

Berkeley Premed Portal

EFFORT WHERE IT MATTERS

Summary:

Berkeley Premed Portal (BPP) aims to take the confusion out of being a premed student at Berkeley so students can spend their time and energy effectively to become a strong candidate. BPP is a web portal that can guide students through their entire time at Berkeley from the moment they come in until they apply to medical school.

Unmet Need

Currently there is a lot of confusion among incoming premeds on how a premed student should spend their time. Throughout their time as a student they will have many questions about their requirements, their application timeline, their extracurriculars, etc, and many end up having to ask older students for answers.

Solution

BPP sets out to provide a simple portal that students can use to answer their questions and guide them through what it's like to be a strong premed student at Berkeley. A list of the features for the web app include:

Medical School List:

A list of medical schools that students can select that they're interested in, based upon location, GPA/MCAT ranking, programs.

Required Courses:

Students will be able to see clearly which classes fulfill which requirements. It will answer all the questions like "Does Chem 3A count as organic chemistry? Is MCB102 Biochem or Ochem? What does Math 10 cover?"

Additionally, students can input their classes and see which requirements they may be missing. This can be tailored to which schools they're interested in. For example, if they are die-hard Harvard med only they wouldn't have any requirements.

Extracurricular Tracking:

You will be able to track every extracurricular activity you participate in, file them under a category, and write notes about them. This is meant to mimic the Extracurriculars tab on the AMCAS, so that when the time comes to apply, applicants already have a record and aren't struggling to remember activities they did in the past.

Recommended Activities:

Have they done research yet? Have they been in a hospital setting and had patient contact? While neither of those are necessarily required to enter into medical school, these are activities often missed or misunderstood by premedical students. Pre-med clubs will be able to list themselves and describe what they do, so students won't have such a time finding relevant activities.

Timeline Generator:

One of the most confusing things students struggle with is understanding the year-long application timeline. If they want to enter the class of 2017, they'll need to apply summer of 2016. By then, they'll have to have taken the MCAT, Letters of Rec, etc. Students can list which year they want to enter and the timeline generator will create a recommended timeline of when to apply as well as when to take the MCAT, prepare letters, start prepping their personal statement, etc.

Advisor Portal:

Everything students record will be accessible to Career Center pre-med advisors so that when they make a 30-minute appointment, the details can be pulled up quickly and advisors can save time by not asking generic questions to understand the student. They have a snapshot of the student already.

Career Center

We would love to have an premed advisor as additional input to help guide what features to include and provide information to what students struggle with the most when they come in for advising. Additionally, we would like to have the Career Center sponsor us for the Student Technology Fund to help cover server and hosting costs in creating the website.