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LaGrange College

Course Catalog - Pre-Health Programs

Pre-Dentistry - Pre-Dentistry

Type:Major

Pre-dental students should consult with Dr. Pomeroy-Black in addition to their primary advisors for their majors. The pre-dental student should complete the required Principles of Biology courses as early as possible to provide flexibility in future course selections.

Pre-dental students should be familiar with the specific requirements set by the dental school(s) to which they plan to apply. 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 3.5-3.7.
- 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)
 - # Physics, with lab (4-8 semester hours)
 - # One upper-level Biology course. Recommended Biology courses include Immunology, Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, Embryology, Genetics, Cell Physiology, and Neurobiology.
- demonstration of leadership in college and/or community organizations
- a minimum score of 16-17 on the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). The average score is 19-21.
- shadowing hours (number varies by school)
- letters of evaluation
- personal statement

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

Courses in the arts and social sciences, such as Sculpture and Psychology, are strongly recommended.

Pre-Medicine - Pre-Medicine

Type:Minor

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](#).

Pre-Pharmacy - Pre-Pharmacy

Type:Major

It is especially important that the pre-pharmacy student consult with Dr. Pomeroy-Black early, in addition to their primary advisors. The pre-requisites for admission to pharmacy schools differ significantly between pharmacy schools. Specific pharmacy school requirements and current admission statistics can be found here: <https://pharmacyforme.org/admissions-requirements/>

The pre-pharmacy student should select a major as soon as possible and seek the B.S. degree. The minimum requirements set by schools of pharmacy to which many of our students apply are:

- Ethos courses, including social/behavioral sciences and humanities courses
- Completion of the following courses, with a minimum of a "C" or "C-" in each course:
 - # Principles of Biology
 - # General Chemistry
 - # Organic Chemistry
 - # Anatomy and Physiology
 - # Microbiology
 - # Biochemistry
 - # Math, including Statistics and/or Calculus

Many schools also require Economics and Speech. Recommended upper-level Biology courses include Genetics and Cell Physiology.

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

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. Colleena Collins 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.

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.

Pre-Veterinary Medicine - Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Type:Major

Students should consult early with Dr. Pomeroy-Black in addition to their primary advisors. The pre-veterinary student should take the Principles of Biology sequence as early as possible to provide flexibility in course selection moving forward.

The specific requirements of each veterinary school differs, so the pre-veterinary students should become research their school(s) of interest. The minimum requirements set by most veterinary medicine schools are as follows:

- A minimum GPA of 3.0. The competitive GPA is 3.5-3.7.
- Ethos courses, including English, social/behavioral science, history, religion, and fine arts
- Completion of the following courses, with a "C" or better:
 - # Principles of Biology I and II
 - # Advanced Biology courses (at least two courses at the 3000-level)
 - # General Chemistry I and II
 - # Organic Chemistry I and II
 - # Biochemistry I
 - # Physics I
- Leadership in campus and/or community organizations
- Letters of evaluation

Recommended Advanced Biology courses at the 3000 level include: Genetics, Cell Physiology, Embryology, Histology, and Immunology.

Veterinary schools expect applicants to have exposure to diverse fields of veterinary medicine, such as small animal, large animal, and exotics, under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. Students should keep records of dates, duration, and types of experience when participating in shadowing or paid work in an animal setting.

If required by the veterinary school, students should submit their Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores no later than September of the year preceding the year of desired entry.

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