

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Forges Partnership with KCUMB to Benefit Top-Flight Pre-Med Students

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— Elite pre-med students at the University of Saint Mary (USM) can now get a head start on medical school without having to take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) through a partnership with the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCUMB).

USM has joined the “KCUMB Partners Program,” an initiative that allows top-flight pre-med students to matriculate to KCUMB as full-time first-year med school students following their junior year as an undergraduate without taking the MCAT. As part of the arrangement, KCUMB will reserve two first-year seats for participating USM students, and the selected students will receive their bachelor’s degree from USM following the successful completion of their first year at KCUMB.

To be eligible, students must have scored at least a 26 on their ACTs, and they must maintain a 3.5 GPA in their science classes and a 3.25 GPA overall.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for some of our stellar students to fast-track into medical school,” added Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM’s vice president for academic affairs. “It should be very tempting for students going into the medical field.”

The first USM students will be eligible for entry to the program in the fall semester of 2011, with selection taking place in the fall of 2009.

USM is one of about a dozen area schools participating in the program, said Stephen Phipps, vice president of admissions and community clinical operations at KCUMB. About 40 students have passed through the program so far, he said.

“The program gives prospective students more confidence in their preparation for medical school, and they can expedite their studies by saving a year,” Phipps said.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu on the web for more information.

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