

Pre-Professional Health Studies

Dr. Jeanne Melton, Director

Pre-Professional Health Studies is a university-wide program administered through the Vice President's Office with a curriculum which meets the needs of students preparing for admission into a variety of health professions schools. Pre-Professional Health students major in an academic discipline in addition to completing the pre-health curriculum. The basic science courses comprising this curriculum are suitable preparation for entry into many professional areas, including medicine (allopathic and osteopathic), dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, and podiatry. Students officially accepted by Saint Louis University Office of Undergraduate Admission are eligible to begin a curriculum preparatory to one of these health professions. There are approximately 1000 students (freshmen through seniors) involved in the pre-health professions curriculum.

This program for premedical, pre-dental, and other pre-health professions students encourages personal contact with faculty mentors, professional advisors in the colleges, and the staff in Pre-Professional Health Studies. These offices have responsibility for advisement related to the student's overall degree requirements and career choices.

The Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies and the Pre-health Committee on Evaluations extend their services to students interested in the health professions previously mentioned. The Committee is composed of the Director, Assistant Director, and Program Coordinator of Pre-Professional Health Studies, in addition to volunteer faculty a variety of disciplines across campus. The Committee sends a thorough letter of evaluation and recommendation to professional schools of the student's choice, which replaces individual letters of recommendation sought from faculty. The evaluation process of this Committee begins early in the student's third year – or two years prior to the anticipated date of entrance to professional school.

Application to professional school is completed one year in advance of the expected date of matriculation. Within the first three years, the student must complete the following required courses in basic sciences that satisfy the majority of medical and other professional schools:

Requirements for Program

BIOL	104	Principles of Biology I	4
BIOL	106	Principles of Biology II	4
		Upper Division Biology course	3-5
BIOL	302	Molecular Cell Biology I	
BIOL	304	Molecular Cell Biology II	
CHEM	163	General Chemistry I	3

CHEM	164	General Chemistry II	3
CHEM	165	General Chemistry I Lab	1
CHEM	166	General Chemistry II Lab	1
CHEM	342	Principles Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM	343	Principles Organic Chemistry II	3
CHEM	344	Organic Chemistry Lab I	1
CHEM	345	Organic Chemistry Lab II	1
MATH	142	Calculus I	4
PHYS	131	Physics I	3
PHYS	132	Physics I Lab	1
PHYS	133	Physics II	3
PHYS	134	Physics II Lab	1

In addition to required courses

Students are encouraged to take at least three upper division biology or chemistry courses.

Students should also be aware that a revised MCAT will be given beginning in the spring of 2015. New and expanded content includes psychology, sociology and research/research methodology.

Recommended courses include

BIOL	342	Comparative Anat of the Vertebrates	5
BIOL	344	Embryology	5
BIOL	347	General Physiology Lab	2
BIOL	444	Vertebrate Histology	4
BIOL	454	Human Cellular Physiology I	3
CHEM	320	Analytical Chemistry	2
CHEM	322	Analytical Chemistry Lab	2
CHEM	333	Physical Chemistry I	3
CHEM	334	Physical Chemistry II	3
CHEM	335	Physical Chemistry Lab	2

Students completing the minimum pre-health curriculum are better prepared to take the appropriate admission test as part of the application process for professional school.

Students are encouraged to take a balanced combination of natural science, language, social science, humanities, and general liberal arts (15-18 credit hours per semester). The suggested selection of courses for the beginning student is made on the basis of high school aptitude and achievement, class rank, and previous humanities and science courses. Pre-health professions students are encouraged to acquire a strong background in the humanities, selecting courses in which development of communication skills and verbal reasoning are encouraged as these skills are stressed in the admission selection process by professional schools. Students are also encouraged to complete an internship and/or shadow physicians to gain firsthand experience in a health care setting.

Special Program for Premedical Students

The Medical Scholars Program

The Medical Scholars Program gives particular recognition to beginning freshmen premedical students. Students apply to the Medical Scholars Program on the Medical Scholars Application at the same time that they apply to Saint Louis University. Medical Scholars are advised in the Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies during their freshmen year.

Medical Scholars may apply to Saint Louis University School of Medicine in their sophomore year of study. They may gain early conditional acceptance for the year following completion of their undergraduate work. Qualified candidates must have at least an SAT total of 1330, or at least a 30 ACT Composite (average) score, according to the national norms for college-bound students, and completion of one year of high school biology, one year of high school chemistry, and three years of mathematics through trigonometry. Participants must be able to meet the minimum "Technical Standards" set by the School of Medicine. The standards may be viewed on the [School of Medicine's website](#). Medical Scholars are required to attend a special orientation given by the Director of Pre-Professional Health Studies and the Dean of Admissions of the School of Medicine. This meeting will occur at the beginning of the freshman year.

Eligible students must elect to take part in this program only in the Fall, at the beginning of their freshman year. The program is not available to transfer students or to freshmen at any other time of year.

The curriculum in the program, for freshman and sophomore years, is outlined below. Any changes in courses in this curriculum require the specific approval of the Director of Pre-Professional Health Studies, and the School of Medicine. Advanced Placement and 1818 credit may apply to non-science courses in this curriculum; however, a strict course substitution policy will be followed. For example, if Calculus I has been completed in the 1818 ACC Program, another math course, such as Calculus II or Statistics, must be substituted. All science courses must be taken at Saint Louis University.

In order to remain in this program the student must, at the close of the freshman year (30 semester hours minimum), have official grade point averages of at least 3.65 in 1) sciences/mathematics, and 2) cumulative (overall GPA). The minimum GPA requirements must be met on an annual basis at the end of each academic year and are noncumulative. Credits acquired between freshman and sophomore years will not be considered part of the 60 semester hours total, nor will courses taken in transfer between these years be permitted to substitute for the required science courses. It is recommended that all mathematics class be taken at St. Louis University, but some AP mathematics course credit might be accepted. Grades for transfer courses and 1818 courses are not computed into these averages; however, the credit

for these courses does count toward graduation. AP or dual credit in biology, chemistry, and physics are not acceptable to meet science course requirements.

Prerequisites for participation in the Medical Scholars Program

ACT Composite of 30 or higher or SAT scores of 1330 or higher and excellent high school academic record which includes one year of biology, one year of chemistry and three years of mathematics through trigonometry.

Required Courses

BIOL	104	Principles of Biology I	4
BIOL	106	Principles of Biology II	4
CHEM	163	General Chemistry I	3
CHEM	164	General Chemistry II	3
CHEM	165	General Chemistry I Lab	1
CHEM	166	General Chemistry II Lab	1
CHEM	342	Principles Organic Chemistry I	3
CHEM	343	Principles Organic Chemistry II	3
CHEM	344	Organic Chemistry Lab I	1
CHEM	345	Organic Chemistry Lab II	1
ENGL	190	Adv Strategies Rhetoric & Research	3
MATH	142	Calculus I*	4
PHYS	131	Physics I	3
PHYS	132	Physics I Lab	1
PHYS	133	Physics II	3
PHYS	134	Physics II Lab	1
THEO	100	Theological Foundations	3

* Calculus I is the minimum mathematics requirement for the program and for admission to most medical schools

There is some variability in coursework, in terms of course numbers and timing. Specific core courses and timing may vary by college or school. Students work with the Pre-Professional Health Studies advisors to establish an appropriate course of study

Required in the Junior and Senior Years

1. Completion of the Physics sequence.
2. Maintain a 3.65 annual average and a 3.65science/mathematics annual average and for each academic year.
3. The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) to be taken at the prescribed time.
4. MCAT scores do not affect acceptance; however, Medical Scholars are expected to make every effort to achieve the highest possible score.
5. Completion of the undergraduate degree program.
6. At least 14 credits must be taken in any semester.

Students in the Medical Scholars Program are not allowed to withdraw from courses, audit courses, take courses pass/fail, receive grades of D or F, or receive incomplete grades.

In the sophomore year, the Pre-Health Committee on Evaluations will evaluate students. These evaluations will be maintained in the Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies and be kept in preparation for application to the School of Medicine. A member of the Pre-Health Committee on Evaluations will interview the student successfully completing the program with the required cumulative averages. An evaluation will be prepared by the Committee and submitted to the School of Medicine. This evaluation contains the following documents: 1) letter of evaluation prepared by the Committee, and 2) a personal essay, "Why I Want to be a Physician." The Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies will also send appropriate application materials to the Admissions Committee.

These materials will be submitted to the Dean of Admissions, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, during the spring of the sophomore year. The Admissions Committee of the School of Medicine will conduct interviews, and applicants will receive a response from the School of Medicine by the beginning of the junior year concerning admission.

Students gaining a conditional acceptance to Saint Louis University School of Medicine are required to:

1. complete the Physics sequence,
2. maintain the cumulative 3.65 GPA averages previously described,
3. take the MCAT at the prescribed time, and complete the Undergraduate degree program outlined in their application to the School of Medicine
4. take an upper division science course (Biology, Chemistry, or Physics) Fall and Spring semester of senior year.

If a student who has been accepted into Saint Louis University School of Medicine through participation in the Medical Scholars Program should decide to apply to other medical schools, this early acceptance will be withdrawn. If such a student wishes to be reconsidered for admission to this School of Medicine, he or she may follow the regular application process.

For further information on the Premedical Program or other Pre-Professional Health Programs, and the Pre-Professional Health Studies Curriculum contact:

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or visit the Pre-Professional Health Studies Web Page at
<http://www.slu.edu/prehealth.xml>