

GEMS
THE GEORGETOWN EXPERIMENTAL MEDICAL STUDIES PROGRAM
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
2011-2012

1. How competitive is the GEMS Program?

Admissions to the GEMS Program is competitive. In 2008, 149 applied and 27 acceptances were offered. There were 210 applications in 2009 and 27 applicants were accepted. Last year 178 applied and 31 were accepted.

2. What is the admissions process?

Completed applications are reviewed by the GEMS Admissions Committee which is comprised of members of the medical school faculty and staff, physician graduates of the GEMS Program and former GEMS students. Incomplete applications are not reviewed. Each member of the Committee reviews the application. The Committee meets for a discussion of each applicant and the Committee decides by majority vote, if the candidate will be invited to spend a day at Georgetown to be interviewed. Candidates who are not invited to interview will not be accepted to the GEMS Program.

Final decisions on interviewees are made following a second review by each member of the Committee. To arrive at final decisions the Committee meets to discuss the applicant's interview and test results, and votes to accept or reject the applicant. Final decisions will be made on all GEMS applications by May 27, 2011.

3. Are interviews required?

Yes, interviews are required for acceptance to the GEMS Program. Last year 29% of applicants were invited to interview and 61% of applicants who were interviewed were offered acceptances. Applicants who are invited to interview will spend a full day at Georgetown, meet with faculty and staff, tour the school, meet former and current GEMS students and complete a series of cognitive assessments. The GEMS Program is not able to assist applicants with travel arrangements or expenses. Interviews are scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2011 or Monday, May 2, 2011.

4. What kind of tests are administered to interviewees and how will the results be utilized?

The tests will assess science knowledge, study skills and non-cognitive attributes. No preparation is required. The tests will provide additional information to the GEMS Admissions Committee and assist the Program administrators in defining appropriate support for accepted students.

5. What type of student is the GEMS Admissions Committee seeking?

The Committee is especially interested in students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are most likely to make a significant contribution to the medical care of the nation's disadvantaged and under-served populations. The Committee seeks mature, highly motivated, disciplined, assertive learners with modest undergraduate grades and MCAT scores. Most of the students accepted to the GEMS Program would be considered "high risk," if MCAT's and science grades were the only admissions criteria. The average cumulative science grade point averages and combined MCAT scores of the three most recent GEMS group were:

Year	Sci. GPA	Combined MCAT (excluding writing score)
2008	2.79	23.6
2009	2.91	23.0
2010	2.82	23.5

6. How successful are GEMS students; how many are admitted to Georgetown University School of Medicine?

Based on their successful performance during the GEMS year, 75% of GEMS students that matriculated in the program between 2005 and 2009 have been admitted to Georgetown University School of Medicine.

7. Georgetown launched an integrated medical sciences curriculum in August 2008. Students accepted to the 2011 GEMS Program will complete courses selected from the first year course requirements and be graded in the same manner as freshman medical students. The grades are Honors, High Pass, Pass or Fail, corresponding to a 3 point scale. An internal grade, designated, "Low Pass" corresponds to the lowest 10% of the class. A grade of "Low Pass" or Fail results in dismissal from the GEMS Program. A graduate level Biochemistry course and Pathophysiology Course will be taken with other graduate students at the school of medicine and are graded in the same manner as medical courses. GEMS students also complete elective courses which are graded "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory". An "Unsatisfactory" grade results in dismissal from the GEMS Program.

8. What courses will former GEMS students take if they are admitted to Georgetown University?

If admitted, a GEMS student can re-take all medical courses taken during the GEMS year and the remaining first year courses. Most former GEMS students seek and are granted exemption from the medical courses completed during the GEMS year.

9. Describe a typical day for the GEMS students.

GEMS students begin their day at 8:00 a.m. and participate in facilitated small group learning sessions, or monitored independent study, quiz sessions and lectures. GEMS is a full-time experience and students rarely finish scheduled activities before 5 p.m.

10. How much will the GEMS experience cost?

GEMS students must cover the cost of books, materials and living expenses, room and board, travel and health insurance. Tuition and fees for 2010 - 2011 was \$18,138. Actual costs of participation in the GEMS Program vary depending on the student's living arrangements.

11. How do GEMS students cover the cost of the GEMS year?

Eligible GEMS students borrow under the Stafford Loan Program and supplement these funds with loans from private non-government sources, savings, summer earnings and family contributions.

12. How do former GEMS students perform on the United States Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE).

USMLE Step 1 is required of all Georgetown medical students at the end of the sophomore year. Passing is a prerequisite to enter the third year of medical study. Nearly all GEMS students pass on the first attempt. USMLE Step 2 is required and passing is a graduation requirement. Former GEMS' performance on Step 2 is comparable to performance on Step 1.