Our Mission
To educate the future leaders of medicine locally and globally.

PASS Success
89% of PASS students have successfully matriculated to, or have completed, medical school. 80% of PASS participants have or currently attend the Perelman School of Medicine.

CONTACT US
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Apply to PASS

About the Program
The Penn Access Summer Scholars program at the Perelman School of Medicine is a summer research experience that engages second- and third- year undergraduates from diverse backgrounds that are underrepresented in medicine (URiM). Students must apply through and be nominated by the pre-health advisors at our affiliated institutions for consideration. Our program affiliates include UPenn, Princeton, Bryn Mawr, and Haverford in addition to 5 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) - Howard, Morehouse, Oakwood, Spelman, and Xavier.

The PASS program supplements undergraduate education with professional development and resources related to the medical school admissions process and curriculum. Programming includes medical research experience, mentoring, pre-med advising, career seminars, clinical exposure, community service, and more. At the conclusion of each summer, each participant submits a summary abstract of research completed and receives an evaluation from their mentor. Some students have continued their research during the school year leading to publications and thesis research.

Program Length: 2 summers, 8 weeks per summer
Eligibility: Sophomores and juniors who self-identify as URiM
Benefits Include: On-campus housing and a stipend

Admissions linkage to the Perelman School of Medicine is offered to PASS participants who meet the following criteria:

- Successful completion of two summers in the PASS program
- Academic accomplishment of 3.6 GPA (cum) and 3.6 GPA (BCPM)
- Strong personal attributes, character, leadership, and motivation to pursue a career in medicine
- Outstanding letters of recommendation from a designated pre-health advisor, mentors, and Penn faculty in the PASS program

The MCAT is not required to matriculate to Perelman through the PASS linkage process.

Each affiliate school nominates students for the program (through an in-house application process) who have a strong interest in medicine, a profile of academic success, personal attributes of a physician, successful completion of science courses, and the potential to succeed at Perelman.

Nominees complete an online PASS application in February and supply the following documents:

- Transcripts
- Resume
- Personal Statement
- Letters of Recommendation

Program Timeline

| Late Fall/ Early Spring semester of sophomore year | Dec/Jan: Consult with your pre-health advisor and submit application materials (you must have a 3.6 GPA to apply) |
| Spring Semester of Junior Year | March: PASS Program selections are announced |
| | June: First PASS summer research begins |
| | April: Confirm participation in second summer |
| June - August | June: Second PASS summer research begins. Discuss plans for medical school admission/linkage eligibility w/ program staff and admissions |

"The PASS program gave me the opportunity to explore the different facets of medicine. It gave me exposure to medicine very early on in my undergraduate career. I was granted resources that I didn’t even know I needed and gained mentors along the way that solidified my decision to pursue medicine. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a PASS student, and I am confident that the interdisciplinary undergraduate studies I was encouraged to pursue will be very beneficial.”

—Maryam, 3rd year MD student at Perelman, University of Pennsylvania

"I am beyond grateful to the PASS program for its contribution to not only my medical education, but to me as whole. The program recognizes the need for a multicultural group of future physicians to combat some of medicines biggest challenges and is on the forefront of making this happen. Throughout my time in PASS I have received unparalleled mentorship and clinical experience that has only increased my love for medicine. Looking back, I can honestly say that joining PASS is one of the best decisions I have made!

—Jarvis, 3rd year MD student at Perelman, Morehouse College

"I am incredibly grateful that I was able to participate in the PASS program. PASS not only empowered me with essential resources, but it also provided me with a family. My fellow PASS scholars were kind, empathic, and generous. It has been a great privilege to be part of such a wonderful community even before beginning medical school. Dr. Jake Brenner was a fantastic research mentor. His commitment to my development as a researcher and a person is something that I will always treasure. He encouraged me to lead my own research studies, while he also provided me with all of the support and guidance I needed. Dr. Delisser, Jamal, and the near peer mentors were guiding lights throughout the program and made me feel welcome at Perelman. I greatly appreciated the professionalism and excitement of the Penn community who showed all of the unique ways to pursue a career in medicine. PASS is an incredible program that has enhanced and transformed my professional goals.”

—Briana, 2022 Accepted MD/PhD student at Perelman, Princeton