

ADVANCED BACCALAUREATE LEARNING EXPERIENCE (ABLE)

Contents

Introduction	1
Application Process	2
ABLE Curriculum	2
ABLE Summer Institute	3
ABLE Academic Year Postbaccalaureate Experience	3
ABLE Summer Prematriculation Program	3
Additional Information	4

Introduction

The Advanced Baccalaureate Learning Experience (ABLE) Program is a thirteen-month, enriched academic experience offered each year to an invited group of eight disadvantaged students who have applied for admission to the College of Human Medicine (CHM).

Students who successfully complete the minimum requirements of the ABLE Program are offered regular admission to the entering College of Human Medicine class. The goal of the ABLE program is to build upon participants' science base through enrollment in upper-level science and medical school course offerings. To help assure success in these courses, ABLE students receive individualized assistance in developing academic learning strategies. Successful ABLE Program students enter medical school with improved self-confidence and the knowledge required to become successful medical students and excellent physicians.

The College of Human Medicine has a longtime commitment to educating physicians whose presence in the entering class reflects the diversity of the nation's patient population. Approximately half of the CHM class is women, almost 20% of the entering class is underrepresented minority students, and the mean age of the entering class is more than 25 years. The ABLE Program, established in 1986, is one of several special CHM programs that promotes the recruitment and retention of disadvantaged students.

Application Process

Disadvantaged students who apply for regular admission to the College of Human Medicine and are interviewed for regular CHM admission can become candidates for the ABLÉ Program. **There are no separate ABLÉ application procedures.** Students who show promise for medicine yet may lack the science background required to perform optimally in medical school are placed on hold by the CHM Committee on Admissions and referred to the ABLÉ Selection Committee. The ABLÉ Selection Committee then makes the final student selections for the ABLÉ Program.

- For more information about the College of Human Medicine's admissions procedures, read the [College of Human Medicine Handbook for Premedical Students](#);
- For answers to specific questions about the ABLÉ Program that are not answered within this web site, contact the CHM Office of Admissions at MDAdmissions@msu.edu or (517) 353-9620.

Students are encouraged to target their application for regular admission to the College of Human Medicine. Become a competitive CHM applicant by following the recommendations outlined in the [Handbook for Premedical Students](#). Develop a long-range plan that includes doing your best in your academic courses, preparing for and taking the April MCAT, applying to medical school early (June 1), and volunteering or working in a medical setting. Admissions preference is given to students who are Michigan residents and whose career goals are consistent with the CHM Mission to educate compassionate primary care physicians who will practice in Michigan (especially in Michigan's underserved urban and rural areas). The Admissions Committee strives to admit students who have a commitment to lifelong learning and who have respect for cultural differences.

ABLE Curriculum

The ABLÉ Curriculum is a thirteen-month, intensive learning experience presented in three distinct phases: The ABLÉ Summer Institute, The ABLÉ Academic Year Postbaccalaureate Experience, and The ABLÉ Prematriculation Program. Participation in all three curricular phases is required.

- **All questions about the ABLE Program Curriculum should be directed to the ABLE Program Office:**

ABLE Program Office
College of Human Medicine
Michigan State University
A-254 Life Sciences Building
East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: (517) 355-2404
Fax: (517) 355-3305
dansby@msu.edu

The ABLE Summer Institute

The ABLE Summer Institute is a six-week program that begins in the summer following admission to the ABLE Program. The Institute provides each student with a comprehensive assessment of his/her existing learning strategies and skills, and an individualized and strategic plan to improve them. These plans are put into practice through structured learning experiences that are designed to enhance skills in reading, test taking, time management, note taking, and approaches study and learning. Students are also introduced to selected basic science and medical school courses in preparation for the ABLE Academic Year Postbaccalaureate academic courses offered during the Fall and Spring semesters.

ABLE Academic Year Postbaccalaureate Experience

The ABLE Academic Year Postbaccalaureate Experience (Fall semester and Spring semester) builds on each student's background in the basic sciences and then strengthens that background through enrollment in selected upper-division (300-400 level) undergraduate science courses and medical school courses. ABLE students enroll for at least 12 credits each semester. Academic support and ABLE student activities combine to help promote academic success and refine successful learning strategies.

ABLE Summer Prematriculation Program

The ABLE Summer Prematriculation Program is offered only to those ABLE students who, following successful completion of the ABLE Program requirements, have been admitted to the College of Human Medicine by the Committee on Admissions. This Summer program increases the readiness of ABLE students and eases their transition to the medical school preclinical curriculum (Years 1 and 2). This is achieved by introducing ABLE students to the required skills and basic science concepts they will need as first-year

medical students. Successful learning strategies and skills developed throughout the program are reinforced, as are independent learning skills (use of library, computers, and reference materials) and help-seeking skills (use of academic and personal support services). Prior to matriculation in the regular medical school class, ABLE students' academic performance and participation in the overall program are reviewed and, when required, a revised learning plan is developed.

Additional Information

For additional information about the ABLE Program, including access to an events calendar, please visit the ABLE web pages (<http://www.msu.edu/user/hcop/able.htm>) within the Health Careers Opportunity Program (<http://www.msu.edu/user/hcop/index.htm>) web site.

The College of Human Medicine reserves the right to alter programs and processes without notice.

©2002-2003 MSU/CHM Office of Admissions

The College of Human Medicine is committed to equal opportunity, affirmative action, and nondiscrimination on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, disability, weight, marital status, and sexual orientation in all education programs.

February 24, 2003