

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION IN THE COLLEGE

Pre-Professional Preparation in the Natural Sciences

Students desiring a major, pre-professional curriculum, or a constructed minor in one of the disciplines of natural science should consult with a representative of the appropriate department for advisement regarding minimal requirements for their objectives in that area of study. In addition, students must consult with a departmental representative before registering for an upper division laboratory science. Auditing laboratory science courses requires departmental approval.

Science, Teaching/Coaching of Physical Education or Mathematics Teacher Education

Students desiring to enter a career in secondary school teaching should consult with an academic advisor in Liberal Studies and the appropriate department. The academic advisor will provide a complete list of the requirements for teacher certification in the student's selected field. Certain courses are required for teaching, and a wide spectrum of courses are necessary covering diverse areas within discipline(s) chosen.

Graduate School Preparation in the Sciences or Mathematics

Students who desire to enter graduate school in the fields of sciences or mathematics need to consult with their academic advisor for counsel regarding requirements and the proper sequence of courses. It is advisable for such students to obtain catalogs from graduate schools of their choice and consider carefully the undergraduate prerequisites listed in them. Most graduate schools require prospective students to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), which is normally taken in the Fall of the senior year or the Spring of the junior year. Some graduate schools require only the basic or generalized GRE while others require that applicants also take the advanced subject area exam. It is imperative that students be aware of the requirements and application deadlines of the graduate school of their choice.

Pre-Medical, and Pre-Health Professions Preparation

Medical, dental, and other professional graduate schools seek students with broad education in both liberal arts and in the natural sciences. Recommended majors for pre-medical, pre-veterinary, or pre-dental training are either biology or chemistry. In pursuing either of these majors, the student should complete mathematics through calculus, one year of calculus-based physics, one year sequence of comparative anatomy/embryology and vertebrate physiology, cell biology, histology, microbiology, genetics, and a sequence of chemistry courses up to and including advanced biochemistry. Most medical and dental school applicants complete a baccalaureate degree program prior to beginning

their medical training. Normally, the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or Dental Aptitude Test (DAT), or other tests required for entrance into professional graduate school is taken during the sixth semester of undergraduate work. The MCAT exam emphasizes critical thinking and writing skills, in addition to factual knowledge. The successful completion of our course program and the knowledge gained will be (1) decidedly helpful in achieving requisite MCAT and DAT scores, and (2) essential in providing an adequate background for medical and dental studies.

Pre-Health Professions require a core and additional work in a concentration. For Pre-Health Professions descriptions (Chiropractic, Nursing, and Physical Therapy), see relevant catalog section under the Kinesiology Department.

For additional preparatory subjects on other professional school entrance examinations, the prospective applicant should consult the catalogs of the schools of interest. It is important also to work with the chair of the Pre-Medical Committee for assistance in planning the total program.

