
*Special Undergraduate Academic &
Co-Curricular Programs*



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 academically talented students who want freedom to pursue their intellectual interests and who seek educational stimulation beyond the typical academic experience. Honors students are offered a specially designed curriculum that 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. Indeed, they can customize any major and take it to greater depths than what is ordinarily required. The honors curriculum exposes students to a cadre of the best professors at Rockhurst and to some of the most innovative courses and educational opportunities.

Most of the specially designated honors courses are taken during the first two years. The traditional sequence is for honors students to take their written and oral communication proficiencies, and an honors course or two in the sciences, philosophy, or theology during their first year, and then begin the Integrated Humanities two-semester sequence as sophomores. Although there are a few upper-division, specially designated honors courses, and more are being designed, much of the upper-division honors student's curriculum is individually designed via the honors option, which allows the student to pursue a topic of interest under the supervision of a professor-mentor.

Other special educational benefits for honors students include: 1) priority registration; 2) the Honors Room, which is a quiet room with computers and couches; 3) participation at National Collegiate Honors Council and Great Plains Regional meetings; 4) camaraderie and a support network with other honors students; and 5) advisors who understand that honors students have unique academic interests.

Additional information on the Honors Program may be obtained from the director of the Honors Program, and interested students may also check the web site.

The Freshman Incentive Program

The Freshman Incentive Program is designed for first-time college students who wish to attend Rockhurst University, but do not meet admission criteria. Students are considered for probationary admission through the Freshman Incentive Program if their composite ACT scores are between 18 and 20 or if their high school GPA and ACT sub-scores are lower than Rockhurst's standards. There must be evidence that the student can succeed at Rockhurst, which may include impressions from a personal interview, strong high school grades and rank in class, letters of recommendation, strong record of extracurricular activity (especially in leadership roles), and an explanation of any factors that contributed to weak performance and how these have been addressed. The University admits approximately 20 students to the program each fall.

The program provides students with academic and other support designed to assist them in succeeding at Rockhurst. Selected faculty and staff work together to combine various student services, including academic advising, tutoring from the Learning Center, and counseling from the Office of Student Development to create comprehensive support for Freshman Incentive Program (FIP) students as they make the transition to college life.

Students admitted to the program will be notified by the Office of Admission and are required to participate fully in the program.

Program requirements (applicable to freshman year only):

- ◆ Enroll in a first-year seminar;
- ◆ Enroll in specific FIP courses (usually two each semester);
- ◆ Take no more than 14 credit hours each semester;
- ◆ Attend an orientation to the FIP;
- ◆ Participate in all scheduled FIP workshops; and
- ◆ Meet monthly with an academic advisor and/or the Director of New Students.

FIP students plan their programs of study in consultation with an academic advisor and fulfill requirements for degree-seeking students.

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 (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 nonprofit 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.

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 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 advisor.

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, the University of Missouri-Columbia, or the University of Missouri-Rolla, or at any of the

other accredited engineering schools in the region. If they so desire, they may arrange to receive a dual degree from both Rockhurst University and the school of engineering they select.

Pre-Law

The Pre-Law Committee of the American Bar Association and the Law School Admissions Council both recommend for those considering a career in law, an undergraduate educational program that has a strong liberal arts focus. As such, there is no official “Undergraduate Program” for pre-law studies that is required to enter law school. Instead, students entering law school have a wide diversity of educational backgrounds, including English, history, philosophy, art, computer science, education, political science, and so on. Rather than be concerned over the specific content of the undergraduate experience, law schools are primarily interested in students who have developed the skills necessary to succeed in the field of law, such as logical reasoning, problem solving ability, critical reading skills, and excellence in oral and written communication. Rockhurst University’s Core Curriculum, along with the wide variety of liberal arts majors that are offered, provides students interested in a career of law with an excellent preparation for law school. In particular, the Core Curriculum lays a strong foundation for students preparing to take the Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT) through its central focus on critical thinking and proficiency in oral and written communication. Any student interested in Pre-Law should contact the Pre-Law Advisor, who assists with the preparation for admission to Law School and provides 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, allopathic (M.D.) or osteopathic (D.O.), or dentistry, (D.D.S. or D.M.D.). 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 advisor. The function of the advisor is to see that students meet the course work requirements on schedule and to encourage them to maintain high performance and motivation. The advisor will also provide catalogs, literature and guidance about medical or dental school requirements, and counsel students on the MCAT (Medical College Aptitude Test) or the DAT (Dental Admission Test), 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.

Pre-Medical Scholars Partners Program – Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCUMB)

By special arrangement between Rockhurst University and Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCUMB), College of Osteopathic Medicine, students interested in Osteopathic Medicine may obtain early acceptance to KCUMB. The student must have an ACT score of 26 and by the end of first year at Rockhurst have a GPA of 3.5. After an interview, two students are selected each year for the program. The selected students trans-

fer to KCUMB after their third year at Rockhurst, and graduate from Rockhurst after their first year at KCUMB. The student applies for the program at the beginning of sophomore year; the selections will be made that semester.

The Pre-Medical Scholars Program – Saint Louis University

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. The student then continues at Rockhurst through graduation. To become a Pre-Medical Scholar, a student must have a strong high school academic record, strong letters of recommendation, and good test scores (ACT composite of 30 or SAT composite of 1400 with 700 verbal). The Rockhurst University Pre-Medical Advisory Committee invites students into this program upon their entrance into the College of Arts and Sciences.

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 Pre-Medical Sciences.

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

Office of Admission
Rockhurst University
1100 Rockhurst Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2561
(816) 501- 4100 or 501-4097
1-800-842-6776
<http://www.rockhurst.edu>

Or you may email Graduate Admission directly at: *graduate.admission@rockhurst.edu*.

See also the description of the program in the School of Graduate and Professional Studies sections of this catalog.

Pre-Occupational Therapy Program

Occupational therapy is a health care profession that uses “occupation” or purposeful movement to help people with physical, developmental, or emotional disabilities lead independent, productive and satisfying lives. Rockhurst University’s Occupational Therapy Education Program can lead the freshman student to completion of the Master of Occupational Therapy degree in five years.

Students interested in pursuing studies in Occupational Therapy are encouraged to contact the chair of the department early in his/her academic studies to assure completion of program requirements for application to the program in a timely manner. Please refer to the graduate section of the catalog for more information on the Master of Occupational Therapy degree.

The Pre-Optometry Program

Rockhurst offers a four-year pre-professional program for students interested in pursuing the Doctorate in Optometry, O.D. This program, based in the Division of Natural Sciences, leads to a bachelor’s degree and provides students with the undergraduate courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and math necessary to pursue the advanced professional degree. There is no uniform listing of courses required by all Colleges of Optometry. Hence it is important that students interested in this program should consult regularly with the pre-optometry advisor.

Pre-Pharmacy

Students interested in going to pharmacy school to obtain the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, Pharm.D., have a number of options available to them. It is usually possible to apply to pharmacy school after two years at Rockhurst, following the basic track of a chemistry major. Since the requirements vary from one Pharmacy school to another, it is important that the student consult the Pre-Pharmacy advisor for details.

Pre-Physical Therapy Program

The primary focus of Rockhurst University’s Physical Therapy Education program is on the preparation of students to provide prevention, education, examination, and intervention to persons whose abilities are threatened or impaired by developmental deficits, aging, physical illness or injury. The Doctor of Physical Therapy degree is designed for the person with an undergraduate degree in a field other than physical therapy, so any undergraduate major offered by Rockhurst University, in addition to completion of the required

pre-requisites, prepares the interested student for application to the program.

Students interested in pursuing studies in Physical Therapy are encouraged to contact the chair of the department early in their undergraduate studies. Please refer to the graduate section of the catalog for more information on the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

The Pre-Physician Assistant 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 bachelor's 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.

The Pre-Veterinary Medicine Program

Rockhurst offers a four-year pre-professional program for students interested in becoming veterinarians. This program, based in the Division of Natural Sciences, leads to a bachelor's degree and provides students with the undergraduate courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and math necessary to pursue the Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, D. V. M. Since the requirements from one College of Veterinary Medicine to another vary somewhat, it is important that students interested in this program should consult with the pre-Veterinary Medicine advisor.

Army ROTC

Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) is a program of college course instruction that 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. Students can compete for two-, three-, or four-year Army scholarships based upon academic merit, physical fitness, school service and activities, as well as potential for leadership. Scholarship awards vary from about \$4,000 per academic year to roughly \$17,000, including a monthly stipend ranging from \$250 to \$400 per month. Rockhurst students participate in ROTC through the Army's regional ROTC detachment serving students who attend Rockhurst University, the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), Avila University, Park University, and William Jewell 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 Assistant Dean of Operations, Helzberg School of Management, 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, 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, Rockhurst University Chorus, Chamber Singers, Women's Chorale, and Writers at Work.

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.

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 Department of Modern Languages and Literature provides a unique summer program in France, for students of any major. Students experience the culture and excitement of the French capital and the surrounding areas while gaining French language proficiency and valuable insights through first-hand experience in exciting internships in French and education.
- ◆ **Spain.** Students have the opportunity to study in a language and cultural immersion program in Spain. The program can accommodate students at all levels of language proficiency. Students will earn 6-7 academic credit hours, stay with a Spanish family, and travel to areas of interest several weekends during the five-week program.

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 assistance with their use.

The Learning Center offers academic support services free of charge to Rockhurst undergraduates. Peer tutoring and Supplemental Instruction (SI) are two of the major activities. Tutoring is available for many undergraduate courses, and SI is available for selected courses. Peer 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.

Some services are available to both undergraduate and graduate students. Writing assistance is one of these services, and is provided 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 (ACCP)

ACCP provides an opportunity for juniors and seniors in high school to earn both college and high school credit for selected courses. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and be recommended by the high school to participate in the program. 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. The Rockhurst ACCP coordinator is responsible for the application and registration process. For more information, call the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, (816) 501-4075. High schools wishing to work in partnership with Rockhurst University to provide ACCP courses must have the high school faculty approved by the respective Rockhurst University department.