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Requirements for Pre-Medical Professions

Choosing a Major:

- See a Pre-Health Advisor at least once a semester
- Pre-Health students must choose a major (Pre-Health is not a major).
- Commonly chosen majors include Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biomedical Engineering, Psychology, or Liberal Studies. However, almost any major is acceptable, as long as students complete the pre-health requirements.

Qualities of Professional School Applicants:

- A high GPA in science and non-science courses – a competitive GPA is above a 3.6
- High Scores on the MCAT- a viable MCAT score is above 504
- Significant clinical / volunteer / work / leadership experience is essential!
- You should be well known by your professors who will write great Letters of Recommendation.

Common Pre-requisites for Admission

Biology

BSC 2010, 2010L (General Bio I & Lab)

BSC 2011, 2011L (General Bio II & Lab)

General Chemistry

CHM 1045, 1045L (Gen. Chem. I & Lab)

CHM 1046, 1046L (Gen. Chem. II & Lab)

Organic Chemistry

CHM 2210, 2210L (Org. Chem. I & Lab)

CHM 2211, 2211L (Org. Chem. II & Lab)

Physics I

PHY 2053, 2048L (Gen. Physics I w/out Calc) -OR-

PHY 2048, 2048L (Gen. Physics I with Calc)

Physics II

PHY 2054, 2049L (Gen. Physics II w/out Calc) -OR-

PHY 2049, 2049L (Gen. Physics II with Calc)

Mathematics

Two semesters of college level math

Biochemistry

CHM 4304 (Biological Chemistry I) -OR-

BCH 3033 (General Biochemistry)

Courses Strongly Recommended for MCAT Prep:

Genetics

PCB 3063 (Genetics)

Cell Biology

PCB 4023 (Cell Biology)

Physiology - at least one semester

PCB 3702 -OR- PCB 3703 (Human Physiology)

Psychology & Sociology - at least two semesters

SOP 3004 (Intro to Social Psychology) -OR-

SYO 3400 (Medical Sociology) -OR-

ANT 3462 (Medical Anthropology) -OR-

PSB 4002 (Intro to Bio Psychology) -OR-

EXP 4604 (Cognitive Processes)

***Requirements for professional schools may **vary**.
Applicants should verify each individual program's
requirements prior to application submission.***

AP Credits

- Not all professional schools will accept AP credit for science courses (for a list, ask a pre-health advisor)
- Check the MSAR book online or contact the school(s) you are interested in to find out if they accept AP credits
- If a school accepts AP credits, they will usually require additional courses taken in that subject area at an advanced level.

The MCAT

- MCAT review should begin after completing biochemistry coursework by all potential applicants.
- Your score will last for three years prior to matriculation

GPA Calculation

- Most professional schools will calculate your *Overall GPA* as well as your *Science & Math GPA (BCPM GPA)* for admission
- Use the GPA Calculator link located on our website <http://prehealthadvise.fiu.edu>
- AP credits are **NOT** computed into your GPA
- **All** post-secondary coursework will be used to compute your GPA for admission
- Dual-enrollment and transfer courses **DO** count toward your GPA for admission
- Professional schools **DO NOT** use “forgiveness” policies in calculating your GPA
- DR grades do not count in your GPA. However, avoid DR grades. Professional schools expect students to carry a consistent, full-time course load (15-18 credits)

Professional Experience

- Experience must involve physician/patient observation (typically students have >120 hours)
- Students should have at least one year of experience through volunteer or paid positions
- Students must demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of their chosen profession when applying to professional school
 - Note: Many otherwise well-qualified applicants are not accepted because they lack sufficient experience and or knowledge of their chosen profession

****Academic Advising****

All lower-division, Pre-Health students must see an advisor in their Major Department in addition to an advisor in the Office of Pre-Health Professions Advising prior to registration each semester!