

New Pre-Med Honor Society at Wofford

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Publication: *Old Gold and Black*

Publication Type: Print

Audience: Wofford College students, faculty, staff

After a yearlong wait for approval, the Wofford chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED), a national pre-medical honor society, has been awarded a charter. Students and faculty alike have been trying for the past year to create a new chapter of AED for Wofford students who plan to go into the healthcare field.

The process of establishing a new chapter was not easy.

“I know that the process for getting it started was really difficult. They make it really hard to start a chapter of AED,” junior and biology major Lauren Jamison said.

Part of the difficulty in establishing a new chapter is due to the lengthy application process.

“You have to go through a first phase where your petition must be approved, and then you have to go through the application process. Once you’ve sent in the application, it is reviewed by a board, and it took them two months to get back to us,” Dr. George Shiflet, chair of the biology department said.

In order to create a chapter, an application and recommendations from the advisors of other chapters are required.

To ease the process of getting started, a committee of students was created to handle some of the paperwork and create a constitution.

Despite the obstacles in establishing the society, those involved in creating AED felt it was necessary to have a pre-medical society on Wofford’s campus.

“There is a Biology Honor Society, and a lot of pre-med students fall into that category, but not all of them, so there’s definitely a need for society that includes other aspects of the medical field,” Jamison said.

According to Shiflet, the goal of AED is to provide students with support as they pursue medical careers.

“Different chapters do different things, but our chapter will serve a mentoring function and will support incoming students as they pursue their studies toward going into healthcare,” Shiflet said.

Creating networks within the medical community and linking more experienced students with new students are important goals of Wofford’s chapter of AED.

“A huge part of [going into a career in healthcare] is connections between older students who have had experience applying to medical school and the freshman who are now coming in. I

remember coming in as a freshman, knowing my goal was medical school, but I didn't know what all I needed to be doing to get there. There's more to it than just grades," Jamison said.

In order to be admitted into AED, students must meet certain qualifications. While the National GPA requirement is 3.2, Wofford's chapter of AED will have a minimum GPA requirement of 3.4. AED members must also have taken at least three semesters of science courses.

Freshman, who have not been taken enough science courses may participate in the group as associate members but may not vote or run for office.

Overall, Shiflet expects 50-80 students qualify for AED.

AED's first interest meeting will be held on Wed., Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. in room 122 in Milliken.