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 medical 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 Beckley Nursing Building, Room 307B, (Building #66 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 chairs the Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee that provides interviews to prepare students for the health professional programs application processes.

Pre-Health Advisor: Jacque Baergen

In general, health professional schools have no preference for specific academic majors. Instead, they prefer that applicants major in a defined academic area (biology, chemistry, psychology, economics, for example) and concurrently satisfy the prerequisite courses for the specific health professional school. Pre-Health professional students should consult with the Pre-Health Advisor or a member of the Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee 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, many of which also satisfy General Education Objectives (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/academicinformation/generaleducation):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1101</td>
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<td>ENGL 1101</td>
<td>Writing and Rhetoric I Plus</td>
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or ENGL 1101P

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.

Chiropractic

The undergraduate courses listed above provide some guidance for the pre-chiropractic student. However, significant differences in pre-requisite coursework by the various chiropractic schools require that students obtain a specific list of requirements for each school. The most current admission requirements for chiropractic schools are described on the schools’ websites, which can be accessed through the Association of Chiropractic Colleges website at http://www.chirocolleges.org.

Dentistry

The Idaho State University courses listed above provide a core for pre-dental requirements of most dental schools. However, some dental schools have additional requirements. The most current admission requirements for each dental school are described on the schools’ websites, which can be accessed through the American Dental Education Association website at http://www.adea.org, or by consulting the latest edition of “ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools,” published by the American Dental Education Association, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20001. A copy of this guide is available in the Pre-Health Professions Advising Office. All dental applicants must take the Dental Admission Test (DAT), and have shadowed a practicing dentist prior to applying to the individual schools of dentistry.

Cooperative Program with the Creighton University School of Dentistry

In the fall of 1982, Idaho State University and the Creighton University School of Dentistry implemented a decentralized dental education program, the Idaho Dental Education Program (IDEP). Under this program, up to 8 seats per year at the Creighton University School of Dentistry are reserved for Idaho residents. The first professional year of the dental school program is on the Idaho State University campus in Pocatello. The students then move to the Creighton University School of Dentistry in Omaha, NE for the second, third, and fourth professional years. Idaho residents who wish to be considered for IDEP must apply to Creighton University School of Dentistry and meet all other admission requirements.
Allopathic Medicine

The undergraduate courses required by most medical schools are the same as those described above. However, many medical schools have additional requirements. The most current admission requirements for each medical school are described on the individual schools’ websites, which can be accessed through the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) website at http://www.aamc.org, or by subscribing to the “Medical School Admission Requirements, USA and Canada,” updated by the Association of American Medical Colleges, One Dupont Circle NW, Washington, D. C. 20036. This information is available in the Pre-Health Professions Advising Office. All medical applicants must take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), and have shadowed a practicing physician prior to applying to the individual schools of medicine.

Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant

Advising for each of these professions is available at Idaho State University. Specific pre-professional requirements for these programs can be obtained in the Physical and Occupational Therapy (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/divisionhealth/physicalandoccupationaltherapy) section and Physician Assistant Studies (http://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/divisionhealth/physicianassistantstudies) section of this catalog.

Students may be advised in satisfying prerequisites not only for these programs at Idaho State University, but also for programs in the same profession located at other institutions. Students may consult with the Pre-Health Advisor for information about prerequisites for admission to these programs at other institutions. Prerequisites for professional programs at other institutions can be met by courses taken at Idaho State University.

Optometry

The undergraduate courses listed above provide some guidance for the pre-optometry student. However, significant differences in pre-optometry requirements by the various optometry schools require that students obtain a specific list of requirements for each optometry school. The most current admission requirements for optometry schools are described on the schools’ websites, which can be accessed through the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) website at http://www.opted.org, or by consulting the latest edition of “Schools and Colleges of Optometry Admission Requirements.” This is an electronic publication available on the ASCO website. All optometry applicants must take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT).

Podiatric Medicine

The undergraduate courses listed above are required by most podiatric medical schools. However, some podiatric medical schools may have additional requirements. The most current admission requirements for podiatric medical schools are described on the schools’ websites, which can be accessed through the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine website at http://www.aacpm.org, or by consulting the latest edition of “Podiatric Medical Education,” available from the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine, 15850 Crabb’s Branch Way, Suite 320, Rockville MD 20855. A copy of this publication is available in the Pre-Health Professions Office. All podiatric medical applicants must take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). In addition, most schools of podiatric medicine expect applicants to have shadowed a practicing podiatrist prior to applying to the individual schools of podiatry.

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): http://www.avma.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 11 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.

**Chiropractic**

- Association of Chiropractic Colleges: [http://www.chirocolleges.org](http://www.chirocolleges.org)

**Dentistry**

- American Dental Association: [http://www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)
- American Dental Education Association: [http://www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)

**Medicine**

*Allopathic (M.D.)*

- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC): [http://www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)

*Osteopathic (D.O.)*


*Podiatric (D.P.M.)*


**Occupational Therapy**

- American Occupational Therapy Association: [http://www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)

**Optometry**

- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO): [http://www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org)

**Physical Therapy**


**Physician Assistant**

- American Academy of Physician Assistants: [http://www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)
- Physician Assistant Education Association: [http://www.paeaonline.org](http://www.paeaonline.org)

**Veterinary Medicine**

- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC): [http://www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)