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## LaGrange College

### Course Catalog - Pre-Health Programs

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#### Pre-Dentistry - Pre-Dentistry

##### **Type:**Major

Students should consult frequently with Dr. Pomeroy-Black in addition to their primary advisors for their majors. The pre-dental student should select a major as early as possible and work toward the B.S. degree.

The pre-dental student should be familiar with the specific requirements set by the dental schools to which he or she plans to apply, especially as it applies to upper-level Biology courses. There is some variation in the requirements of the various schools, but the minimum requirements set by most schools of dentistry are:

- a minimum GPA of 2.8, with a “C” or better in all courses. The average GPA is 3.5-3.6.
- a minimum score of 17 on the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) no later than September 30 preceding the year of entry.
- the following courses:
  - # Principles of Biology, with lab (8 semester hours)
  - # General Chemistry, with lab (8 semester hours)
  - # Organic Chemistry, with lab (8 semester hours)
  - # Biochemistry, with lab (4 semester hours)
  - # Physics, with lab (4-8 semester hours)
- 100-300 shadowing hours

Students should keep records of dates, duration, and types of experience when participating in shadowing, volunteer, or paid work in a dental setting.

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## Pre-Medicine - Pre-Medicine

### Type:Major

Students should consult early and frequently with Dr. Cauthen in addition to their primary advisors for their majors. The pre-medicine student should select a major as soon as possible and seek the B.S. degree. Medical schools rarely accept candidates with less than the baccalaureate degree.

The student should be familiar with the requirements of the several medical schools to which he or she plans to apply. Requirements vary somewhat in the various medical schools, but the minimum requirements of most medical schools are:

Principles of Biology with Lab	8 semester hours
General Chemistry with Lab	8 semester hours
Organic Chemistry with Lab	8 semester hours
Physics	8 semester hours

Recommended courses include Introduction to Psychology ([PSYC 1101](#)), Introduction to Sociology ([SOCI 1000](#)), and Biochemistry, with lab ([CHEM 4421](#)).

Every medical school applicant must take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

The MCAT includes topics in biology, chemistry, psychological science, sociology, and biochemistry. It is preferable that applicants take the MCAT in the spring or early summer preceding the submission of his or her application to medical school, but no later than the early fall of that year. Students should take General Chemistry ([CHEM 1101-1102](#)) as a first- or second-year student to be on track for the MCAT exam. [BIOL 1107-1108](#) with labs is also suggested for first- or second-year students. Either General Chemistry or Principles of Biology should be taken in the first year in order to stay on track for timely graduation and application to medical school.

Medical schools also expect experience in the field of medicine. Students should keep records of dates, duration, and types of experience when participating in shadowing or volunteer or paid work in a hospital, doctor's office, or other medical facility. Consult your advisor and the Career Center for help setting up a shadowing experience.

Students who wish to become a practicing physician may do so via two paths: an MD or DO degree. Below are links to accredited programs for each type of degree.

Students may learn more about MD programs by accessing a [list of accredited programs that grant the MD degree](#).

Students may learn more about DO programs by accessing a [list of accredited programs that grant the DO degree](#).

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## Pre-Pharmacy - Pre-Pharmacy

### Type:Major

It is especially important that the pre-pharmacy student consult with Dr. Pomeroy-Black early and frequently, in addition to their primary advisors, as pharmacy schools have

many pre-requisites, some of which are not within a science major. The pre-pharmacy student should select a major as soon as possible and seek the B.S. degree. While the admission requirements will vary between schools, the minimum requirements set by most schools of pharmacy are:

- A minimum GPA of 2.5
- Ethos courses with a global and/or cultural diversity focus, where applicable
- Completion of the following courses, with a "C" or better in each course:
  - # Principles of Biology, with lab (8 semester hours)
  - # Advanced Biological Science (12 semester hours), including Anatomy and Physiology I and II and Microbiology
  - # General Chemistry, with lab (8 semester hours)
  - # Organic Chemistry, with lab (8 semester hours)
  - # Biochemistry (3 semester hours)
  - # Introductory Physics, with lab (4 semester hours)
  - # Math (6 semester hours), including Statistics and Calculus I

Pharmacy schools expect students to have experience in a pharmacy setting. Students should keep records of dates, duration, and types of experience when participating in shadowing, volunteer, or paid work in a pharmacy or clinical setting.

Students should take the PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test) after completing Organic Chemistry and Microbiology. Most schools require a minimum PCAT score in the 50th percentile. Early admission applications are encouraged.

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## **Pre-Physical Therapy - Pre-Physical Therapy**

### **Type:Major**

Physical therapists hold a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. These programs require a baccalaureate degree as well as completion of the pre-physical therapy pre-requisite courses. The pre-requisite courses vary from school to school; you should select your courses after consulting the requirements for your schools of interest and speaking with your advisor. Typical prerequisite courses include chemistry, physics, anatomy and physiology, Principles of Biology, other biology or exercise science courses, statistics, psychological science, and sociology. Dr. Cauthen and Dr. Amber Leiker have a table of requirements for PT schools in Georgia that is available upon request. Most schools look for experience working with or observing a certified physical therapist in various settings. Students should keep records of dates and duration of such experience. Consult your advisor and the Center for Leadership and Career Development for help setting up a shadowing experience.

Access accredited [physical therapy programs](#) to find programs of interest and their requirements.

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## Pre-Physician Assistant - Pre-Physician Assistant

### Type:Major

Students should consult early and frequently with Dr. Cauthen in addition to their primary advisors for their majors. The pre-PA student should select a major as soon as possible and seek the B.S. degree. PA programs require completion of a baccalaureate degree.

The student should be familiar with the requirements of the several PA programs to which he or she plans to apply. Dr. Cauthen has a table of requirements for PA schools in Georgia that is available upon request. Requirements vary significantly in the various PA programs, but the common requirements of most PA programs are:

Principles of Biology, with Lab	8 semester hours
General Chemistry, with Lab	8 semester hours
Organic Chemistry, with Lab	4 semester hours
Human Anatomy and Physiology, with lab	8 semester hours
Microbiology, with lab	4 semester hours

Every applicant must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), preferably 4 to 6 months preceding the submission of his or her application to PA programs. Students should take General Chemistry ([CHEM 1101-1102](#)) and Principles of Biology ([BIOL 1107](#) and [1108](#) with lab) as a first- or second-year student. Either General Chemistry or Principles of Biology should be taken in the first-year to stay on track for timely graduation. PA programs also expect extensive direct/hands-on patient care experience (not shadowing). Students should begin acquiring this experience early and keep records of dates, duration and types of experience for their applications. Consult your advisor for suggestions on how to gain this type of experience.

Access accredited [Physician Assistant](#) to find programs of interest and their requirements.

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## Pre-Veterinary Medicine - Pre-Veterinary Medicine

### Type:Major

Students should consult early and frequently with Dr. Pomeroy-Black in addition to their primary advisors for their majors. The pre-veterinary student should select a major as early as possible and work toward the B.S. degree.

The pre-veterinary student should be familiar with the specific requirements of the school to which he or she plans to apply as they vary between schools. The minimum requirements set by most veterinary medicine schools are as follows:

- Cumulative average GPA of 3.0
- Veterinary experience: required hours range from 250-500 hours
- Completion of the following courses, with a "C" or better:
  - # Principles of Biology, with lab (8 semester hours)
  - # Advance Biological Science (8-12 semester hours)

- # General Chemistry, with lab (8 semester hours)
- # Organic Chemistry, with lab (8 semester hours)
- # Biochemistry (3 semester hours)
- # Physics, with lab (8 semester hours)

Students should take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) no later than fall of the year preceding the year of desired entry. Some veterinary schools require official test results in September.

Veterinary schools expect applicants to have experience under the direct supervision from a veterinarian in diverse animal settings. Students should have experience in small and large animal settings, as well as with exotics (if possible). Students should keep records of dates, duration, and types of experience when participating in shadowing, volunteer, or paid work in an animal setting.

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