

What if my GPA is below a 3.0? Will my application be committee reviewed?

Our program is quite small and therefore admission is competitive. We practice holistic admissions and look at our applicants' entire profile. However, it is very rare that we offer admission to students with a GPA below 3.0. Students with a GPA of less than 2.7 (cumulative OR science) are not competitive in our application pool and those applications are not reviewed in the committee format.

But I need academic enrichment, why won't you consider my application if my GPA is below a 2.7?

As a one year intensive program, we have designed the curriculum for students who are within one year's improvement of achieving their goal of their next step educational program. Our current average incoming GPA is about a 3.4. Students with a GPA lower than a 3.0 may be on an improvement track, but can't realistically be expected to achieve their goal within our short time frame.

What advice do you give to students with lower GPAs who still wish to attend graduate healthcare educational programs like medical or dental school?

Medical, dental or other healthcare professional school admission is possible for a student with a lower undergraduate GPA, but it requires a lot of time and dedication. Our MS in Biomedical Sciences program can be a valuable part of a deeper academic recovery; however it comes in as the final year of a multi-year plan. In following this longer path, students also need to accept that there is an inherent risk and should develop an alternative career plan. The reality is that the world of medical and dental admissions is extremely competitive and many qualified applicants are turned away every year. In my opinion, in order to have the hope of admission, a student with a lower GPA will need to **make a focused commitment to proving him or herself as a consistent "A" student over a period of at least two years**. In addition to those grades, students need to have well-rounded work and volunteer experiences, strong exam scores and a well-crafted entry essay that communicates their motivations and dedication. They should explore other career options and **keep a journal** of related experiences. Perhaps in this process, another career track will emerge that is a good fit. If at the end of this exploration there is still a full commitment to the original goal, the journal will be a good record of the decision making process and will be excellent source material for admission essays.

I've had a lot of valuable professional experience since my undergraduate degree. Will this compensate for a low GPA?

Good life experience is an important part of becoming a healthcare professional, however it will not compensate for previous poor academic performance. Past academic performance is predictive of future academic performance, while professional performance is not. So, while it is valuable, professional experience alone is not enough to achieve admission. Our applicants are seeking admission to an academic program and therefore, all students will need to prove themselves with a solid graduate exam score and to demonstrate the potential for "A" work (in the upper level sciences) in addition to their professional skills.