

Dear Student

Congratulations on your admission to UC Davis School of Medicine. We are writing this letter to tell you about our Summer Pre-Matriculation Program. Applications for the 25 spaces will be sent out on May 29 to any student admitted to the incoming Class of 2013.

This year's two-week program begins with an Wednesday, July 8 and continues through Wednesday, July 22. The School of Medicine will absorb the program costs and to partly offset the potential loss of wages during this two-week period, each program participant will be provided a **\$500 stipend**. Participants are responsible for their living/moving expenses.

Let me tell you a little about the program. The Summer Pre-Matriculation Program is an intense program designed to introduce the participants to the academic structure of the first-year curriculum. The courses being offered this year are Anatomy (with laboratory component), Biochemistry, Physiology and Doctoring. The program also includes exposure to the medical school teaching faculty, student run clinics, introduction to medical library research, computer resources, learning and test taking skills as well as social activities with second year students. In addition to the academic exposure this is also an opportunity to meet 20 of your fellow classmates and develop study groups before the start of the academic year.

**What benefits can I expect from the program? We wanted to include some comments from previous year's participants!**

#### Developing study groups and friendships

- *What a relief to already have friends in the class before I even arrived at the retreat. Instead of meeting ninety strangers the first day, I was surrounded by a dozen + fiends.*
- *I initially decided to participate in the Pre-Mat program to get used to living in a completely different area and settle down before school started. I did not think the program would make a huge impact on my learning or studying habits as I had recently graduated from college. But through out the program, not only was I given the opportunity to be exposed to a variety of subjects and I was able to meet some of the most fantastic people in the class. One second year student once told me, "I found my closest friend from the Pre-Mat program", and I couldn't agree more. Forming strong friendship bonds was the best part for me. Just knowing that you already have friends there for you from the very beginning was extremely comforting, especially during the first few chaotic weeks. I would highly recommend the Pre-Mat program for anyone. **M.H., Class of 2010***

#### Study Skills and making an adjustment to the rigors of medical school

##### **Medical School requires a different set of academic skills**

- *I'm a good student or at least I like to think so. I have a Master's and didn't think I needed the pre-mat program for that reason. I know how I like to study and really didn't think I needed any improvement. But medical school is so fast paced that even my previous academic experience wasn't adequate to prepare me. Having a preview of some the first semester material gave me an edge in my first semester that I appreciated as the year went on. **C.S., Class of 2010***
- *"I was as non pre-med as you can possibly imagine, so I had never taken anatomy; the pre-mat program was my first exposure to the specific kind of questions you only see in anatomy ('The nerve that enervates this muscle passes through which opening in the skull?') I felt a lot better about the material when we saw it again, at the end of the semester, when the whole class got to the head & neck dissection. **AL, Class of 2010***

**My family is excited about my starting medical school and understands my time with them will be limited.**

- *“My wife really appreciated meeting some of my future classmates before classes began, especially since we weren't (yet) completely immersed in school, so we were still talking about normal people stuff.” **AL, Class of 2010***
- *“Although we covered a lot of material, we still had plenty of time to unpack and relax. In fact, one of the benefits of the premat program was that we were already settled in and ready to go when the rest of the class was just arriving. While other people scrambled around IKEA, we were ready to get to work. **CS, Class of 2010***
- *“It's not all work and no play – this was a good opportunity for me to meet a small group of classmates that shared something in common before the rest of the class got here for orientation; that would have been overwhelming, meeting all 90+ people at the same time.”*

Applications to the program will be e-mailed on Friday, May 29 to any student that is admitted to UC Davis' incoming Class of 2013. For more information or questions please contact, Gail Peoples, at 916.734.4122 or write me at [gail.peoples@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:gail.peoples@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu)