March 30, 2016

Dear Entering Medical School Freshman:

We are very pleased that you have elected to enter the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, and we look forward to your attendance.

We understand that you have many questions, and we have tried to address everything that you need to know at this point in time. Please carefully read through all of the materials on the website as you will find them very helpful in your planning for next year. If necessary, please contact the individual offices where indicated. As additional information becomes available, you will be notified to check this website. The Office of Student Affairs will be contacting you in July with further information relating to Orientation and Registration.

Registration and Orientation begin August 1-5, 2016
Classes begin August 8, 2016

What is the curriculum like?

Beginning in 2015, the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans implemented a new curriculum for the pre-clerkship years (years 1 and 2). The overall goals of the new curriculum are to provide 1) a more integrated teaching of basic and clinical sciences; 2) a greater emphasis on critical thinking and analytical skills; 3) additional experiences in the clinical application of basic science principles; 4) additional teaching of certain topics such as cultural competence, health care systems, population medicine, quality of care issues, patient safety, and inter-professional practice, and 5) more time for exploration of clinical and/or research areas of interest.

Clerkships begin in the third year when students rotate through the various clinical disciplines. In the fourth year, students are given several months for electives and free time in addition to required rotations in Ambulatory Medicine, Acting Internships, etc. Some of these rotations can be completed at the institutions associated with the LSUHSC School of Medicine throughout the state (Baton Rouge, Lafayette) or at other approved institutions outside the state or country.

Computer-assisted instruction is an important component of the curriculum. Medical students are required to have laptop computers so that they can access current teaching technologies and other on-line information. Many of the learning experiences of the four-year curriculum occur in the Learning Center. A 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility utilizing hands-on human simulation training. An example of this can be seen on a video at: www.medschool.lsuhsc.edu/learning_center
Although major emphasis is placed on training primary care physicians, there are many opportunities for research and the pursuit of more specialized training. There are several Centers of Excellence that provide opportunities for research and training in such areas as cancer, neuroscience, genetics, alcohol and drug abuse, asthma, etc.

The Health Sciences Center Catalogue may be viewed by visiting our website at www.lsuhs.edu/no/catalog, more information on courses will be sent to you by the Student Affairs Office in July.

In addition to the required courses, certain selective electives are available. Some of these selective electives have clinical rotations within them including opportunities to see patients. Medical students can also gain additional clinical experiences by volunteering their services in the emergency rooms of some of our teaching hospitals and other programs that are available.

What is the daily schedule like? Basically, scheduled class time will vary from day to day, depending on what courses are being taught and what your time commitments are in Clinical Skills Integration. The experiences in this course can be seen on our website at

http://www.medschool.lsuhsc.edu/medical_education/undergraduate/default.aspx

Is it possible to work part-time? Since most free time in the day, evenings and on weekends will be utilized as study time and time for relaxation, it is strongly recommended that you not attempt to work during the school year.

Are used microscopes and used books available? Students no longer need microscopes. A used book sale is held during the week of orientation in August. You will be notified of this date at a later time.

Does the school have any support systems? The LSU School of Medicine prides itself in having many support programs such as a Campus Assistance Program that is in place to assist students when problems arise. The medical school also supports a Health Promotion Program for our students. More information will be given during orientation week.

Once accepted, will I automatically receive a financial aid packet? No, here are the links to our main financial aid page and instructions:

http://www.lsuhs.edu/financialaid/

for further information contact the Financial Aid Office, (504) 568-4822 or 568-4820.

How difficult is it to get into the dorm? There is at times a long waiting list, so you need to turn in an application to the Residence Hall, (504) 568-6260, as soon as possible.

Watch for additional information that will be sent in mid-July from the Student Affairs Office. This packet will include registration, curriculum, and textbook information.
Please notify our office in writing of any change of address, e-mail address or telephone number at least two weeks prior to the change.

Sincerely

[Signature]

Sam G. McClugage, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Admissions

SGM/kmh