

ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA HONOR MEDICAL SOCIETY

May 12, 2006

Alpha of Illinois
Office of Student Affairs (M/C 785)
The University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Medicine
1853 West Polk Street
Room 112 CMW
Chicago, IL 60612

RE: AQA Honor Medical Society Application

Dear prospective candidate;

AQA Background – In 1902, William Webster Root and five other medical students, at what later became the University of Illinois College of Medicine, established the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. The founders of this society sought to elevate the quality of physicians being educated at that time in history. The motto of the society, “Worthy to serve the suffering,” is an appropriate summation of the individuals who are elected into this most prestigious of medical societies. The society has since evolved into a major national organization.

The spirit of AQA are its members, who should therefore strive towards the following purposes: 1) to be an individual of the highest academic merit, 2) provide service to the school and community, 3) demonstrate a desire to improve medical education, and 4) show potential for contributing to the advancement of medicine.

AQA Criteria – By formally submitting an application for consideration for AQA, you should be aware that membership requires active participation via attending scheduled meetings, contributing to AQA service/educational activities, and upholding the ethical standards of the society.

According to the AQA national constitution, criteria for selection focuses primarily on scholastic achievement but should not be the sole criteria; leadership capabilities, ethical standards, fairness in dealing with colleagues, potential for achievement in medicine, and a record of service to the school and community at large should be considered in addition to the academic record.

To be eligible for AQA selection, you must be in the top 25% of your class (as determined solely by the registrar; see below), but no more than 16% of the class may be elected for membership in AQA.

In addition, specific UIC College of Medicine criteria require a letter from a UIC faculty member (not necessarily an AQA member) in support of your application packet for potential induction, attesting to your personal and academic merit. A curriculum vitae is also required for application.

Junior student criteria: 50% pre-clinical grades and 50% USMLE Step 1 score (3-digit score).

Senior student criteria: 25% pre-clinical grades, 25% USMLE Step 1 score, and 50% core clerkship grades (two-thirds clinical, one-third final exam).

After summation of the above data, rank order lists are created for Junior and Senior selection. No more than one-sixth or ~16% of the class can be inducted into AQA. This is comprised of the top 4% inducted as Juniors plus an additional 12% inducted as Seniors. The rank order list will *only* be used for consideration into AQA. As a matter of policy, the University of Illinois does *not* rank its students for any other reason.

All students considered for Senior AQA selection must have completed at least three-quarters of M3 clerkship credit hours for eligibility. MD/PhD and ISP James Scholar students are eligible with the corresponding class of graduation. Academic failure of any class, clerkship, or USMLE will automatically exclude students from consideration. Conduct violations of a serious nature or application fraud will also prohibit students from consideration.

Summary – The process for AQA application requires the following:

1. Submit an academic records release waiver enabling your class rank to be determined. The form is attached to this letter.
2. Submit a curriculum vitae focusing on your service, research, and leadership activities that were completed during the medical school years.
3. Obtain a letter of support from a UIC-COM faculty member. This letter does not have to be confidential and may be viewed by the student. It should be attached to the waiver and curriculum vitae for ease of processing.
4. Turn in a complete application (records release waiver, curriculum vitae, and letter of support) to the Office of Student Affairs. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS *FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 2006*. PLEASE TURN IN APPLICATION MATERIALS TO THE AQA MAILBOX IN THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS. *INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.*

We wish you the best of luck in your application process. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Golden
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Co-President, Peoria
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AQA Records Release Form

Applicant Name (please print)	University ID Number	Class (M3 or M4)	
Address	City	State	ZIP Code
Phone Number	E-Mail Address		

I, _____, give permission to release my academic information including a class rank, USMLE Step 1 score, and third-year core clerkship grades (for consideration into Senior AQA only) to AQA. I understand that this information will be used for consideration for my membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. If selected into AQA, I agree to participate in one or more official AQA events or activities within the coming year, to attend scheduled meetings, and to uphold the ethical standards of the society.

Signature	Date
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If you are a transfer student wishing consideration, please provide an address and phone number at which your previous records can be obtained.

This form is due at the Office of Student Affairs along with a curriculum vitae and letter of support in the AQA mailbox *no later than* Friday, September 8th, 2006. *Incomplete applications or forms turned in after this time will not be considered.*