

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISORY PROGRAM

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 www.sonoma.edu/hpac

The Health Professions Advisory Program at Sonoma State University is an advising and support system for undergraduates and post-baccalaureate students preparing for careers in various health professions, including allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, podiatry, optometry, pharmacy, physician assistant, and chiropractic medicine. Please note that advising for physical therapy and nursing are done by the Departments of Kinesiology and Nursing, respectively.

Students interested in entering the health professions will select an appropriate major for undergraduate study. Since the majority of courses required for admission to health-related programs are in the sciences, most students earn degrees in biology or chemistry before going on to professional schools, although many non-science majors are being accepted.

Most health professions schools require a bachelor's degree for admission, although schools of dentistry, pharmacy, physician assistant, and chiropractic medicine may require fewer units and courses for admission. The following outline of courses will meet the requirements for admission to most medical schools. Since medical schools generally have the most rigid course requirements among the health professions schools, these courses will generally meet or exceed the requirements for other health professions schools. However, it is important to examine closely the requirements for any program and school and take courses to fulfill those requirements. Requirements for entrance into the University of California, Davis, Veterinary Medicine program are different from those for other health professions schools. Pre-veterinary students should consult an advisor in the Biology Department.

Courses Required for Admission to Health Professions Schools

The following courses are most generally required for admission to health professions schools:

Biology	Units
General biology (through cellular and molecular biology)	8-12
Some medical schools also require an upper-division course in cell biology or genetics.	
Chemistry	
Inorganic or general chemistry	10
Organic chemistry	8-10
Some schools also require an upper-division course in biochemistry.	
English	
Composition and Literature	8

Physics
 Two semesters with lab 8

Mathematics
 Some schools require a year of college mathematics and/or a calculus course or statistics. 4-8

Foreign Language
 A few schools recommend a modern foreign language course. 0-8

Psychology
 An introductory psychology course is recommended by some schools. 3

Sonoma State Courses for Health Professions

The following courses at Sonoma State University will generally fulfill the required or recommended courses suggested above:

BIOL 130 Intro Genetics and Cell Biology	4*
BIOL 131 Biological Diversity and Ecology	4*
BIOL 321 Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Physiology	4
BIOL 328 Vertebrate Evolutionary Morphology	4
BIOL 342 Molecular Genetics	4
BIOL 340 General Bacteriology	4
BIOL 344 Cell Biology	4
BIOL 349 Animal Physiology	4
BIOL 472 Developmental Biology	4
BIOL 480 Immunology	4
CHEM 115A/B General Chemistry and Lab	5/5*
CHEM 335A/B Organic Chemistry	3/3*
CHEM 336A/B Organic Chemistry Lab	2/2*
CHEM 446 Metabolic Biochemistry	3
PHYS 210A/B General Physics	3/3*
PHYS 209A/B General Physics Lab	1/1 *
MATH 161 Calculus	4
MATH 165 Elementary Statistics	4
ENGL 101 Expository Writing and Reading	4
ENGL 214 Literature	4
PSY 250 Introduction to Psychology	3

* Required courses for all California medical schools.

Applicants with a grade point average below 3.00 are almost never considered by U.S. medical school admissions committees, and few students with a grade point average below 3.40 are accepted.

In addition to the required courses, most pre-health professions students are required to take an appropriate standardized examination such as the Medical College Admissions Test, Dental Admissions Test, or the Graduate Record Examination at, or before, the time of application.

The Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC) has been established to offer assistance to students interested in careers in the health professions. The main functions of the committee are to:

1. Advise students on how best to prepare for admission to health professions schools. Since the Sonoma State University campus is small, the HPAC has the opportunity to communicate with students on a personal basis. Individual departments may also have pre-health professions advisors;
2. Coordinate a one-credit university course (Science 150, Introduction to Careers in the Health Professions—offered in fall semester only). This course offers general information sessions by the course coordinator and several guest speakers (health care providers and health professions school faculty and admissions officers);
3. Provide a practice admissions interview for candidates applying to health professions schools;
4. Evaluate candidates and write letters supporting their admission to health professions schools.

There is a student-run Pre-Health Professions Club on campus. This club meets bi-weekly and brings students of similar interests in the health professions together. In addition, the club arranges for field trips to many health professions schools and speakers related to different health professions.

Students interested in a career in the health professions are strongly encouraged to meet with a health professions advisor immediately upon enrolling at Sonoma State University. Appointments to meet with the chair of the HPAC can be made through the HPAC office in Darwin Hall, Room 200, (707) 664-2535. Visit the program website (www.sonoma.edu/hpac) for more information.