

SUNY New Paltz BS/DO Program

By Katherine Doyle

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Catskill Hudson AHEC has been a proud supporter of the SUNY New Paltz/NYCOM BS/DO Program for the past four years. This dual degree program has a rigorous application process, which includes an interview with the BS/DO program admissions committee. If, after three years at SUNY New Paltz, students meet the tough GPA and MCAT requirements, they will go onto NYCOM to start medical school. At the end of their first year of medical school, credits are transferred back to complete their BS degree. They then complete their medical degrees after three more years and receive the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. Over the past ten years, eighty BS/DO program students have gone on to medical school.

The success of this program is etched in a letter to SUNY New Paltz from Neil Panchal, who started at NYCOM this August. Neil writes:

“I am at NYCOM in Old Westbury now and already into the second week of classes. Classes started off pretty quickly and the plethora of information has buried me in my room day in and out. I have finally adapted myself to a routine schedule of classes and studying, with only about 30 minutes to myself a day. The curriculum is structured on a systemic basis so that we learn about the different systems of the body one at a time. This first month or so is a fundamental “Intro to Osteopathy” which has actually turned into a full year’s worth of Biological Chemistry, Cell/Molecular Bio, and Comparative Anatomy!”

“Because of the wonderful job that my professors at SUNY New Paltz did teaching me the essential material necessary for the foundation of a career in medicine, I am well prepared and simply “reviewing” this material so far. Others are having difficulty learning it saying, “I never learned it correctly in undergrad...” or “My professor didn’t teach us properly” In the last two days only, we went over everything about Proteins, Enzymes including inhibition and MM/ LB graphs, Cell Membrane Transport, all of Metabolism, and every muscle in the back including the Superficial, Intermediate, and Deep Back muscles all the way through the Spinal Cord. AND I ALREADY KNOW ALL OF THIS!!!”

“Thank You so much for being absolutely excellent teachers and making sure I was ready to take on Medical School. Without your training and guidance, the transition would have been that much more difficult.”