PROGRAM IN LIBERAL MEDICAL EDUCATION

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MEDICINE

For highly motivated students, Brown’s Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME) offers a unique opportunity to combine undergraduate education and professional studies in medicine in a single eight-year program. It is the only combined baccalaureate-MD program in the Ivy League, and a major route of admission to the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

The PLME is not an accelerated medical program. Rather, its goal is to encourage students to take full advantage of the breadth of a liberal arts education, to personalize their studies, and to become active learners.

The PLME is an application of Brown’s open curriculum concept, which has been so successful at the undergraduate level. Flexibility is built into the program, enabling PLME students to pursue their interests in great depth—be they in the humanities, social sciences, natural or biological sciences, or the arts—even as they prepare for the rigors of medical school and for careers as physicians or medical scholars.

“The PLME is designed to develop and enrich the whole person in hopes that they may serve the whole patient. The PLME lives up to this vision and beyond. I truly feel special to be a part of such an amazing program.”

– SAGAR C. PATEL ’07 MD’11

CURRICULUM

Students in the first four years of the PLME are completely integrated into the undergraduate student body and, like all students, have access to Brown’s entire faculty.

During the undergraduate years, participation in a variety of courses is recommended. The goal is for our students to achieve competency in the natural, social, and behavioral sciences and in quantitative reasoning, and to provide a foundation for subsequent medical science and clinical courses. At Brown, creative students need not sacrifice the benefits of a rich liberal arts education in order to gain admission to medical school.

As undergraduates, PLME students may

• work toward an AB or ScB degree in the sciences, or
• fulfill the requirements for an AB degree in the humanities, social sciences, or behavioral sciences, or
• pursue an interdisciplinary concentration, such as public policy or international relations.

Once in medical school, students are encouraged to pursue scholarly work in a particular area of interest if they are inclined to do so. This may entail participation in one of Alpert Medical School’s scholarly concentrations, or pursuit of an advanced degree in addition to the MD degree. Dual degree opportunities include an MD/Master of Public Health, MD/Master of Public Policy, and MD/Master of Public Administration. In addition, matriculated medical students may consider the possibility of a PhD in one of the graduate programs in Brown’s Division of Biology and Medicine.
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Students apply to both the PLME and Brown (the College) during their senior year of high school. While Brown’s Admission Office considers all applicants within their academic context, it recommends that applicants have pursued the following:

• four years of English
• at least three years of mathematics (preferably four)
• at least three years of science, including two years of laboratory science
• at least two years of history, including American history
• at least three years of a foreign language (preferably four of a single language).

We also encourage study in music and art.

Prospective science or engineering majors should have taken physics, chemistry, and advanced mathematics. PLME applicants are required to submit results of the SAT Reasoning Test and any two SAT Subject Tests. They are advised to include a science test as one of the two required SAT Subject Tests.

Alternatively, an applicant may submit results of the ACT, which takes the place of both the SAT Reasoning Test and the SAT Subject Tests. Students who choose the ACT must take it with the Writing Test option.

EARLY DECISION

An Early Decision applicant to the College who also indicates a desire to be considered for entry into the PLME may be admitted in December to both the College and the PLME. Some applicants may be selected for admission to the College but not the PLME. Hence, we ask every PLME applicant when filing his/her application to Brown to indicate whether or not he/she wishes to be considered under a binding Early Decision plan if not admitted to the PLME.

SELECTION PROCESS

Students are selected on the basis of scholarship, intellectual curiosity, accomplishment, and promise. Applicants who are interested in both the sciences and the liberal arts are particularly sought. In addition, emotional maturity, character, motivation, sensitivity, and caring are personal characteristics considered paramount in an applicant.

Each applicant is considered first as an applicant to the College and second as an applicant to the PLME. There is not a separate application to the PLME. Students should complete the Common Application and the two PLME questions included in the Brown supplement. Candidates whom the College Admission Office considers admissible are reviewed by the PLME Advisory Selection Board, which makes the final selection.

In the 2011-12 accepted class, students on average were in the top 1 percent of their high school class and had achieved average scores of 742 Critical Reading, 744 Mathematics, and 755 Writing on the SAT Reasoning Test.

INTERVIEWS

Formal on-campus interviews are not offered for Brown (including PLME) applicants. Once a candidate applies to the College, a local alumnus/a from his or her hometown area may contact the applicant to arrange a time to meet.
APPLICATION DEADLINE
• Early Decision: November 1
• Regular Action: January 1

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION
• Early Decision: Mid-December
• Regular Action: Early April

ADVISING
The four-year relationship between a PLME freshman and the PLME adviser begins during orientation. The PLME adviser, who is a dean and a physician, helps the student shape his or her curriculum and helps him or her establish lifelong learning habits and maintain a healthy personal lifestyle. The PLME adviser works in these endeavors with PLME Meiklejohn student advisers, who play a key role in helping their peers navigate Brown. The PLME adviser plays an essential role in supporting students as they make their course selections and map out a path to meet the PLME academic competencies, apprising them of research opportunities and international experiences.

ENRICHMENT
The PLME Student Senate coordinates both the Whole Patient Program (for freshmen), which focuses on the doctor-patient relationship and includes patient case presentations, and the Whole Physician Program (for all PLME students), which focuses on physicians’ and medical students’ personal and professional lives through panels, lectures, and small group discussions. The Senate also plans social and community service activities throughout the year. The Medicine in Action Program offers undergraduates and medical students a chance to observe physician-patient relationships firsthand, go on rounds with the medical team, and get to know individual Medical School faculty and alumni more closely.

LEARN MORE
Check out the websites below for more information on the PLME, Brown University, and Alpert Medical School.
• PLME: med.brown.edu/plme
• Brown University: www.brown.edu
• The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University: med.brown.edu
“Simply put: best decision of my life. The PLME afforded me the flexibility during my undergraduate years to pursue interests beyond medicine and to discover new interests. By escaping the ‘pre-med box’ and instead spending my time rounding myself out as a person, I have no doubt that I am a better doctor now as a result.

The support and guidance of the PLME deans and peer advisers make navigating Brown’s open curriculum easy. The emphasis is not on fulfilling a million requirements and prepping for the MCAT, but rather to craft your own ‘Brown experience’ in a way that will be most valuable to you. Your educational path here is truly personalized.

To top it off, after college the PLME offers a seamless transition to Alpert Medical School, which consistently places its students into top residency programs.”

– ADAM VASCONCELLOS ’07 MD’11