



Pre-Med/ Pre-Health Professions

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Saint Mary's College is a great place to complete "Pre-Health Professions" courses in order to prepare for admission into any number of Graduate Health Professions programs. The strength of the Saint Mary's liberal arts curriculum and the rigor of the science courses taught by Saint Mary's faculty are ideal for preparing students to study in a graduate health professions discipline following college. Whether a student desires to pursue study in Human Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Physical Therapy, Optometry, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Physician Assistant Studies, Public Health, or a less popular field, Saint Mary's can help guide the student in curricular planning in order to complete prerequisite courses for application to these health-related programs. Every student will have an assigned advisor for course selection throughout her College career, and she can also consult with Dr. Versagli, Pre-Health Professions Advisor.

Students can enter a Health Professions Graduate program from a completed major in any discipline at Saint Mary's College. The most popular major is biology followed by chemistry/biochemistry, but students have also gone on to these programs from majors in music and psychology. Regardless of major, students should strive for a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better with science grades of 3.6 or better to be competitive.

A basic core of courses is required for health professions programs, all of which can be taken at Saint Mary's College. Following are the ones most commonly found among the list of prerequisite of courses for most schools/programs. It is VERY important that students be responsible for their own research of classes required for admission to the graduate health professions program they desire.

PROGRAM IN PRE-MED/PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS

One year of biology with labs:

BIO 155	Foundations of Molecular Biology	lab	2 hours
BIO 156	Foundations of Ecology and Evolution	lab	2 hours
BIO 157	Foundations of Cellular Biology	lab	2 hours
BIO 158	Foundations of Form and Function	lab	2 hours

One year of general chemistry with labs:

CHEM 121-122	Principles of Chemistry I, II		8 hours
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One year of organic chemistry with labs:

CHEM 221-222	Organic Chemistry I, II		8 hours
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NOTE: some programs no longer require the second semester of organic chemistry

One semester of biochemistry (now required of many programs):

CHEM 324	Biochemistry (no lab)		3 hours
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One year of math:

MATH 131/132	Calculus I, II	8 hours
or MATH 114/133	Introduction to Statistics/Theory and Application of Calculus	7 hours
or MATH 133/225	Theory and Application of Calculus/ Foundations of Higher Mathematics	7 hours

One year of physics:

PHYS 121-122	General Physics I, II	8 hours
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One year of English (not all schools)**Courses in psychology and sociology (6–9 hours)**

All graduate health professions programs require an admission test in spring of the junior year or fall of the senior year if a student desires to enter the program immediately following graduation from college. These include but are not limited to the MCAT for medical school, DAT for dental school, VCAT or GRE for vet school, OAT for optometry, and GRE for most of the others.

The MCAT (required for medical school) requires at least one course in psychology and one in sociology (dealing with human behavior) as well as biochemistry. Other programs require anatomy and physiology. Some programs also want a course or demonstrated proficiency in communications. Students can get all these courses/requirements at Saint Mary's College, but some classes may have prerequisites, so students should plan ahead! The student's advisor and/or Dr. Versagli can help with these details.

Health Professions programs are interested in students who have demonstrated leadership, good time management skills, and an interest in people. Because all undergraduate students at Saint Mary's are women, all leadership positions are filled by women! The Senior Comprehensive requirement, which is found in all departments at Saint Mary's College, is highly esteemed among Health Professions Graduate programs. Study abroad and opportunities for shadowing or volunteering are also highly valued and are recommended as part of the undergraduate experience at Saint Mary's.

