

Program: Georgetown SMP – GUMC

1) About the program

a. Structure:

i. 10-month program

1. Fall semester

a. Block 1 – Biochemistry, Physiology, Embryology, Histology

i. Runs from August to early October

ii. 1.5 weeks to take three final med exams

b. Intersession 1

i. One week, one class – exam at the end of the week

c. Block 2 – Immunology, Pathology, Pharm

i. Runs from mid-October to early December

ii. 1.5 weeks to take 2 med exams

iii. Lot of grad classes finishing up in Block 2

1. Anatomy

2. Pharm

3. Grad Physiology

2. 4 weeks for winter break

3. Spring semester

a. Block 3 – CV, Kidneys, Lungs

i. Runs from early January to mid-March

ii. 1.5 weeks to take 3 med exams

b. Intersession 2

i. One week, one class – exam at the end of the week

ii. This is when students find out if they got an II to GUSoM

c. Block 4 – Reproduction, GI, Endocrinology

i. 1.5 weeks to take 3 med exams

ii. Finishing up remaining grad classes

iii. Have to write a group review paper over a reproduction topic

iv. Students to hear back from GUSoM

1. Most are waitlisted
 2. Generally, 2 big waves of acceptances
 - a. First is about May 1 – 19 accepted during my year
 - b. Second is around May 14 – 10 more accepted during my year
 - c. Third is closer to June – 1 or 2 accepted during my year
 - d. Others can trickle in over the summer – 1 or 2 accepted over the summer during my year
- b. Learning environment:
- i. Mostly lecture based
 - ii. 10-20 small group sessions
 - iii. Weekly practice quizzes that don't go towards your grade
 - iv. Campus is pretty old, and buildings are pretty outdated. Few study areas. The medical library is always the opposite of what is needed for the season. But the administration understands this, and they try to accommodate everyone as best they can.
 1. I mostly studied at home. In fact, I hardly came to campus unless I wanted to work-out or socialize.
- c. Cost: \$86k with tuition plus living expenses
- d. Location: In the western area of Washington, DC (very wealthy community)
- e. Faculty: All nice, but I mostly watched lectures online, so I didn't interact with them much. I also made it a point to try to not bother them much because I wanted to be known as self-sufficient. If I needed anything, I would just contact one of the student assistants and if they couldn't answer it, they would send it up the pipeline.
- f. Classes
- i. Pros:
 1. Take most of the medical classes you take during first year at GUSoM
 - a. Exempt from those classes if accepted to GUSoM
 2. Lectures are recorded so attendance isn't required 95% of the time
 - a. Some lectures aren't captured because of patient panels, etc.
 3. Note service offered
 - ii. Cons:
 1. Some parts of the medical curriculum taught very poorly
 - a. Genetics – basically self-teaching
 2. Lecture capture isn't perfect sometimes

g. Difficulty:

- i. This is the light version of medical school. It is tough. If you can't handle this, might as well get off the train now.

h. Competitiveness:

- i. You don't compete against your classmates; you compete against the M1s. The M1s are pass/fail so they just need a 70% to pass. But they are also a group of high achievers, so their averages usually beat the SMP average. If you can beat the M1 average, good things happen. So, competition is pretty low. You are competing with yourself if anything.

i. Other students:

- i. You are all in the same boat at this point. The other students are pretty nice. There is always a couple of rotten apples, but in general, my classmates were very nice, and we formed pretty strong friendships.

2) The kinds of classes you've taken and a description.

a. Med classes – taken alongside current M1s and graded against their performance

- i. Med Biochemistry
- ii. Med Histology
- iii. Med Immunology (not offered currently)
- iv. Med Embryology
- v. Med Physiology
 - 1. CV
 - 2. Kidneys
 - 3. Lungs
 - 4. GI
 - 5. Reproduction
- vi. Med Anatomy (no lab)
 - 1. CV
 - 2. Kidneys
 - 3. Lungs
 - 4. GI
 - 5. Reproduction

b. Grad classes

- i. Grad Pharm

- ii. Grad Anatomy (no lab)
 - iii. Nutrition
 - iv. Grad Physiology
- 3) Something they wished they knew coming into the program
 - a. I was pretty stressed about the grading scheme coming into the program but in hindsight, they are pretty fair. It isn't one final exam that decides your grade, you also have small assignments, quizzes, etc. to gain more points towards your grade. BUT, a majority of your points from the final exam.
- 4) Something they would like to tell incoming students about your program
 - a. I wouldn't be in medical school now if it wasn't for this program. Treat it with respect, work hard, leave your immaturities at home, and use all the resources this program offers. Also, find what works for you. Everyone has their own system. A lot of people did Anki, I didn't. I mostly just read MNTS and pulled all-nighters before exams.
 - b. Also, a 4.0 in the SMP does not equal an automatic acceptance into GUSoM or anywhere else. Try to live a little while you are in Washington, DC and make some friends.
- 5) Tips for students applying to your program
 - a. If you are a strong applicant coming into the program, apply to like 10-15 schools during the program. If you are a borderline applicant, just apply to GUSoM and your state schools. If you aren't a great applicant (need to retake MCAT, volunteer more, more clinical experience, etc.), don't attend this program until you have got all of that squared away. Basically, have all (or most) of your ducks lined up before applying to this program. Make it so that the only thing that you need to fix is your GPA.
- 6) Did it help you get into medical school/dental school/etc.?
 - a. Yes, I was accepted to GUSoM.
- 7) Anything else you'd like to add?
 - a. It is a great program, but risky for some. It is not a guaranteed acceptance to any school. It is not a guaranteed acceptance to GUSoM. If you don't do very well in this program, it will be really hard to get into medical school with the exception that you get into a school while you are in the program or you go to a non-US MD school.
- 8) A rating from 1-5 (1 being the worst (no recommendation) to 5 (full recommendation))
 - a. 4.8 – great program, but always room for a little improvement

Note to students reading: This is my sole opinion. The program worked for me, so it is likely a positively biased account of my experience. I tried to remain as objective as possible when answering these questions.