

Medical Student Transfer Policy

I. POLICY

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine offers limited opportunities for admissions with advanced standing. Advanced-standing applications will be considered only for entry into the third-year class.

Priority Consideration:

Applications are reviewed individually, with a preference given to candidates who have a compelling personal reason to transfer to the University of Pittsburgh. Acceptance depends upon the applicant's special circumstances and qualifications, as well as the availability of openings that have been created by attrition. Pre-medical school academic qualifications must be within the range of those of matriculated students. The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine cannot accept transfer applications from students enrolled in dental, osteopathic, chiropractic, or veterinary schools or non-U.S. medical schools. Only students who are enrolled in a medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education will be considered for advanced standing.

Advanced Standing Application Process:

- Request application: Application for advanced standing must be requested along with a written statement explaining the compelling need to transfer to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.
- Dean's Letter of Recommendation: An applicant must request a letter from the Dean of Student Affairs at his or her current medical school. This letter must indicate that the applicant is in good standing at the institution and that the applicant is expected to successfully complete the curriculum of the first two years prior to the transfer year. This letter should be sent directly to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine's Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.
- United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 Scores: All transfer applicants must take Step 1 of the USMLE prior to matriculation as a third-year student.
- Personal Interview: The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine requires a personal interview with all applicants before an official acceptance can be extended. Once we determine the number of openings for transfer students, we will invite to interview a small number of applicants after reviewing all applications for transfer.

Admissions Committee Review:

- After interviews are completed, the Admissions Committee decides whether to admit a transfer applicant.

Matriculation:

Applicants, who are granted admission with advanced standing, must matriculate in the UPSOM no later than two months into the third year (typically by the end of June). All transfer students must take Step 1 of the USMLE prior to matriculation and meet all current academic requirements for graduation from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Students accepted with advanced standing must complete all course requirements. These include ten (10) core clerkships, one acting internship in Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics or Surgery, one integrated life science (ILS) course, nine (9) electives and a longitudinal research project.

II. RATIONALE

This policy establishes the approach that will be used to consider applicants who apply to transfer to the MD degree program.

III. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Medical school transfer applicants

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

- Office of Admissions and Financial Aid

V. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Policy on Admissions

VI. REFERENCES

LCME Element 10.1: Transfer Students: A medical school ensures that any student accepted for transfer or admission with advanced standing demonstrates academic achievements, completion of relevant prior coursework, and other relevant characteristics comparable to those of the medical students in the class that he or she would join. A medical school accepts a transfer medical student into the final year of a medical education program only in rare and extraordinary personal or educational circumstances.

VII. APPROVALS

Admissions Committee August 10, 2011

Executive Committee of the School of Medicine September 13, 2011

Reviewed and reaffirmed, Dean, School of Medicine January 3, 2019