

Medical school dropout rate under 10 per cent

By Mary Jo Fitzl

Despite well-worn stories of the years of study and the seemingly unbearable pressure of medical school, indications are that once in, a student is there to stay.

The attrition rate at the University of Nebraska Medical Center is less than 10 per cent according to Michael J. Carver, assistant dean for student affairs at the medical center.

"Once you're in, you're going to have to prove yourself," Carver said. "If you're academically incompetent, you won't make it."

Most, but not all, medical center students are academically competent, according to Carver. The Admissions Committee, which selects medical students, likes to think that they can weed out the applicants who will not work well in the College of Medicine, Carver said.

MCAT required

All students intending to apply for entrance to medical school must take the Medical College Admission Tests (MCAT) exam, Zoology Prof. Paul Landolt said. Landolt, who also serves as chief pre-medical adviser for UNL students, said most students take the MCAT twice.

"They do better the second time around because they know what to expect," he said.

MCAT scores, along with grade point average, recommendations and interviews, determine a student's entrance into medical school. The nearly 900 UNL pre-med students generally score slightly above the national MCAT average, Landolt said.

UNL students make up about one-third of the entrants to the medical center. Landolt said he attributes this figure more to the fact that UNL has the largest number of pre-med students applying for admission than to the quality of the UNL

pre-med program. Pre-med students may major in any field they wish, but are required to take certain courses outlined in the pre-med program, Landolt said.

Admission to the medical center is very competitive, Carver said. This year, 153 students were accepted out of more than 1,100 applicants. Of these 153, all but one were Nebraska residents.

Carver explained that the medical center gives priority to Nebraska students because the school is state-supported.

Once past the admissions stage, with acceptance letter securely in hand, some

students seem more confident that they will succeed in their field.

"Oh yeah, I'll graduate, barring any unforeseen obstacles," Jane Kugler, freshman medical student, said. Kugler, a UNL graduate with a degree in microbiology, said she feels certain she will continue with her medical plans.

Not disadvantaged

Another UNL graduate, Margaret Kontras, entered the medical center this year with a degree in music. Kontras said she does not feel at a disadvantage with a degree unrelated to medicine.

"I was worried at the time I applied

because medical school was the only plan I had for my future," Kontras said. "It's hard for me to imagine that I will ever develop skills to work with patients," she said, but added that she realizes she will "see the end" of her medical education.

Kontras added that a minimum effort on her part could suffice for the pass-fail grading system, but "I feel responsible to do as much and learn as much as I can." She said that medical schools pick students with high grades because those students seem to set a personal standard that won't allow them to get by with only a minimum of work.

Schorr to open symposium

Former CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr will give the keynote address for a Power and Conspiracy in America symposium Sunday evening, opening a series of lectures, seminars and discussions on the topic.

Schorr will speak on *The People's Right to Know* at 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

The five-day symposium is sponsored by the Talks and Topics Committee of the Union Program Council. Three UNL students, Teri Eyster of the Women's Resource Center, Gary Kissel, and John Valinch, created the idea for the symposium and presented it to UPC.

The symposium "came out of an interest in political assassinations, specifically John F. Kennedy's," Valinch said. Symposium presentations will give alternative views on power and conspiracy not presented by the media, Valinch said.

Alternate views on economic and political power, dissension, and political

assassinations will be presented. "We'll let the people decide for themselves," Valinch said.

Speakers from across the U.S. are scheduled throughout the symposium, which will run from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Films, seminars, handouts, and a booth selling books written by the speakers will supplement the lectures.

Speaker fees and other symposium costs are financed by the Talks and Topics budget.

"We're pleased we can put on a \$12,000 to \$15,000 program for about \$4,200," Sara Boatman, program adviser for UPC, said.

Boatman said some instructors are requiring students to attend symposium sessions.

Ted Howard from the People's Bicentennial Commission will summarize the main issues of the symposium Oct. 14 and speak on *Where Does Our Future Lie: Shall the People Rule?*

daily nebraskan

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calendar

8:30 a.m. — Student Affairs staff, Nebraska Union 243.

12:30 p.m. — Speech Dept. — Readers Theatre, Union Auditorium.

2 p.m. — Health Education staff, Union 243.

2:30 p.m. — Student Y-Free Street Theatre workshop, Union Auditorium.

4 p.m. — Council of American Indian Students — Executive Council, Union 343.

5 p.m. — Phi Chi Theta, business honorary, Union 232.

6 p.m. — Christian Science Organization, Union 222.

6:30 p.m. — Builders — Red Coats, Union South Conference Room.

7 p.m. — Baptist Student Union, Union 202.

7 p.m. — Council on Student Life, Union 203.

7 p.m. — Free University "Tolkien Discussion," Union 343.

7 p.m. — Home Economics Association — Ellen Richards, Union Ballroom.

7:30 p.m. — Chinese Culture Club, Union Auditorium.

7:30 p.m. — Free University "Introduction to Magic," Union North Conference Room.

7:30 p.m. — Publications Board, Union 216.

7:30 p.m. — Math Counselors, Union 225 B-C.

7:30 p.m. — Mexican American Student Association, Union 232.

8 p.m. — Students International Meditation Society, Union 337.