

Welcome to PreMed 101!

Spring 2010

Wednesdays 5-7 pm | 2040 VLSB | 1 Unit Pass/Fail



Faculty Sponsor: Dr. David Presti, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

****Please do not contact Dr. Presti, MCB personnel, or the DeCal board regarding enrollment or waitlist questions. Come see your assigned TA and we will do our best to assist you.****

If your last name begins with...	Your TAs are...	Email
A-G	Britnee & Dean	bcampos08@berkeley.edu deankwon@yahoo.com
H-L	Abiram & Vicki	abirambala@berkeley.edu vickih09@berkeley.edu
M-R	Tiffany & Frank	tiffhong@berkeley.edu frankyanglu92@berkeley.edu
S-Z	Catherine & Emmanuel	catherineaguilar@berkeley.edu emmanuelcoloma@berkeley.edu

Your TA is here to help and support you. We welcome all questions, comments, and concerns.

Course Description

This course is designed to help students interested in or curious about becoming medical doctors navigate the complex and often confusing world of medical school applications. We will also address issues related to the field of medicine including alternatives, ethics, and financial concerns. The scope of this course can be expanded to fit student needs and interests.

“An inquiring, analytical mind; an unquenchable thirst for new knowledge; and a heartfelt compassion for the ailing—these are prominent traits among the committed clinicians who have preserved the passion for medicine.”
-Lois DeBakey, MD

Recommended (but not required) Text

Though there is no official text assigned for this course, here is a list of helpful resources:

1. *Med School Rx: Getting In, Getting Through and Getting on with Doctoring* by Walter C. Hartwig. 2009, Kaplan Publishing.
2. *2009-2010 Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR)* by the Association of American Medical Colleges, Publication Department. (www.amcas.org).

Attention Students:

Due to the course grading policy, you cannot add this course if you have already missed two or more classes.

PreMed 101 Class Policies

Attendance

- Class participation is a major component to your grade. As a result, **attendance is mandatory**.
- Conflicts with midterm exam times will be excused. Please notify your TA **prior** to the class you will be missing.
- Please **be on time**. Being late is disrespectful to the guest speakers and to your fellow students. Chronic tardiness is not acceptable and will result in the equivalence of an absence (i.e. 2 tardies = 1 absence).
- If you are caught trying to sign in on a lecture which you have not attended or if you are caught signing in for a friend, you will receive two automatic unexcused absences.
- More than **two unexcused absences or four tardies** will result in a **No Pass** grade.
- **The last class of the semester is REQUIRED** in order to receive a passing grade. We will be filling out course evaluations. Plus, you won't want to miss the exciting guest speaker we have planned for that day!

Assignments

- In this class, we will explore necessary skills to be successful during the application process for medical school. The assignments are a practical application of those skills.
- Homework will include written assignments on the following topics: internships and volunteer positions, medical schools, personal statements, and medical specialties.
- **You must complete 3 of 4 assignments, one of which must be the personal statement or plan B assignment.**
- Assignments are posted on the course website: <http://premed101.org>.
- No email submissions of assignments will be accepted—you must turn in a hard copy to your TA. No exceptions! Be sure your name is on every page that you turn in.
- The TAs reserve the right to request a redo of any assignment.

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty and any plagiarism on assignments in this class will result in a NO PASS grade, as well as possible disciplinary action from the University Office of Student Conduct.

Late Assignments

- Since the homework assignments are approximately consistent with the lectures, turning in late assignments may not be beneficial to you; therefore, late assignments will not be accepted.
- Should there be a change in this policy during the class, we will post the change on the course website and announce it in class.

Grading

- Grading is based on your attendance record and completion of homework assignments.
- **You will receive a NO PASS grade if you have more than
1 missed homework assignment
and/or 2 unexcused absences
and/or 4 tardies**

- Assignments will be graded based on the following:

Check plus ✓ +	Excellent!
Check ✓	Satisfactory
Check minus ✓ -	Unsatisfactory, please redo

Assistance

- We want this class to be a great learning experience for you. It is our pleasure to assist you in any way we can. If you have questions about an assignment, concerns unrelated to this course, or if you need help please notify a TA. If you have health, family, or work situations that interfere with your ability to study or attend class—let a TA know right away so we can discuss how best to resolve it

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Please check the course website (<http://premed101.org>) and come to class to receive updates.

January 27 th	Course Overview	
February 3 rd	“Medical School Application Process Overview” Guest Speaker: Maxwell Jen, UCSF Medical Student	
February 10 th	“Everything You Need to Know about the MCAT” Guest Speaker: Dale Schimdt, The Berkeley Review	HW #1 Due
February 17 th	“Five Things Every California PreMed Applicant Should Know” Dr. Walter Hartwig, PhD Interim Assistant Dean of Clinical Education at Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine	
February 24 th	“The Ultimate PreMed Workshop: Letters of Recommendation, Personal Statement, and Medical School Interviews” Guest Speaker: Maxwell Jen, UCSF Medical Student	
----- Add/Drop Deadline: Friday, February 19th -----		
Do not add this class if you have already missed two or more classes		
March 3 rd	“Life from the Medical Student Perspective” Guest Speaker: Dr. Alexander Ayzengart, MD MPH UCSF Senior Resident in General Surgery	

March 10 th	“Do You Have What it Takes to be a Doctor?” <i>Film: The Making of a Doctor</i>	HW #2 Due
March 17 th	“Just What is a DO Exactly?” Guest Speaker: Dr. Tom McCombs, DO Professor of Osteopathic Medicine at Touro University	
March 24 th	<i>NO CLASS - ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE HOLIDAY</i>	
March 31 st	TBA	
April 7 th	“MD: Not Just a Medical Doctor” Guest Speakers: Dr. Taejoon Ahn, MD MPH Medical Director of Urgent Care Services of the John Muir Medical Group Carl Grunfeld, MD PhD UCSF Professor of Medicine Chief of Metabolism and Endocrinology	
April 14 th	“Working in the Health Field as a Physicians Assistant” Guest Speaker: Connie Melcher, PA Physicians Assistant at St. Luke’s Hospital in San Francisco	
April 21 st	“Medical Economics” Guest Speaker: Dr. Jordan Shlain, MD Internal Medicine Medical Director of Current Health (on-call concierge medicine)	
April 28 th	<i>ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY</i> Course Evaluations “Life in the ER” Guest Speaker: Dr. Desmond Carson, MD Emergency Medical Doctor at Doctors Medical Center in Richmond	HW #3 Due

