D. portion of the program, students must:

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 at the end freshman year, 3.6 cumulative GPA at the end of sophomore year and a 3.7 cumulative GPA at the end of junior and senior year.
- Earn at least a B or better in all of the prerequisite courses on your first attempt
- Earn an MCAT score in the top 20<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- Submit your application and all required materials to the School of Medicine no later than November 1 of your senior year
- Establish residency in New Jersey before the end of your junior year at Seton Hall
- Have a successful interview with the School of Medicine admissions committee in the fall of your senior year at Seton Hall University
- Not engage in any unbecoming, unethical or unprofessional conduct as evaluated by the SOM Admissions Committee.

### About the School of Medicine (SOM)

The School of Medicine is a partnership between Seton Hall University and Hackensack Meridian *Health*. It is located on the former Hoffmann-La Roche biomedical campus located in Nutley and Clifton, New Jersey — only 30 minutes from New York City and Seton Hall's South Orange campus.

**The School of Medicine will reserve at least 25 percent of the seats, in every incoming class, exclusively for Seton Hall students.** The SOM offers a forward-thinking medical education program that will create physicians who are humanistic, socially responsible and collaborative. We will utilize the best components of different evidence-based teaching methods and structure our foundational curriculum explicitly to give you what you need to thrive in the modern, technically-demanding clinical setting.

The School of Medicine will be co-located with Seton Hall's highly acclaimed College of Nursing and School of Health and Medical Sciences which offers programs such as Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Athletic Training, Speech-Language Pathology and more. We offer a unique and innovative team-based approach to medical education that reflects the future of healthcare delivery. This will greatly advantage your ability to work collaboratively, improve patient care and be better prepared for entering the healthcare profession.

### About Hackensack Meridian *Health*

Hackensack Meridian *Health*, a not-for-profit healthcare organization, has been listed as one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for five consecutive years. Hackensack University Medical Center is ranked No. 1 in the state of New Jersey. It is the most comprehensive and truly integrated healthcare network in New Jersey, comprised of 16 hospitals, including three academic medical centers, two children's hospitals and nine community hospitals; two rehabilitation hospitals and 450-physician practices and patient-care locations. Hackensack Meridian *Health* has 33,000 team members, more than 6,500 physicians and is a distinguished leader in health care.

## Important Information about Accreditation

All Medical schools in the United States are accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). Seton Hall University received preliminary accreditation for the School of Medicine from the LCME in February 2018. All new medical schools open with preliminary accreditation and then within a two year period transition to provisional accreditation and by the fourth year obtain full accreditation if all the standards set by the LCME have been met. It is important that students applying to and enrolling in the School of Medicine are aware of this status. In addition, please also be advised that Hackensack Meridian Health is currently pursuing LCME accreditation for the School of Medicine. Once this is achieved, control of the School of Medicine will fall entirely under Hackensack Meridian Health. In this case 25 percent of the seats in the School of Medicine are still guaranteed for qualified Seton Hall students and Seton Hall will still offer its joint MD program as currently defined.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What if my standardized test scores or G.P.A. are just a bit lower than your requirements?

The requirements for admission into the joint-degree program are very strict. Students whose scores do not meet the minimum requirements cannot be admitted to the program.

### What if I cannot maintain the requirements to transition from my bachelor's to the M.D. program?

The requirements to maintain eligibility to transition to the M.D. portion of the program are very strict. You must obtain all of the required grades and take all of the prerequisite courses. Even if your cumulative G.P.A. is just slightly below the minimum requirement, you cannot continue in the program. You also cannot retake or repeat courses to improve your grades in a specific course or your cumulative G.P.A.

If you do not maintain the requirements needed to transition to the M.D. portion of the program, you are still eligible to apply to the SOM; the main difference is that you will no longer be offered a guaranteed interview. However, you will still benefit from the fact that the SOM will enroll at least 25 percent of each incoming class exclusively from Seton Hall University.

### Is my spot in the School of Medicine (SOM) guaranteed?

If you meet all of the outlined requirements, you are guaranteed an interview with the School of Medicine during your fourth year of undergraduate study. This is a tremendous advantage as only about 10 percent of the applicants to the SOM will receive an interview. Additionally, 25 percent of the seats in the SOM are reserved exclusively for Seton Hall students. This means that as a Seton Hall student, you are in a very strong position to gain entrance to the SOM. However, your performance during the interview will be a primary factor in determining your admission to the SOM. For this reason, the joint-degree program cannot guarantee you admission to the SOM.

### Can International Students enroll in this program?

Unfortunately, international students cannot be admitted to this program; you must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident.

### Can transfer students apply for the joint-degree program?

No, this program is not open to transfer students. Only students applying as incoming freshman are eligible to apply.

### Why is New Jersey residency a requirement and how do I establish this for the purposes of this program if I am not currently a resident?

The Hackensack Meridian Health Network is most interested in providing seats in the School of Medicine to students who are most likely to remain committed to their health network and seek employment there upon completion of their M.D. program.

To meet this condition, residency in New Jersey can be established by obtaining a New Jersey driver's license or State ID and complying with the State requirements needed to issue this credential. You must do this before you apply to the School of Medicine.

### Am I obligated to enroll in the School of Medicine (SOM) once I am admitted to the joint-degree program?

If you are offered admission to the SOM, you have no obligation to enroll. This affords you a wonderful option; however, you are still welcome to apply to other medical schools and accept whatever offer best suits your interest and goals.

### What is the best academic major for me to pursue as an undergraduate?

Students can major in any subject during the course of their undergraduate study. The SOM has no requirement for a specific academic major as long as all of the prerequisite courses have been taken. The prerequisite courses do include several courses in the sciences, which would correspond nicely with majoring in a science such as biology, chemistry, biochemistry or physics. However, majoring in a science is not required. Students with interest in other subjects will be able to pursue a degree in another discipline and still take the required prerequisites. This may require taking a minor or a double major or some extra credits over the summer. Students in this program are advised to work closely with their academic adviser and plan proactively with their intended major in mind.

### Will AP courses or college credits earned during high school be accepted?

Students who have earned a 4 or 5 on an AP exam and/or higher-level IB scores of grade 6 or higher will receive credit at Seton Hall for these courses. Similarly, students who took college credits during high school can submit college transcripts for these courses and earn credit if they earned a C or better. While you may earn credit for these courses, they may not necessarily waive the course requirements for your degree. This will depend on which academic major you choose and the rules of this specific academic department.

### How many students are admitted to this program each year and how many enter the M.D. program at the end of four years?

Since this program and the SOM only began in 2018, we do not have any historical data to share. However, it is anticipated that each year approximately 60-80 students will enter the program as incoming undergraduate students. Based on our knowledge of other similar joint-degree programs, such as PT or PA, we expect through natural attrition that slightly less than half of the students admitted initially will choose or be able to continue to the joint-degree program. This means approximately 25-30 students annually will have the guaranteed interview with the SOM. Based on the 25 percent guaranteed seats in the SOM for Seton Hall graduates, there would be about 35 seats earmarked annually for Seton Hall graduates once the SOM is at full capacity in 2022.

**Questions? Call: 1-800-the-hall Email: thehall@shu.edu**