

# TCNJ / NJMS 7-year BS MD Information Session



We keep it simple.

# Who are we?

- **Chanelle Lester, J.D.**
  - Assistant Dean, School of Science
- **Wendy Clement, Ph.D.**
  - Professor of Biology
  - Chair, Department of Biology
- **Sudhir Nayak, Ph.D.**
  - Professor of Biology
  - Director, 7-Year Medical Programs
  - Chair, Medical Careers Advisory Committee



# Presentation goal - common questions

- Application criteria
- Selection criteria
- Timeline
- Structure
- Other
  - Majors, MCAT, AP / transfer credits, flexibility, minors (second majors), study abroad
- **Provide information so you can make the best decision**

# Visit our pages!

- Information
  - [7-year BS MD](#)
  - [Medical Careers](#)
- Student organizations
  - [TCNJ AMSA](#)
  - TCNJ MAPS (being updated)
  - [TCNJ Alpha Zeta](#)
  - [TCNJ Delta Epsilon Mu](#)

# Application criteria

- **SAT:** 1400 (math + verbal)
  - One sitting
    - Selected student average  $\approx$ 1530 (range 1400-1600)
  - ACT considered, SAT preferred
- **Class rank:** Top 5% of class (if applicable)\*
- **GPA:** >3.8/4.0 cumulative (unweighted GPA)
- **Secondary testing:** AP, SAT II
  - Recommended, not required
- **Other:** Should have some exposure to medical field, volunteering, participant and leadership experience

# Application criteria

- Supplemental application
  - **Don't take this lightly**
  - Get a better understanding of the applicant
- Essays
  - Essays on current events, goals, reactions, opinions, personal situations
  - Thoughtful reactions over ChatGPT style word dumps
- Additional reporting of AP scores, activities, etc.

# Selection criteria - no secrets

- **Academic**
  - SAT/ACT, AP exam performance
  - Course selection and transcript
  - Suitability for major selected
- **Letters of recommendation**
  - Academic, personal, medical
- **Experience**
  - Medical, volunteer, leadership, experience consistent with major
- **Lived experience**
  - First generation college, PELL eligible, etc.
  - Secondary essays and information
- **Interview (TCNJ)**

# Selection criteria by the numbers

- $\approx 450$  complete application
- 80-100 granted interviews at TCNJ
- 40-80 granted interviews at NJMS
- 50-60 admitted
- 5-25 attend TCNJ



# Timeline (2023) - Important deadlines

- Application: **November 1**
- Application Completion: **December 1**
- Supplemental Application: **December 7\***
  - Two weeks of receipt or Dec 7, whichever comes first
- TCNJ interview: **November 15 to February 21\***
  - Notified by December 20th
- NJMS interview: **Rolling through 3rd week of March\***
  - Determined by the medical school

# What if I don't get in?

- TCNJ has one of the best rates of admission to medical school in the country
- We consistently double the national average
  - National average: 43%
  - TCNJ: 78%
  - **Does not include 7-year students!**
- Similar trends for dental, optometry, podiatry, and other health careers

# How do we do it?

- Excellent students
- Rigorous coursework
- Extensive support
- Data-driven academic advising
- Advising for parents
- Student groups
- Information sharing

# The program structure is simple

- **3 years at TCNJ**

- Choice of STEM or non-STEM majors
  - Opportunity for second majors, minors, concentrations, certificates
  - Based on student interest
- Study abroad in most cases

- **4 years at NJMS**

- NJMS 4-year medical school curriculum
  - BS granted after successful completion of year 1
  - MD granted after successful completion of year 4

# TCNJ details (3 years)

- 4 units / semester x 6 semesters\* (24 units, 3 years)
  - Transfer credits does not count toward 24 credits
    - AP, community college, associate degree, etc.
  - **If you enter with more, you are expected to do more**
    - Second major, minor, etc.
- Must be in full-load all semesters (4 units)
  - **Overload is not permitted in any of the 7-year programs (no exceptions)**
- BME has a different structure

# TCNJ details (3 years)

- GPA requirement
  - 3.5 or higher (cumulative and in-major)
    - Roughly a B+
- Minimum grade
  - A- in any introductory biology or chemistry course
  - B- in any course
- Course work
  - 24 courses at TCNJ
    - 2 STEM courses per semester are required\*

# NJMS details (4 years)

- TCNJ degree is awarded after the successful completion of the first year of medical school
  - First year of medical school “double counts” as the TCNJ senior year
- Medical degree awarded after completion of 4 years of medical school
  - Passing USMLE exams, classes, practicum, etc.
- 3 years at TCNJ + 4 years at NJMS = 7-year BS MD

# The program is flexible

- Add a major/minor (most 7-years)
- Study abroad for a full semester (summer / winter)
  - 3rd year either fall or spring\*
  - BME summer/winter only
- **No summer work required**
  - Summer engagement in coursework, research, medical, or volunteer work is encouraged
  - Research is not required, no extracurricular work is required



# Do I have to major in biology?

- **STEM:** Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, Math, Biomedical Engineering
- **Non-STEM:** English, Philosophy, Economics, Spanish, History
- **No advantage to selecting a particular major**
  - The committee does consider suitability
    - E.g. selecting Biomedical Engineering with no experience in engineering

# Is there a minimum MCAT requirement?

- “Is there really no MCAT minimum score for the program?”
- “Is there going to be an MCAT requirement?”
  - “Will there be an MCAT requirement for the 2023 class?”
- “Do I have to take the MCAT?”
  - “When do I have to take the MCAT?”
- “What if I do poorly on the MCAT?”
  - “Is the MCAT score important?”
- “Do 7-year students do well on the MCAT?”
  - “What is the 7-year MCAT average?”
- “Do all the 7-year majors have to take the MCAT?”
- **“Why is there no MCAT score requirement for the TCNJ program?”**
- Many, many, more.....

# MCAT expectations and performance

- **There is no minimum MCAT score for this program**
  - 30+ years
  - This can be changed at the discretion of the medical school
  - The expectation is that students score >90th percentile
- **7-year MCAT average: 517-519 (95-99th percentile)**
  - Multiple 100th percentile scores in the last 5 years

# Why are MCAT scores so high?????

- Best predictors of success (residency)
  - High GPA
  - High MCAT
  - High medical school class rank
- Our 7-year students at NJMS
  - Highest average GPA
  - Highest average MCAT
  - Highest percent in the top 10%

# Questions?