

The Health Professions Advisory Office
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The HPAO is a resource for all students on pre-health professions tracks other than pre-nursing.
(Pre-med, pre-dental, pre-vet, pre-pharmacy, pre-PT, pre-PA, etc)

Students should:

- 1) **Schedule a formal meeting with a pre-health advisor at least once each year.**
- 2) Join the HPAO ListServ to receive informational emails. (send an email to hpao@vanderbilt.edu requesting to be added)
- 3) Consider joining pre-health society of interest. (links on the HPAO homepage)

Pre-Health pre-requisites

(In general – **VARIES PER SCHOOL** – some schools require additional courses)

<u>Semesters</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Possible Courses-May Vary-ALWAYS CONSULT WITH ADVISOR</u>
2	General Chem/Lab	(CHEM 1601/1601L & CHEM 1602/1602L)
2	Organic Chem/Lab	(CHEM 2221/2221L & CHEM 2222/2222L OR *If AP credit of 5 – 2211/2221L & 2212/2222L)
2	Biology/Lab	(BSCI 1510/1510L & BSCI 1511/1511L or 1511/1512L)
2	Physics/Lab	(PHYS 1501/1501L & 1502/1502L - Health Sciences) <u>OR</u> (PHYS 1601/1601L & 1602/1602L – Engineering) <u>OR</u> (PHYS 1901 & 1902 – Physics Major)
2	English	(ENGL and/or W – Varies/Confirm with schools)
1	Calculus	(MATH 1200, 1201, 1300, 1301, 2200, 2300)

MCAT15

1	Biochemistry	(BSCI 2520)
1	Statistics	(MATH 1010, 1011, 2820 , ECON 1500, PSY 2100, PSY-PC 2110, 2120, SOC 2100)
~1 ea	Sociology/Psychology/Bioethics	(Through Self-directed Studies or Coursework)

Each health professions graduate school is independent and may have unique pre-requisites. STUDENTS MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR PARTICULAR SCHOOLS OF INTEREST.

Specific requirements for each school can be found on the school's website or through resources from the respective association.

Medical - Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR) – aamc.org

Dental – ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools – adea.org

Pharmacy – Pharmacy School Admissions Requirements – aacp.org

Vet – College Descriptor Pages – aavmc.org

PT - Physical Therapist Centralized Application Svc-Course Prerequisites – apta.org

NOTE: If a student is uncertain as to whether or not a particular school will accept a certain course as a pre-requisite, the student should contact that specific school for confirmation.

In order to be a well-rounded applicant, students should focus on:

Admissions Test (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc)

GPA

Service/Volunteering/Leadership

Exposure to the Health Professions (shadowing)

Research

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How often should a student meet with the HPAO?

Students are encouraged to schedule official appointments with the HPAO at a minimum of once each year, and certainly more often if the student prefers. In addition to receiving valuable advising, these meetings give the HPAO an opportunity to get to know the student better which is beneficial in composing a recommendation letter. (See question 6 – ASAP mtg/Committee Letter)

2. Do schools accept AP credits to meet the pre-requisites?

Some health professions schools accept AP credits, and some do not. If a school does not accept AP credits, students may need to take upper division classes to meet the requirements.

3. Can a student take courses during the summer at another college?

If students take courses away at a school that is as rigorous as Vanderbilt, there shouldn't be a problem. However, there is some thought that taking courses at one's home institution is preferred. The better a student does at Vanderbilt, the more flexibility they have to take courses away. If one does well at Vanderbilt and also does well away, the message is consistent. If one does poorly at Vanderbilt and well away, the message is inconsistent. All transcripts from all colleges attended must be sent to the common app when applying to med school, even if away courses have transferred and are shown on the Vanderbilt transcript. In order to qualify to have away courses transferred to Vanderbilt, students must get permission prior to taking the course, and prior to the approval deadline by following the requirements found on this link:

<http://as.vanderbilt.edu/oas/academicpolicies/summerworkelsewhere/>

4. Are online courses acceptable?

In general, online courses are not recommended.

5. Can a pre-health student participate in a Study Abroad Program?

Many pre-med students study abroad. It is usually done in the sophomore year or in the first semester of the junior year. It can be done in the second semester of the junior year with proper planning. Things to consider are 1) getting recommendation letters, 2) preparing for and taking the MCAT (or appropriate test), and 3) having the ASAP meeting/interview with the HPAO. There also could be a delay in receiving your transcript information from the Study Abroad school which could delay the application verification process. Going abroad during the senior year could conflict with interviews. Also keep in mind, many medical schools either require or prefer for pre-requisite courses to be taken in the US.

6. What is an ASAP meeting?

Most health professions schools either require or expect a Committee Letter from the undergraduate university's Health Professions Advisory Office (if the applicant is still an undergrad). An Advisor's Student Applicant Portfolio (ASAP) meeting is **required** in order for the HPAO to prepare a Committee Letter. This 1 hour and 45 minute meeting/mock interview is offered to current undergraduates (or very recent graduates) beginning in February of their application year. The **HPAO should be contacted months in advance** of the preferred meeting date since the calendar fills up quickly. The completed ASAP document must be brought to the meeting. (The document can be found on the HPAO homepage.)

7. Which courses count as English pre-requisites?

Approximately two-thirds of the allopathic (MD) medical schools require a year of English with W (writing) classes meeting the requirement in most cases. The W course can usually be in any area other than a lab or foreign language, however, some schools require it to be specifically in the English department (e.g. Houston). There may also be schools that require more than 2 semesters of English (e.g. Oklahoma). If a student is uncertain as to whether or not a specific medical school will accept a certain course as a pre-requisite, the student should contact that specific medical school to clarify.

8. Do medical schools require calculus and/or math?

Approximately one-half of the allopathic medical schools have a math requirement. Of those, most require 2 semesters of calculus and/or statistics. Some accept AP credit and others do not. A couple of schools require 2 semesters of calculus. Students should become familiar with the requirements for the specific medical schools of interest to them. If a student is uncertain as to whether or not a specific medical school will accept a certain course as a pre-requisite, the student should contact that specific medical school to clarify.

* If a medical school does not accept AP credit, upper division courses may be needed to meet requirements.