About Acceptance Rates of Salisbury University Students Into Health Programs

SU Health Professions Advising Program
Sorry to disappoint you...

• If you clicked here and were hoping to see what percent of Salisbury University students get into medical school, physical therapy school, etc., we’re sorry to disappoint you.

• It’s a good question to want to know how many SU students get into professional schools, but there is not a good answer.

• PLEASE, read through this presentation! It contains important insights into this problem.
“Lies, damned lies and statistics”

- Mark Twain famously stated that there are “lies, damned lies and statistics”.
- Trying to boil down the experiences of hundreds of unique Salisbury University students into simple statistics is inaccurate at best and grossly misleading at worst.
- When we resist giving students the simple and convenient “percentage of people who got in”, it is not because we’re withholding information. It is because we want to engage students in a conversation about what’s required to get into health profession schools, what they can do to realize that achievement and what we can do here to help.
- We also want to discuss important milestones- grades, clinical experience, entrance exam scores - so that students can judge for themselves whether or not they are realistic candidates.
How statistics can be flawed

• To illustrate the problems with statistics, imagine that you went to an elementary school and measured every child’s height and every child’s reading ability. You would find, over and over again, that, on average, taller children read better.

• Why? In an elementary school, the taller children are older.

• This illustrates the fundamental difficulty of trying to calculate how many SU students gain entrance into professional schools and when.

• The simple question of “who got in and who didn’t” ignores lots of other variables and doesn’t include how the students selected for the statistics were chosen.
What should we do?

• A large number of students entering as freshmen declare pre-medical, pre-dental, etc. tracks initially. By the time they’re in their senior year, only about 10% remain competitive and apply to the professional schools of their choice.

• There are lots reasons why only 10% remain competitive; students find a career choice more interesting to them, they decide they don’t want to go to school for as long as it takes to become a physician or veterinarian, they find out they just don’t like science, etc.

• Do we count everyone who ever declared a medical major when we compute percent of people who get in?

• What about people who change their major right away? What about people who change their major late?

• What about transfer students?
What should we do? (cont.)

• If we only compute statistics on the students who were serious enough to apply, then our acceptance rates look phenomenal as compared to using the total number of students who initially came to SU with a health career in mind.

• Many people trying to comparison shop colleges simply want to know the likelihood that they will get in without regard to any other qualifying information. That qualifying information, however, is very important.

• Individual talent, initiative, ability and personality all factor in to who is accepted and who is not. It will never be possible to predict the likelihood that any single person from SU or any other school will get into professional school without knowing more.
It’s even harder still...

• There are still other complexities.
• How do we handle students who apply multiple times and eventually get in?
• It would be great to not count the times they tried and failed and only count when they got in, but is that ok?
• How do we handle alumni who applied later after graduation? Do we still get credit for them years later?
What candidates are “realistic”? 

• Salisbury University serves only an advisory role, and students can choose to apply even if their grades or entrance exam scores are not realistic for admission.

• Should we count all students from SU who applied, or only those we recommended to apply?

• It would be great to only count realistic applicants, but identifying “realistic” is subjective and might be unreasonable manipulation of the statistics.
How many years should we count?

- Suppose we actually figure out WHO we’re going to count. Do we present only last year’s acceptance rate?
- How about the last 5, 10 or 15 years?
- Every university has bad years and good years for acceptance. Selectively choosing which years to include manipulates the data.
Is there an answer?

• So, what are the acceptance rates of Salisbury University students into various programs?
• It depends on how you look at it, and it also depends on the unique characteristics of every student.
• If the student is dedicated to attending a post-undergraduate professional health related program (e.g., physician, veterinarian, optometrist, etc.) and takes advantage of all of the learning opportunities and other resources Salisbury University has to offer, the likelihood of succeeding is maximized.
• Come talk to a Health Profession Advisory Program advisor who will be happy to get you started on your own path to success.
National and Regional Statistics

- To assist you, recent statistics on applicant profiles for various professions are on the next slide.
- This is also information we review with students in HPAP sessions.
- Information is power, and we can promise to try to keep you informed.
## RECENT USA HEALTH CARE GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSION DATA

Accessed from [www.naahp.org](http://www.naahp.org) on May 28, 2013. AAVMC data shown from within 5 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Average GPA of accepted students (overall/science)</th>
<th>Entrance Exam Average</th>
<th>Unrepeated applicants per available seat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Medicine</td>
<td>3.55/3.47</td>
<td>DAT average of accepted students = 19.9</td>
<td>~2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>3.68/3.63</td>
<td>MCAT average of accepted students = 31.2</td>
<td>~2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optometry</td>
<td>GPA range of accepted students 3.28-3.92</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>~5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopathic Medicine</td>
<td>3.47/3.35</td>
<td>MCAT average of accepted students = 26.2</td>
<td>~3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>3.38/3.26</td>
<td>PCAT average of accepted students = 53%</td>
<td>~7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
<td>3.28/3.18</td>
<td>GRE average of accepted students = 9 Analytical, 585 Quant, 463 Verbal</td>
<td>~8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
<td>3.32/3.10</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>~5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podiatry</td>
<td>3.22/3.11</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td>GPA range of accepted students 3.26-3.77</td>
<td>GRE ranges of accepted students Verbal- 394-604, Quantitative 510-725 and Analytical 4-5</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>