

## Resources and Points of Contact for SMCM Students Considering Health Careers

Here at St. Mary's, general advising of students exploring a career in the health professions is provided by the Career Development Center (CDC), and support for the application process is provided by the Health Sciences Advisory Committee (HSAC), which is led by Dr. Karen Crawford in Biology. HSAC was established to advise all students with an interest in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, osteopathy, optometry, podiatry, or other health sciences. It also provides institutional recommendation letters to graduate or medical schools for all students who, in the judgment of the committee, are qualified for graduate study in one of the health sciences. The pre-health club on campus, St. Mary's Advising Students in Health (SMASH), is also an excellent source of information and peer mentorship.

The purpose of this handout is to help you understand which resources and services are provided in what office so that you can easily determine where to go to meet your current needs.

### HSAC: Health Sciences Advisory Committee (Dr. Karen Crawford)

x4598 ~ 262 Schaefer ~ kcrawford@smcm.edu

- Meeting to discuss the application process and the role of HSAC, and to begin an HSAC application file (fall of the sophomore year, following submission of the HSAC application form)
- Storage of your HSAC application file, as well as ongoing exploration and organization of file contents (academic records, admission test scores, letters, and personal statements)
- Collection of professional recommendation letters from employers, professors, etc.
- Guidance on the professional school application process and timeline
- Discussion of expected/suggested courses and the means through which St. Mary's students typically meet them
- Provision of feedback on personal statements
- Assistance with selection of your HSAC committee members and scheduling of mock interviews
- HSAC interview in the spring of the junior year, which forms the basis for the institutional recommendation letter (application file must be complete before the interview)
- Institutional recommendation letter that is sent to each school to which you apply
- Participation in mock medical school interviews

### Career Development Center

<http://www.smcm.edu/careercenter/> ~ x4203 ~ 211 Glendening Hall ~ careercenter@smcm.edu

- Resources for exploring the wide array of career options available in the health care industry
- Tools for determining which occupations might be best suited to your interests, abilities, and values
- MentorNet, the SMCM alumni/parent network, in which you can search for professionals in your field of interest who may be interested in providing professional guidance and contacts
- Resources for identifying jobs as well as paid, credit, and volunteer internships in health care and research settings (**Note that the student volunteer program at St. Mary's Hospital is coordinated by SMASH**)
- Mock MCAT exams (note that information and sample tests for all admission tests are available online)
- Books on health careers, the application process, and preparing for admission tests
- Resources for creating and revising personal statements, resumes, and vitas, as well as feedback on these documents

### Additional Resources at SMCM

\*Elaine Szymkowiak and other biology faculty/staff are excellent resources for identifying biomedical internships and research positions

\*Health Science Blackboard Site <http://courses.smcm.edu/>

(Click on the "Courses" tab and enter "Health Science Career" in the search window on the left. Then click "Enroll" to enroll yourself. You can get to the SMASH Blackboard site this way as well)

\*Additional sources of information and advice include students in SMASH, your academic advisor, the SMCM catalog, and the Coordinator of Orientation and Service in Student Activities