Pre-Health Professions
Career Development Center
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Pre-Health Award Overview
2015-2016

Loyola University Chicago will grant up to five awards for the 2015-2016 academic year in the amount of $2,500 each to currently enrolled, full-time Loyola University students who plan to seek admission to health professional school. The Pre-Health Awards (PHA) are distributed in two equal installments over the course of the academic year: upon successful completion of each fall and spring semester provided continued eligibility requirements are met.

The awards reduce one's financial burden and by doing so offer promising pre-health professional students greater opportunity to further cultivate their candidacies for health professional school. Such financial assistance may allow the selected students more freedom to engage in volunteer patient care experiences within their field of interest, defray the cost of applying and traveling to health professional schools, and assist with other activities that entail financial demands.

Selection Process and Criteria
The Selection Committee considers applicants on criteria including (but not limited to) the following:

1. Full-time enrollment (excepting summers) with a minimum of 30 hours of course work completed at Loyola University Chicago.
2. A high-level, demonstrable commitment to given health profession (minimum of 50 hours strongly recommended).
3. Academic progress as evidenced by completing at least 60 credit hours by the end of the summer term 2015.
4. Academic rigor and promise as evidenced by minimally completing three of the following four year-long course sequences by the end of summer term 2015: (a) General Biology, (b) General/Inorganic Chemistry, (c) Organic Chemistry, or (d) Physics. Students who have earned Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Credit for General Biology must have completed at least one of the following additional courses: Biology 251 (Cell Biology) or Biology 282 (Genetics) for Biology to count as one of the three year-long course sequences.
5. Academic excellence as evidenced by earning a minimum cumulative and science GPA of 3.50.
6. Professional behavior as evidenced by interactions with staff of the Pre-Health Professions Office and other members of the Loyola University Chicago community: faculty, staff and students.
7. Quality of both expression and content in the PHA application.
8. Quality of interview—if granted.
10. Completion of at least 30 credit hours taken at Loyola University Chicago out of the 60 credit hours needed to be eligible. (see #3)
Letters of Evaluation

Three letters of recommendation are required: Two from Loyola science faculty and one from a professional in a relevant, post-secondary clinical experience in which the applicant was/is engaged. An optional fourth letter of evaluation may also be submitted; it may serve as a second clinical letter or as a research letter, but it cannot take the place of any of the three required letters of evaluation. Letters of evaluation from relatives will not be considered. Letters of evaluation from co-workers of relatives will also not be accepted.

Letters of evaluation should be submitted directly from the evaluators electronically via the Pre-Health Application Database (PHAD). Please first make your request in person to your evaluator to ensure that they will be able to provide a letter. Upon confirmation, notify the recommender that an electronic request will be sent via email which will include the student’s waiver selection of confidentiality, recommendations and guidelines for reference. Instructions for uploading the completed letter will also be included.

Letters of evaluation must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 2, 2015.

Interview Process

Requests for interviews can only be generated by the PHA Selection Committee. Applicants will be notified whether or not they will be receiving an interview sometime during October of the application year. Interviews are scheduled to occur during October of the application year.

Eligibility Requirements after Award has been Granted

The second installment of the PHA will be distributed at the conclusion of the spring semester of the award year provided the following conditions have been met:

1. Winners of the Pre-Health Award will be required to acknowledge their acceptance of the award and the terms for continued eligibility within three weeks of the acceptance.
2. Continued full-time enrollment in Loyola University Chicago.
3. Maintaining the minimum 3.50 cumulative and science GPA at the end of award academic year.
4. Successful completion of all Pre-Health Award Program requirements.
5. Continued endorsement by the Pre-Health Professions Office.
6. Progress towards degree.
7. Maintaining the same high standards evidenced in the recipient’s initial PHA application.

Note: This information reflects details pertinent only to the awarding of the Pre-Health Award for the application academic year. The Pre-Health Award will be reviewed annually to determine any necessary or desirable changes regarding eligibility requirements, selection standards, and/or existence of the award. The Pre-Health Professions Program reserves the right to make changes to the Pre-Health Award at any time.

This application must be completed (and all letters received) no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 2, 2015.

Please contact our office at 773-508-3636 or via email at PHadvising@luc.edu if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you!