



PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDIES | COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

B.A./B.S. IN PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDIES

The Pre-Health Professions Studies (PHP) program is an advising program designed to prepare students for entry into the major post-baccalaureate health careers such as:

- Chiropractic
- Dentistry
- Medicine
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Podiatry
- Veterinary medicine

Although students may select any field of study, most students find that degrees in biology, chemistry or psychology are best suited to fulfill the specific prerequisite requirements for admission into these healthcare programs. Students majoring in other fields of study can fulfill prerequisite requirements with electives.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Each healthcare program has its own unique set of prerequisite courses and other admission requirements. Many programs require completion of a B.S. or B.A. degree in any field of study.

Because the PHP program is an advising program completed in tandem with a B.A. or B.S. degree of the student's choice, the degree requirements vary with one's chosen major and depend upon which post-graduate healthcare field a student is pursuing. For specific degree requirements, students should consult an academic advisor in their chosen disciplines.

COURSEWORK

Professional schools recognize the importance of a broad education. This includes a strong foundation in the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, and physics), highly developed communication skills, and a solid background in the social sciences and humanities.

It is critical that pre-professional students develop a thorough understanding of the principles of biology, chemistry and physics. Students interested in pursuing professional school must complete coursework in these areas in order to:

- Confirm their interest in and capacity for proceeding further in these fields;
- Enable professional schools to evaluate their achievement and potential in these areas;
- Prepare for admission tests; and
- Meet the requirements of state laws governing licensure.

Coursework requirements vary between each of the healthcare programs. Generally, most programs require two semesters of general biology with lab, two semesters of general chemistry with lab, and two semesters of organic chemistry with lab. Two semesters of physics and two semesters of anatomy & physiology are also common requirements.

Students should consult with an advisor about specific requirements for the programs they are interested in.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Pre-Professional Advising provides a variety of services that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Academic advising on proper course selection and academic progress;
- Information on academic majors;
- Information and updates on careers in the health care field;
- Information on summer internship and research opportunities;
- Guidance when applying to professional school;
- Guidance and help in acquiring and sending of letters of recommendation;
- Assistance with all questions related to professional school.

Pre-Professional students are expected to take an active role in preparing for their professional educations and their careers. Faculty members encourage and challenge students to meet with their advisors on a regular basis to ensure fulfillment of both the requirements for graduation and for making application to the student's professional school of choice.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN PRE-HEALTH PROFESSION STUDIES?

This program is designed to guide students for entry into a healthcare profession. Subsequent graduation from a licensed professional school and completion of state licensing procedures will allow the individual to practice in that healthcare profession.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Students are encouraged to shadow several professionals in a variety of settings within their desired career and other healthcare fields.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The Pre-Professional Studies Club enhances learning and interaction amongst pre-health care students. The club sponsors frequent speakers (health professionals, admissions counselors) and discussions as well as trips and social gatherings. Moreover, most departments sponsor clubs within their majors that foster learning and camaraderie between students.

RELATED DEGREE OPTIONS

Most students in this program earn B.S. or B.A. degrees in the sciences, such as Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. Many choose to earn minors in other fields, as well.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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