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# SPECIAL UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

The programs described in this section address special opportunities available to Rockhurst University students.

## **Honors Program**

Rockhurst offers the Honors Program for outstanding students who want to make the very most of their education. Students are invited into the Honors Program based upon their college entrance test scores and their academic standing in their high school graduating class. Transfer students are eligible to apply.

Honors Program students take a specially designed curriculum which substitutes for courses normally required of all Rockhurst students. While fulfilling the honors curriculum and pursuing graduation from the Honors Program, students can complete the requirements for any major area of study at Rockhurst. The honors curriculum exposes students to some of the most innovative courses and best professors at Rockhurst. Students take a minimum of 18 hours of designated coursework in order to graduate from the Honors Program.

At the heart of the honors curriculum is a two-semester Integrated Humanities course sequence which integrates history, literature, and art and a one-semester rhetoric and communication course that is offered in the spring term. In addition, during their first and second years students are required to take other honors courses in philosophy, theology, and natural and social sciences. Students (after the first year) also have the opportunity to take advantage of the honors option. This allows a student to pursue a topic of interest under the supervision of a professor-mentor.

Honors Program students receive other special educational benefits. Some of these benefits are: 1) priority registration; 2) special honors advisers; 3) participation at National Collegiate Honors Council and Great Plains Regional meetings; 4) camaraderie and a support network with other honors students.

Additional information on the Honors Program may be obtained from the director of the Honors Program.

## **The Freshman Incentive Program**

The Freshman Incentive Program is designed for students who have the potential to succeed as undergraduates but who do not meet all the formal criteria for admission to Rockhurst. The Admission Subcommittee considers students for admission under the Freshman Incentive Program only if their ACT scores show either a Composite score of 18 or above, or English and Mathematics scores of 17 or below. When it deliberates whether to admit a student under the Freshman Incentive Program, the Subcommittee considers evidence that the student is likely to have potential to complete an undergraduate degree. Such evidence may include impressions from a personal interview with the student, strong high school grades and rank in class; letters of recommendation that specifically and positively address the student's potential for success in the light of the student's weak or modest record; strong record of extracurricular activity, especially in leadership roles; clear evidence that the student's weak or modest record is explained by some specific problem, together with clear evidence that the problem has been solved or at least appropriately addressed.

All students admitted by the Admissions Subcommittee whose ACT scores fall within the above range will be admitted to the University on the condition that they enroll in the Freshman Incentive Program.

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The College of Arts and Sciences places students admitted under this program into selected courses. The Learning Center provides Freshman Incentive Program students with tutoring and other academic support designed to help them succeed academically. The Director of New Students provides counseling and other support to these students during their first year. The University admits up to approximately 20 students annually under the Freshman Incentive Program. During their first year at Rockhurst, students in the Freshman Incentive Program take no more than 14 credit hours each semester. During that first year they are also required to:

- ◆ Enroll in one of the University's three Freshman Seminars.
- ◆ Enroll in specific FIP lecture courses each semester of the first year.
- ◆ Attend an orientation to the Learning Center during their first semester on campus.
- ◆ Participate in four skills workshops offered by the Learning Center during the fall semester.
- ◆ Participate each week in 10 hours of tutoring or other assistance arranged with the Learning Center.
- ◆ Meet with their academic advisor at least once a month.
- ◆ Meet with the Director of New Students at least once a month.

When students admitted to the Freshman Incentive Program successfully complete their first two semesters at Rockhurst, they continue their studies in the same manner as other Rockhurst undergraduates.

### **The Center for Service Learning**

Rockhurst University inspires in its students a commitment to service to the larger community. The Center for Service Learning fosters this commitment through campus-wide community service projects, assistance with individual volunteer opportunities, and service learning projects designed with faculty to complement academic courses.

The Center organizes the Finucane Service Project during Orientation Week (for new freshmen) and the Van Ackeren Service Project during Senior Week (for graduating seniors), both of which involve work in the local community. In addition, the Center sponsors a variety of service projects in which students may participate throughout their academic career. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in community service during their time at Rockhurst.

Upon completion of volunteer projects and service learning activities, students submit a form with a record of the project to the Center for Service Learning. Students' service hours with not-for-profit agencies are recorded on a service transcript, which is available to the student upon request.

The Center for Service Learning is located in Van Ackeren Hall, Rooms 208/210, telephone 816-501-4545 or 816-501-4642.

### **Career Services**

The mission of Career Services is to assist students in assessing their talents and interests, identifying their career goals, and learning career planning and job search strategies. The professional counseling staff provides individual career counseling, the Campbell Interest and Skill Survey, the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator, SIGI+(a computerized interactive career decision making program), and career planning classes for credit (CT 1120 for sophomores and CT 4220 for seniors).

Workshops are available on topics such as choosing a major, networking, interviewing, and job search strategies. Opportunities for career-related, work based learning are provided through the Goppert Cooperative Education Program, work-study opportunities, part-time jobs, paid and unpaid internships. Over 50 employers recruit annually through on-campus interviews. Students are encouraged to register for a personal Job Search Account during their Junior year. It allows students to post an approved résumé, sign up for on-campus interviews, and meet recruiters looking for their specific talents and degree. The Career Services Web site has links to local and national job listings, as well as job search tips, the RAP Guide and current announcements. Employees may post positions to the site directly.

### **Goppert Cooperative Education Program (Co-op)**

This program provides an excellent opportunity to apply skills and knowledge in a professional work environment before graduation. Participants are able to make more informed decisions on their career direction after experience in their field of study.

Co-op is a structured, paid internship program. Work periods correspond in length to a semester or a summer break. Academic credit is earned for each work period. Two hours of credit are given for a full-time work period (minimum of 36 hours per week) and one hour of credit is given for a half-time work period (minimum of 18 hours per week). Full-time undergraduates can earn up to six hours of elective credit toward degree requirements. In addition to academic credit, a letter grade is awarded based on the employer's evaluation of the student's work performance and an assigned work project paper submitted by the student. (CP 3910, CP 3920, CP 3930)

To be eligible for the program, students must complete 60 hours prior to the first work period and maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA. Transfer students must complete one semester of full-time classes at Rockurst prior to starting a work position. Students are selected for positions through a competitive interview process.

Prior to beginning their Co-op experience, students are required to take CP 1000 Introduction to Cooperative Education, which is a zero credit seminar in which they review resumes, interview skills, professional dress and work standard.

#### **CP 1000. Introduction to Cooperative Education**

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A zero credit-hour seminar regarding résumé development, interview techniques, professional dress and business etiquette. The course is a mandatory prerequisite for CP 3910, 3920, and 3930 Co-op Work Projects I, II, III.

#### **CP 3910, 3920, 3930. Co-op Work Projects I, II, III**

(1-2)

Work experience that is off-campus, paid, full-time and/or half-time, giving students exposure to

employment in various organizations. Ideally, employment will be in an area as closely related to the student's major as possible. Students must be full-time undergraduates, have completed 60 hours of college work prior to the first work period, and have a minimum 2.0 GPA. Transfer students must complete one semester of classes at Rockhurst before their first work period. Up to six hours of elective credit is available through Co-op. Prerequisite or concurrent: CP 1000.

### **The Washington Center for Academic Internships**

Sophomores and above with a grade point average of at least 2.50 are eligible to apply for a Washington Center internship. The Washington Center arranges internships with a wide range of government agencies, not-for-profit groups, corporations, and advocacy organizations. Uniquely well-qualified to offer a well-rounded and academically rigorous learning experience, in addition to the internship, the Washington Center requires its interns to participate in weekly seminars, undergo regular evaluation, and take part in other Center

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activities. Students can earn between 12 and 15 hours of credit for their experience at the Washington Center: six hours for the internship, three hours for the seminar, and three to six hours of independent study credit arranged with the prior approval of the student's academic adviser.

### **The New York City Semester (with Fordham University)**

Fordham University offers Rockhurst students with a grade point average of at least 3.00 academic internships in New York City during the summer. Placements are available in most academic areas, but are especially easy to obtain in the field of communications, art, theatre, international relations, urban policy, and business. The internship is supplemented by courses and seminars taught by members of Fordham's faculty. Students can earn up to six hours of credit from Fordham University for successful completion of the program.

### **Pre-Law**

The American Association of Law Schools and the Committee on Pre-legal Education recommends an undergraduate degree program with a strong liberal arts education content, which complements the Core Curriculum, assists in preparing the student for the Law Scholastic Aptitude Test, and enhances the student's success in law. Those students interested in pre-law should contact the pre-law advisor who provides and assists with preparation for admission to law school, as well as legal career counseling.

### **The Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental Program**

Rockhurst University has a very active program for those who wish to pursue a career in medicine or dentistry. Its liberal arts core, along with a major in biology or chemistry, meets all the medical and dental school requirements of science and non-science courses.

From the first declaration of intention, the pre-medical or pre-dental student is assigned a member of the Pre-medical and Pre-dental Advisory Committee as academic adviser. The function of the adviser is to see that students meet the course work requirements on schedule and to encourage them to maintain high performance and motivation. The adviser will also provide catalogs, literature and guidance about medical or dental school requirements. The adviser also counsels students on the MCAT (Medical College Aptitude Test) or the DAT (Dental Aptitude Tests) which are usually taken at the end of the third year of college.

Finally, the Pre-medical and Pre-dental Committee interviews the prospective applicant during the junior year and writes the official letter of recommendation. Pre-medical and pre-dental students are encouraged to consult frequently with their advisors concerning their course work. The chairpersons of the Pre-medical and Pre-dental Advisory Committee are members of the American Association of Advisors to the Health Professions.

### **The Pre-Medical Scholars Program**

By arrangement between Rockhurst University and Saint Louis University, students interested in attending Saint Louis University's medical school may obtain early acceptance into its MD program — normally after the end of their sophomore year. To become a Pre-Medical Scholar, a student must have a strong high school academic record, strong letters of recommendation, and ACT or SAT scores in the 90th percentile. The Rockhurst University Pre-Medical Advisory Committee invites students into this program upon their entrance into the College of Arts and Sciences.

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## **The Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program**

The Pre-Medical Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program is intended for those students who have completed a baccalaureate program, usually in a non-science area, and who now desire to come back to school to complete their science requirements for medical school. This program is applicable to those preparing for either allopathic (MD) or osteopathic (DO) medical schools. It is also appropriate as preparation for other health careers, e.g. dentistry. The requirements do not differ.

This program is not intended as a remedial program for students who have taken all of the required courses and need to improve their grades. It is not an “MCAT prep” course.

The applicant will be a strong student, one who will probably be competitive in a medical school application. Therefore, one’s collegiate grades are generally B or better. There are no strict cut-off grades for admission to the program. Rockhurst prides itself on individual attention to each student; hence many factors will go into one’s acceptance into this certificate program. This program has great flexibility.

The Admissions Committee and the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee review applications throughout the year. Students are informed by mail shortly after the decisions are made. An interview is not required, though it may be desired.

The prospective student must supply the following before the application can be acted on:

1. Completed application form.
2. Official transcripts from all previous colleges, and ACT or SAT scores.
3. Application fee of \$25.
4. An essay explaining your intentions (not more than 500 words) on the application.

Students who complete this program with satisfactory grades will be awarded a Certificate in Premedical Sciences.

Additional information concerning the program and an application for admission to the program may be obtained from:

**Office of Graduate Admission**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Rockhurst University**  
**1100 Rockhurst Road**  
**Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2561**  
**(816) 501-3590**  
**<http://www.rockhurst.edu/3.0/admission/graduate>**

## **The Pre-Physician Assistants Program**

Rockhurst offers a four-year pre-professional program for students interested in pursuing a Master of Physician Assistant degree. This program, based in the Division of Natural Sciences, leads to a BS degree and provides students with the undergraduate courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and math necessary to pursue an advanced professional degree. Students interested in this program should consult with the pre-physician assistants advisor.

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## **The Pre-Engineering Program**

Pre-Engineering students have the option of completing an engineering degree at an affiliated school of engineering: Marquette University, the University of Detroit-Mercy, or the University of Missouri at Rolla. If they so desire, they may arrange to receive a dual degree from both Rockhurst University and the school of engineering they select.

## **The Occupational Therapy Education Program**

The Occupational Therapy Education Program accommodates and encourages multiple points of entry. These include opportunities for freshman pre-admission, occupational therapy scholars, entry during the final year of undergraduate coursework, transfer and post-baccalaureate students.

### **Freshman Pre-Admission**

Exceptional students may be awarded a freshman pre-admission guarantee to the Occupational Therapy Program. These positions are awarded on a competitive basis, based on a combination of ACT and SAT scores, high school grades, letters of recommendation, and a personal interview with a member of the Occupational Therapy Admissions Committee.

### **Occupational Therapy Scholars**

Rockhurst students with outstanding academic work may apply for advanced admission status through the Occupational Therapy Scholars Program. Occupational Therapy Scholars must present with a science and cumulative grade point average of 3.4 at the time of application, the beginning of their junior year. These students begin the Occupational Therapy Program concurrent with their senior year (4th year).

### **Transfer and Post-Baccalaureate**

Students transferring to Rockhurst and students with a completed baccalaureate degree are encouraged to apply upon completion of the majority of their prerequisite coursework.

### **Rolling Admissions**

The Rockhurst University OT Program utilizes a rolling admission process; i.e., qualified applicants are accepted until a class of 38 is selected. Applications are reviewed based on the admissions requirements detailed in the application packet. Applicants will be scheduled for an interview within two weeks of our receipt of the application. Applications will be notified within two weeks following the interview regarding admission status.

The Rockhurst University Occupational Therapy Program is designed as an entry-level master's degree program with two sequences available: the Rockhurst undergraduate-to-graduate (3+3) sequence and the graduate (4+3) sequence. Full or part-time sequences are available to all students enrolled in the Program. The master's curriculum, including fieldwork, is a three-year program.

## **The Physical Therapy Pre-Admission Guarantee**

Exceptional students may be awarded a freshman pre-admission guarantee to the Physical Therapy Program. These positions are awarded on a competitive basis, based on a combination of ACT or SAT scores, high school grades and class rank, letters of recommendation, and a personal interview with a member of the Physical Therapy Admissions Committee.

## **The Physical Therapy Scholars Program**

Students who enter Rockhurst as freshmen and who are interested in pursuing a Master of Physical Therapy degree may apply for early acceptance to the University's Physical Ther-

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apy graduate program. To be eligible they must maintain a science and cumulative grade point average of 3.4. Prospective Physical Therapy Scholars apply for advanced admission status at the end of their sophomore year, and if accepted, may begin taking professional physical therapy courses during their senior year. Physical Therapy Scholars must complete their baccalaureate degree by the end of their senior (fourth) year.

### **Army ROTC**

Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) is a program of college course instruction which leads to a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, either on active duty, in the Army reserves, or in the National Guard. The Army offers a multi-tiered scholarship program based on academic merit, physical fitness, school service and activities, as well as, potential for leadership. The amount of scholarship award varies from about \$4,000 per academic year to roughly \$14,000. Rockhurst students participate in ROTC through the Army's regional ROTC detachment which serves students attending Rockhurst, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Avila College. "ROTC House" is located within a short walking distance of Rockhurst, on the campus of UMKC. Rockhurst students who would like information on this program should contact the Director for Academic Advising, College of Arts and Sciences, for assistance. High school seniors who are selected for the Army ROTC scholarship and wish to apply for acceptance at Rockhurst are strongly encouraged to do so.

### **The Center for Arts and Letters**

The Center for Arts and Letters supports the University's mission of instilling a love of learning and an awareness of moral responsibility in its students by offering events that assist the faculty in accomplishing that mission. These events include a range of cultural offerings: lectures, performances, readings, films, study trips and exhibits. The Center sponsors these programs: Center for Global Studies, Center Study Trip, Visiting Scholar Lecture Series, Rockhurst University Theatre Program, Return to the Classics, Film Series, Plays-in-Progress Workshop, Musica Sacra of Kansas City, the *Rockhurst Review*, Midwest Poets Series, Greenlease Gallery, Community Forum, Van Ackeren Gallery, Rockhurst University Chorus, Chamber Singers, and Women's Chorale.

### **International Study**

Rockhurst students are encouraged to study abroad in any one of a number of accredited programs that literally open the classroom door to the world. Numerous well established programs are available in most places around the world, and our students have studied in a wide variety of countries, from Austria to China—and most places in between. Students studying abroad are registered as full-time Rockhurst students, and may apply state or federal aid they receive toward the cost of studying abroad.

A principal avenue to international study for Rockhurst students is through the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. This cooperative association of sister Jesuit schools—the largest private association of schools in the country—offers a variety of excellent programs and greatly facilitates the administrative process of application and credit transfer for our students. These programs are especially popular because of the commonality of concern among the Jesuit schools for a strong commitment to a liberal education. Therefore, many international programs offered by Jesuit colleges and universities reflect shared academic values and a commonality of course content. Students are able to take elective courses as well as to keep their major program of study on track while learning first hand of the cultural life in distant lands.

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*Programs of international study available through the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities include the following:*

- ◆ **Beijing.** Loyola Marymount University offers both undergraduate and graduate programs during fall, spring and summer semesters. Instruction in English focuses on business administration, cultural studies, Chinese language, religion and philosophy.
- ◆ **Bonn.** Loyola Marymount University offers a year or spring semester of study in Bonn, Germany. Instruction in English focuses on business administration, communication, cultural studies, fine arts, French, German, history, philosophy, psychology, and sociology.
- ◆ **Florence.** Gonzaga University provides a year-long course of study in Northern Italy at Florence.
- ◆ **Madrid.** St. Louis University maintains its own fully established campus in Madrid offering Rockhurst students the opportunity to continue their normal studies in social sciences, fine and performing arts, mathematics, business administration, humanities, physical and natural sciences (in English) or to take extensive elective courses in Spanish.
- ◆ **Mexico City.** Loyola University of New Orleans offers both a summer and full-semester program of courses through the Jesuit Universidad Iberoamericana, one of the leading private universities in Latin America.
- ◆ **Orleans.** St. Louis University also offers instruction through Orleans University in France to students who are proficient in French. A wide variety of general academic programs are available in addition to advanced courses in French.
- ◆ **Rome.** Students may attend the University of Loyola Chicago's Rome Center, which offers (English) courses in classical studies, economics, communications, finance, fine arts, history, management, philosophy, political science, sociology, theology, and Italian. Students may attend for a semester or year.
- ◆ **Strasbourg.** Marquette University offers a spring semester in Strasbourg for students who have completed two years of French.

*Rockhurst programs of international study:*

- ◆ **Mexico.** Students may attend a summer program of intensive study in Spanish at several locations in Mexico, including Oaxaca and Xalapa. Students may live in a dormitory setting or with local families while studying a variety of subjects—from archaeology to politics. Students who participate in this program can obtain from 3 to 9 hours of credit during the summer as well as experience a significant improvement in their Spanish proficiency and the fluency of their accent.
- ◆ **France.** The Rockhurst Departments of Communication and Fine Arts and Classical and Modern Languages provide a unique summer program in Paris, France, for students of any major. Students experience the culture and excitement of the French capital while gaining French language proficiency and valuable insights through first-hand experience in exciting internships in communications, French and education.

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## **Additional Opportunities**

Numerous other opportunities exist for Rockhurst students to study abroad through other sponsoring organizations. The University is affiliated with both the Institute of International Education and the Council on International Education Exchange. Both offer a wide variety of traditional academic programs around the world. For example, a Semester at Sea—with stops in Africa and the Sub-Continent—is available through the University of Pittsburgh.

Additionally, they offer internship programs in a variety of international sites for juniors and seniors. Internships are established for specific student needs. Examples have included internships as diverse as in the House of Lords in the English Parliament to the Abby Theater in Dublin, Ireland. These programs are very useful to students wishing to gain specific practical experience in an international setting.

## **The Gervais Learning Center**

The Gervais Learning Center offers a wide range of services in support of the academic life at Rockhurst. Located in Van Ackeren Hall, it provides a pleasant and convenient place to study between classes. Computers are available to students, and staff will provide instruction in their use.

The Learning Center offers academic support services free of charge to Rockhurst undergraduates. Some services are also available to graduate students. Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction (SI) are two of the major activities. Tutoring is available for many courses, and SI is available for selected courses. Tutors and SI leaders are recommended by faculty members in the appropriate field, and are trained to provide assistance to other students individually or in small groups. Tutoring and SI have a double benefit: they offer students assistance with difficult course work; they also offer an opportunity for the tutors and SI leaders to deepen their understanding of their field and sharpen valuable skills in communication and interpersonal relations.

Writing assistance is provided to both undergraduate and graduate students by professional and student staff members who work with students to improve critical thinking and writing skills. Students can use writing assistance in connection with any specific course, or any college writing task—a scholarship or graduate school application, for example. From the planning stage to final editing, students receive assistance that extends throughout the writing process.

The Learning Center offers students individualized assistance in developing study strategies such as textbook reading, note taking and exam preparation. Students develop and apply their study strategies in conjunction with current course work.

The Learning Center is committed to providing the Rockhurst community with academic services designed to enhance those qualities that set a Rockhurst education apart, and to assist all students in making the most of the opportunities the University provides.

## **The Advanced College Credit Program**

An opportunity for students to attain college credit while in the junior or senior year of high school. Students must be recommended by an academic advisor in the high school and normally rank in the upper 25 percent of their class. A high school student must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 in order to participate in ACCP. Application review and class registration are done in conjunction with the Rockhurst ACCP coordinator. A student may enroll in no more than 11 college credit hours per semester. Rockhurst Advanced College Credit may also be accepted in transfer by other colleges or universities at their discretion. For more information, call the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences at (816) 501-4075.