

## **THE MD/MBA DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM**

This program consists of eight terms at Columbia's College of Physicians & Surgeons, in combination with three terms (45 credits) at Columbia Business School. Students must begin matriculation at P&S. It was determined that it is best to start the residency period at the Business School after two or three years are completed at the Medical School. Students therefore need to apply for either the January or September term following their second or third year's study. After three terms with CBS, they return to finish at P&S. It is recommended that anyone interested in the dual MD/MBA degree have a consultation with Dean Lewis prior to applying. It is also helpful that her office be aware of those students who have an application in process.

The Admissions Office uses the same criteria to assess candidates from any background. Potential dual MD/MBAs are looked at the same way as candidates from other pools. We seek academic excellence: a strong undergraduate GPA, a top GMAT score, an excellent record at P&S. We assess professional recommendations (we require two) and the all-important first essay where we look for a strong foundation for the applicant's post-MBA goals. Although we no longer have a minimum work requirement, we are seeking candidates with a strong professional focus and clear reasons for pursuing a dual degree. We will consider summer work, internships, clinical rotations, etc. Clearly the more direct experience the better, but demonstrated realism, networking ability and an awareness of transferable skills are also important indicators of professional promise. The third area for assessment is the least quantifiable: personal characteristics. We seek both leaders and team players, with demonstrated effectiveness on-and off the job. We seek rounded individuals who are fun and interesting. We seek people who contribute to their communities.

If a candidate is denied admission, but has not studied past the 3-year limit, s/he can try again. If originally waitlisted, we may be flexible about letting a student come to a future term despite having completed much of their studies at P&S. Academic questions should be directed to Student Academic Affairs.

Once admitted, a couple of areas to think about: matriculated students may interview to do a business internship for the summer (or any) term. Company presentations take place in the fall and interviews in the spring (January term). Admitted students who won't start until a January term should be in touch with Career Services the prior September regarding proper resume design, the schedule of company presentations and other issues.

Admitted students who hold a fellowship or scholarship must be aware that it is only good during those terms that they are in residence at the school that awarded it. Dual students must be pro-active about contacting the Financial Aid offices of the respective schools and should be certain that each school knows where they will be attending which terms and that all necessary paperwork is in. For more information on the program, contact Susan Sullivan, Assistant Director of Student Academic Affairs at 212-854-4557. For further admissions-related questions, feel free to contact Associate Director Emily Buckley at 212-854-1961.