

PREPROFESSIONAL NEWSLETTER

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Academic Advising Center

November 2020 | Early Assurance Programs (EAPs)



How to Connect

We use a scheduling system called Navigate. You can find resources about scheduling online and attending virtual appointments by going to the [Navigate Resources page](#).

We will be operating virtually for the foreseeable future but that doesn't mean that we aren't still just a phone call, email, or Zoom session away!

In fact, you can even stop by our virtual front desk by visiting our [CLAS Advising Reception Zoom Link](#). This will take you to a video session (via Zoom) with our front desk staff. As always, you can reach us by phone at (616) 331-8585 or by email at advstu@gvsu.edu.

Our front desk is open from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

To connect with your advisor, you can [schedule an appointment](#), or reach out to them [via email](#).

We are here to help and look forward to lots of great interactions with you!

Early Assurance Programs

What are Early Assurance Programs?

Early Assurance Programs (EAPs) provide opportunities for early assurance of medical school admission for students interested in becoming physicians in an underserved region or with underserved populations (and who have demonstrated this interest). Preference is given to students who:

1. Are the first generation in their family to attend college.
2. Graduated from a low-income high school.
3. Are eligible for need-based grants.
4. Express and support their interest in a high-need medical specialty area (family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, and obstetrics/gynecology).

While students may apply to multiple EAPs, **students are strongly encouraged to only apply to their top choice school(s)**. Once admitted, students may only accept their admission at one EAP partner medical school and the decision is binding, meaning they are ineligible to apply to other medical schools through regular admission.

Grand Valley State University has EAP partnerships with four Michigan medical schools:

- Wayne State University,
- Central Michigan University,
- Michigan State University (College of Human Medicine)
- Michigan State University (College of Osteopathic Medicine)

For those looking at Michigan State University's EAP programs (CHM or COM), you will need to take the [CASPer exam](#) by the designated deadlines. The CASPer exam is a situational judgement test and is taken online on a specified date.

For more information about the EAP program, check out our [EAP website](#).

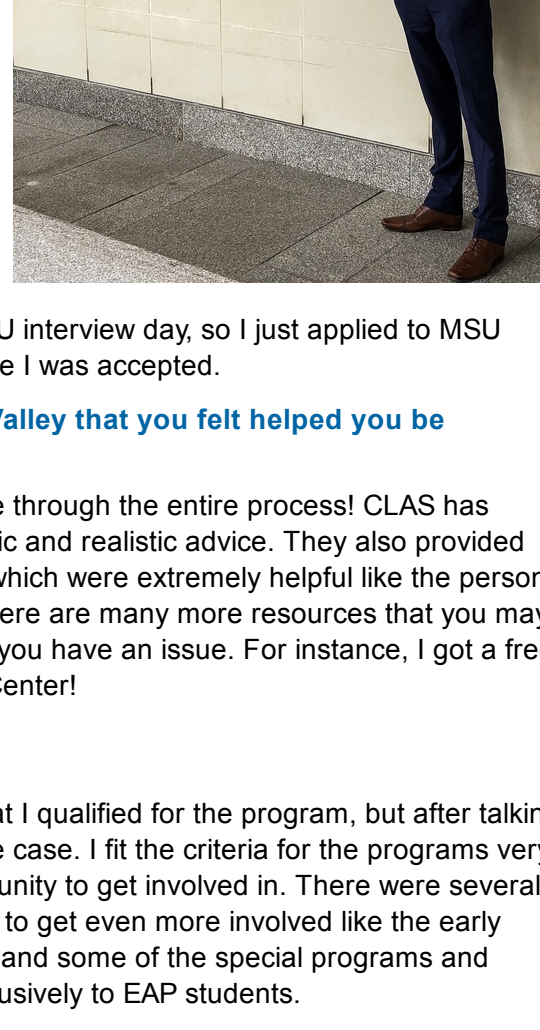
EAP Student Spotlight

Student Spotlight: Wesley Swartz

- Second year medical student
- Michigan State University: College of Human Medicine
- Early Assurance Program Applicant

1. How did you choose which EAP programs to apply to?

At the time that I was applying there were only 3 EAP options: Wayne, CMU, and MSU CHM. I looked heavily at the mission statements of the schools, as well as location, curriculum, and EAP guidelines. After considering my GPA, MCAT scores, and my personal preferences I was prepared to apply to MSU and CMU. Unfortunately, there was a considerable conflict that kept me from attending the CMU interview day, so I just applied to MSU which was coincidentally my best fit and where I was accepted.



2. What were some tools here at Grand Valley that you felt helped you be successful in your EAP process?

I like to say that my advisors "mid-wifed" me through the entire process! CLAS has world-class advisors that give very pragmatic and realistic advice. They also provided several programs that I took advantage of which were extremely helpful like the personal statement workshop and the Mock MMI. There are many more resources that you may not know offhand; you should always ask if you have an issue. For instance, I got a free padfolio for interview day from the Career Center!

3. What got you interested in EAP?

I was in my senior year and I didn't think that I qualified for the program, but after talking to my advisor I learned that that was not the case. I fit the criteria for the programs very well and I thought that it was a great opportunity to get involved in. There were several benefits to the program that made me want to get even more involved like the early decision, close relationship with the school, and some of the special programs and opportunities that the schools provided exclusively to EAP students.

4. What did you gain out of your EAP application experience?

I think one of the most important values of the program is getting your application done and working out the kinks early. The AMCAS can be a daunting task to complete and the EAP gives you a great opportunity to buff out your personal statement and activity buckets, as well as get some practice writing out your whole application. And if you don't get admitted to the EAP then you have your application ready to go, and you may have even gotten some practice interviewing.

5. What advice would you give to those who are considering an EAP?

Don't be afraid to go for it! Before you consider applying for this program you are mentally prepared to start working on your application in the late spring, and the thought of pushing it ahead several months can be paralyzing. Don't let that worry you! It's safe to say that a few months won't make a huge difference in your ability to put together an application. Also, don't apply if you don't qualify. This program is looking for a pretty specific demographic of students from a challenged background, and they deserve to have this program reserved for them.

CLAS would like to extend our sincere thanks to Wesley Swartz for contributing to this month's newsletter!

Reminder: Deadlines for MCAT exams and CASPer for EAP Admissions

For those of you planning on applying to [MSU CHM and/or MSU COM EAPs](#), you will be required to take the [CASPer](#) exam.

Here are the remaining dates for the upcoming cycle and CHM/COM deadlines:

- Dec 10, 2020 - 5:00 PM EST
- Jan 12, 2021 - 8:00 PM EST - **LAST DATE for MSU CHM**
- Feb 18, 2021 - 8:00 PM EST
- Mar 23, 2021 - 8:00 PM EDT - **LAST DATE for MSU COM**

Please also note that the last date to take the MCAT is June 4, 2021 for Michigan State University's CHM & COM EAPs, and Central Michigan University's EAP. The last MCAT date for Wayne State University's EAP is April 10, 2021.

For more information on the MCAT testing dates, visit the AAMC page [here](#).

Test Prep Course

Registration is now open for the 2021 Test Prep Course for students preparing for the MCAT, DAT, OAT and PCAT. The class will meet synchronously online on Thursdays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. with the remainder of the coursework done online asynchronously. The class will begin January 28 and run through late March/early April, depending on the test for which you are preparing.

Click [HERE](#) to register! Due to COVID-19 restrictions, debit or credit card is the preferred method of payment. Payment is required at the time of registration, unless you are applying for a scholarship. See information below regarding scholarships.

Each night will be a review session on a subject covered on the professional school entrance exams; subjects include the following and are taught by GVSU faculty who continue to receive positive evaluations:

- Biology
- Math/Quantitative Analysis
- Critical Analysis/Reasoning/Reading Comprehension
- General Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Sociology
- Perceptual Ability Test (for DAT testers only)
- Physics
- Psychology

The course fee is \$60 for DAT, PCAT, and OAT test takers; and \$80 for MCAT test takers (the higher fee is due to additional sessions). Capacity is limited so please register early!

Scholarships: The CLAS Academic Advising Center will be awarding a limited number of scholarships for the Test Prep Course to cover half the cost of the course to students in need on a first-come, first-served basis. You will be notified as soon as possible if you are awarded the scholarship. If chosen, you will need to remit payment of \$40 (or \$30). See application for details

Please contact Alexis Schewe (scheweal@gvsu.edu) with any questions!

Kaplan Scholarship Applications

We are excited to announce that the CLAS Academic Advising Center will be awarding five Kaplan Scholarships that are good for any of their In Person, Live Online, or Self-Paced MCAT prep courses. These scholarships are worth up to \$2,499 toward one of these courses.

Here is the criteria that will be assessed when awarding these scholarships:

- Applicant MUST be planning to take the MCAT in 2021
- Ability to demonstrate well-rounded experiences consistent with competitive medical school applicants
- Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate financial need

The [Kaplan Scholarship Application](#) is now open and is due December 1, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. Decisions will be made within two weeks after the application deadline and communicated via email to the awardees. If awarded, the scholarship must be redeemed before June 30, 2021

Disclaimer: The CLAS Academic Advising Center does not endorse one test prep company over another. We seek to provide premed students with many options for test preparation

Upcoming Events

MSU-COM EAP VIRTUAL CAMPUS VISIT	MAJORS FAIR	CMU EAP VIRTUAL CAMPUS VISIT
Nov. 10th 7 pm - 8 pm	Nov. 12th 11 am - 2 pm	Nov. 17th 4 pm - 5 pm
PRINCETON REVIEW'S FULL LENGTH PRACTICE: <u>MCAT</u>	PRINCETON REVIEW'S FULL LENGTH PRACTICE: <u>DAT</u>	PRINCETON REVIEW'S FULL LENGTH PRACTICE: <u>GRE</u>
Dec. 5th - No cost 9 am EST (online) Must register by Dec. 3rd	Dec. 5th - No cost 9 am EST (online) Must register by Dec. 3rd	Dec. 5th - No cost 9 am EST (online) Must register by Dec. 3rd

Are You Interested in Becoming a Pharmacist?

Join the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy to learn more about the PharmD admissions process and why we are the #3 Pharmacy school in the country.

University of Michigan College of Pharmacy Presentation
Wednesday, November 11 from 7:00-8:00 pm

Hosted by Kristin Heinrich, Assistant Director of Admissions & Recruiting
Please sign up [here](#) if you are interested in attending this event.

Individual Advising Sessions

Individual advising sessions will be available to schedule with Kristin Heinrich (by appointment only). This is a great time to ask individual questions you might have about your academics, experiences, the application, etc.

University of Michigan College of Pharmacy Individual Advising Sessions

Friday, November 13 from 9 am-4:30 pm

With Kristin Heinrich, Assistant Director of Admissions & Recruiting

Please reserve your appointment [here!](#)

Looking for more opportunities in healthcare?

Check out our list of organizations that offer volunteer and paid opportunities. Virtual volunteer and healthcare options available.

[Healthcare Volunteering & Experience](#)

Google Groups

Don't forget to sign up for the Google Group relating to your pre-professional area. These are a great way to stay informed on the latest in your field and connect with one another!

PREMED 	PREDENTAL 	
PREPHARMACY 	PREVETERINARY 	
PRECHIROPRACTIC 	PREOPTOMETRY 	PREPODIATRY

Schedule an Appointment

WAYS TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

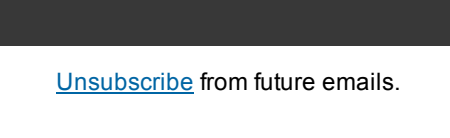
1. Via Navigate - our online scheduling system
2. Call our office at: 616-331-8585
3. Visit our virtual front desk via Zoom
4. Emailing us at: advstu@gvsu.edu

Additional Resources & COVID-19 Information

Explore [additional](#) CLAS Advising Resources.

For updates on the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [Lakers Together](#).

Don't forget to follow us on social media!



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