

Goal 1A Attract and support a better prepared, more diverse student population

Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions

Attract higher quality students via guaranteed admission to professional schools, especially medicine. Study GPPA programs at other institutions, and implement with minor modifications. Consider increasing size of the entering medical class slightly – this will give medicine the distinction of being the largest program in the country and should simplify the GPPA implementation.

*Committee: Melissa Biddinger, *Larry Goldblatt, Stephen Leapman and Doug Lees.*

Current Status

- Many other institutions have successful similar programs
- The School of Medicine has guaranteed admission-related programs in place with ISU, USI, and IUN
- IUPUI's Bepko Scholars program provides support and opportunities for students throughout their academic careers, from their freshman year through up to four years of graduate or professional study at IUPUI

Recommendations

- IUPUI should institute a GPPA type program at the earliest possible date, preferably Fall 2008.
- Change name in order to remove implication of truly guaranteed admission (see varying admission requirements to separate professional programs below)
 - One suggestion: *Facilitated Professional Program Admission*
- Provide funding and other support for students in the program

Implementation Strategy

- Committee composed of interested IUPUI schools and the Honors program should develop criteria for admission to undergraduate component of program
 - Minimum GPA
 - Minimum test score in respective professional school admission test (if used)
 - Participation in selected experiential activities throughout undergraduate program
- Each professional program will determine criteria for admission to its own program
- Professional school faculty and staff will participate fully in the selection process
- Identify sources of funding for student support. Extant sources such as the *Bepko Scholars Program* with its partial funding for post-baccalaureate study may be one source

Preliminary Report
March 1, 2007

The Guaranteed Professional Program Admission (GPPA) Action Team has the following members: Dr. Stephen B. Leapman, Executive Associate Dean for Educational Affairs and Professor of Surgery, I.U. School of Medicine; Dr. N. Douglas Lees, Professor and Chair, Department of Biology, Purdue School of Science; Melissa Biddinger, Director, Bepko Scholars and Fellows Program and Associate Director, IUPUI Honors Program; and Dr. Lawrence I. Goldblatt (Committee Chair), Dean and Professor of Oral Pathology, I.U. School of Dentistry.

After reviewing its general charge and its role in the context of the entire IUPUI Academic Plan, the task force reviewed those aspects of a possible GPPA with which they had personal knowledge/experience, including the GPPA agreements which currently exist between IU School of Medicine and three other Indiana educational institutions: Indiana State University, University of Southern Indiana and Indiana University Northwest. In addition they reviewed the development of the Bepko Scholars Program and the initial discussions about including a GPPA component, a goal which was subsequently abandoned for the time.

The task force then reviewed information on the GPPA programs at UIC and the University of Buffalo. Basically the common theme in these programs was that each of the professional schools involved agreed to commit a place in their professional school entering class to any college freshman who achieved and maintained a certain GPA, a certain minimum score in the respective professional school admission test (if there was one) and participated in certain selected experiential activities along the way. Satisfactory performance in a professional school admissions interview was also a requirement in some. Each professional school (e.g., medicine, dentistry, engineering, etc.) had its own specific set of requirements, but this was the general theme.

There was general consensus in the task force that such a program would be very feasible at IUPUI and represent a real attraction to recruit top notch students interested in pursuing the professions once they completed college. However, they also decided it would be prudent to seek the experience of the receiving schools both within and outside the IUPUI peer group which had such programs. Nineteen medical schools and seven dental schools were contacted. Responses were received from 11 medical schools and 2 dental schools. In general the respondents felt that the GPPA was an effective recruiting tool for the feeding schools. The admissions criteria for these programs were stringent and the candidates who remained in the program throughout college and applied to the professional school were at least as qualified (if not more) as those who applied through the traditional route. In addition, approximately two thirds of those selected for the program as undergraduates remained in the program. The majority applied and were admitted to professional school. In every case the individual professional schools determined their own admissions requirements into their school. In several cases the students were not formally admitted into the GPPA until their second year in college,

thus permitting the applicants to complete one year of college and acquire one additional year of life experience and maturity prior to entering the GPPA program. The professional schools reviewed those chosen into the GPPA program and had the right of refusal if they felt the students would not succeed.

The committee also compiled a very impressive list of programs which already exist at IUPUI which could serve as extramural enrichment experiences to compliment the formal curriculum.

As a result of this review the GPPA Task Force makes the following recommendation:

Recommendation: IUPUI should institute a GPPA type program at the earliest possible date. Such a program should have the following characteristics:

- 1) Any professional school or program on the IUPUI campus will be eligible to participate in the GPPA program.
- 2) Admission to the GPPA program will be open only to 2nd year IUPUI students and above.
- 3) Criteria for admission to the undergraduate portion of the program will be set by a committee including representatives of the IUPUI Honors Program and each of the professional schools participating in the program. Professional school faculty and staff will participate fully in the selection process.
- 4) Each professional program will determine the criteria for admission to its own program so as to ensure the maintenance of their general standards.
- 5) Consideration should be given to the use of some name other than GPPA (such as Facilitated Professional Program Admission) in order to remove any implication of a true guaranteed admission.
- 6) The GPPA program will be formally evaluated at the conclusion of the first professional school graduating class according to predetermined criteria.
- 7) While funding and other support for students in the undergraduate component of the GPPA program should be addressed as a separate matter, every effort should be made to identify potential sources of support (e. g., Bepko Scholars Program with its partial funding for post-baccalaureate study) which could already exist or could be procured relatively easily.
- 8) Working in close coordination with the professional schools, enriching and supplementary programs found to be keys to success in other such programs nationally must be developed locally.