

Pre-Health Professions Advising

Idaho State University offers advising for pre-health professional students which prepares them for application to and acceptance by a variety of health professional schools. Health professional programs for which advising is offered include: dentistry, medicine, osteopathic medicine, optometry, podiatric medicine, veterinary medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic, and physician assistant. For students interested in one of the health professional programs offered at Idaho State University, such as clinical laboratory science, counseling, dental hygiene, family medicine, health and nutrition sciences, health care administration, nursing, physical therapy, physician assistant, pharmacy, radiographic science, and speech pathology and audiology, the Pre-health Advisor will refer the students to the appropriate department or college for additional information.

The Pre-health Professions Advising Office is located in the Department of Biological Sciences, Room 202 of the Life Sciences Building (Building #65 on the Idaho State University map). Students who plan to apply to one of the professional schools listed above should establish and maintain close contact with the Pre-health Advisor throughout their undergraduate program at Idaho State University. The Pre-health Advisor monitors students' progress through their degree programs and the health professional prerequisite courses, provides information about application procedures, and organizes informational meetings, workshops, and speakers on specific health professions. The advisor also coordinates the Pre-health Professions Advisory Committee that provides interviews to prepare students for the health professional programs application processes.

Pre-Health Advisor: Becky Connell

Co-Chairs of Committee: Dr. Maureen Brandon, Dr. Jeff Perkel, and Dr. Rod Seeley, Biological Sciences

Committee Members:

Dr. Lyle Castle, Chemistry

Dr. Joseph Steiner, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. Linda Hatzenbuehler, College of Health Professions

Dr. Cynthia Hill, Economics

Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum, Biological Sciences

Dr. Alex Urfer, Physical Therapy

Dr. Derek Wright, Idaho State University Family Practice Clinic

Dr. Jonathan Westphal, English and Philosophy

In general, health professional schools have no preference for specific academic majors. Instead, they prefer that applicants major in a defined academic area (zoology, chemistry, psychology, economics, for example) and concurrently satisfy the prerequisite courses for the specific health professional school. Pre-health professional students should consult with a member of the Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee or the Pre-health Advisor in order to successfully combine an academic major with a pre-health professional program. It is strongly recommended that pre-professional students develop a strong background in courses such as those listed below. Courses required by most health professional schools include, but are not limited to, the following:

BIOL 101,101L	Biology I, and Lab	4 cr
BIOL 102,102L	Biology II, and Lab	4 cr
BIOS 206	Cell Biology and Lab	4 cr
CHEM 111	General Chemistry I	5 cr
CHEM 112	General Chemistry II	4 cr
CHEM 301	Organic Chemistry I	3 cr
CHEM 302	Organic Chemistry II	3 cr
CHEM 303	Organic Chemistry Laboratory I	1 cr
CHEM 304	Organic Chemistry Laboratory II	1 cr
ENGL 101	English Composition	3 cr
ENGL 102	Critical Reading and Writing	3 cr
PHYS 111	General Physics I	3 cr
PHYS 112	General Physics II	3 cr
PHYS 113,114	General Physics Laboratory I and II	2 cr

(Departmental prerequisites may apply to some of these courses.)

In addition to completing specified prerequisite courses, most health professional schools require that the pre-professional student obtain practical experience in the health professional field she or he plans to enter, and take a national standardized admission test. Specific information about the national exams and acceptable practical experiences are included in the sections below.

Students who complete three years of the curriculum in zoology with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher may be eligible to receive a B.S. degree in zoology after completion of the first year of study at a departmentally approved school of dentistry, or veterinary medicine. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of 96 credits, satisfy all Idaho State University General Education Requirements, and complete all courses numbered lower than 400 which are required by the zoology curriculum. Students are advised to consult with the Assistant Chair for Undergraduate Programs of the Department of Biological Sciences or the Pre-health Advisor early in their undergraduate programs if they plan to pursue this program option. Students should be aware that this practice is in decline, and few applicants matriculate into schools of dentistry or veterinary medicine prior to completion of a bachelor's degree.

The undergraduate courses required by most medical schools is the same as described above

Veterinary Medicine

The undergraduate courses listed above provide some guidance for the pre-veterinary medicine student. However, significant differences in pre-veterinary requirements by the various schools of veterinary medicine require that students obtain a specific list of requirements for each school. The most current admission requirements for veterinary medicine schools are described on the schools' websites, which can be accessed through the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC): www.aavmc.org. Veterinary medicine applicants must take the General Test of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), and have volunteer experience with a practicing veterinarian prior to applying to the individual schools of veterinary medicine.

Idaho residents should be aware that a long term agreement has been reached among the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (WOI) to share responsibility for the curriculum and program at the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The WOI program gives admissions

preference to Idaho residents. Students who are not residents of Idaho or any students who wish to apply to other schools of veterinary medicine should consult with the Pre-health Advisor concerning the proper development of a pre-veterinary medical program at Idaho State University.

Websites of Interest to Pre-health Professions Students

Most health professions have national associations that maintain detailed websites with information about the profession, the professional schools, and admissions information. The list below includes websites most commonly used by the pre-health professions students.

1. Dentistry
 - American Dental Association: www.ada.org
 - American Dental Education Association: www.adea.org
2. Medicine
 - Allopathic (M.D.)
 - Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC): www.aamc.org
 - Osteopathic (D.O.)
 - American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM): www.aacom.org
 - Podiatric (D.P.M.)
 - American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM): www.aacpm.org
3. Occupational Therapy
 - American Occupational Therapy Association: www.aota.org
4. Optometry
 - Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO): www.opted.org
5. Physical Therapy
 - American Physical Therapy Association (APTA): www.apta.org
6. Physician Assistant
 - American Academy of Physician Assistants: www.aapa.org
 - Association of Physician Assistant Programs: www.apap.org
7. Veterinary Medicine
 - Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC): www.aavmc.org