VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Health Professions Advisory Office

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The HPAO team provides resources and support for all Vanderbilt students on pre-health/pre-med professions tracks (A-Z: Pre-Athletic Training to Pre-Veterinary Medicine).

Stay Connected with HPAO

- **Explore Six Ways to Connect:** Visit our website and discover six ways to engage with us, including Instagram **@vanderbilthpao** for key announcements and reminders.
- **Meet with Us Yearly in Various Ways:** Take advantage of all our support options. Connect with us through any of our six methods *at least once* each academic year.
- **Stay Informed: Sign up for HPAO Email List.** Visit website & select "*Subscribe to HPAO Email List*."
- **Get Involved:** Explore and join a VU pre-health/pre-med student organization that matches your interests. Visit our website under "*Experiences & Opportunities – Pre-Health Related Student Organizations*" section.

Vanderbilt Pre-Health/Pre-Med Recommended Courses

Note: Prerequisite requirements may vary by individual healthcare professional school.

Some programs may require additional coursework. All professional school admission requirements are subject to change per admission cycle, so please review requirements on an *application cycle* basis.

Semesters	Course Name	Possible Courses – May Vary (Always Consult with Advisor)
2	General Chemistry/Lab	CHEM 1601/1601L & CHEM 1602/1602L
2	Organic Chemistry/Lab	CHEM 2221/2221L & CHEM 2222/2222L *If AP credit of 5 – 2211/2221L & 2212/2222L)
2	Biology/Lab	BSCI 1510/1510L & BSCI 1511/1511L or 1511/1512L (BSCI 1509 is a pre-requisite to 1510 and 1511 unless 4/5 on AP or 6/7 on IB) [Additional Biology often required by Texas schools]
2	Physics/Lab	PHYS 1501/1601L & PHYS 1502/1602L (Life Sciences track) OR PHYS 1601/1601L & 1602/1602L (Engineering track) OR PHYS 1911 & 1912 (Physics major track)
2	English	ENGL and/or Writing Intensive (W) courses Not in a foreign language or technical writing (Requirement varies. Confirm with schools of interest.)
1	Calculus	MATH 1100, 1200, 1201, 1300, 1301, 2200, 2300 [AP credit accepted]
1	Biochemistry	BSCI 2520 [Pre-reqs: CHEM 2221 or 2211 AND BSCI 1510]
1	Statistics	MATH 1011, 2810, 2820 BSCI 3270 ECON 1500 PSY 2100 PSY-PC 2110, 2120 SOC 2100 BME 2400
1	Psychology	PSY 1200
1	Sociology	SOC 1010, 1020, 3301, 3303, or 3304

* If a professional school does not accept AP credit, upper division courses may be needed to meet requirements.

NOTE: If you are unsure whether a specific course will meet a prerequisite for a particular school, **the student should contact that school directly** to confirm its acceptance. See FAQ's below for more guidance.

Know Your Professional Schools' Requirements

Each health professions graduate program sets its own admissions requirements. They are **not standardized**. It is essential that **VU students research and understand the specific prerequisites** for each of their top schools.

You can find school-specific requirements on individual program websites or through official association resources, including (A-Z):

Athletic Training	CAATE: Accredited Athletic Training Programs
Chiropractic Medicine	CCE: Accredited Chiropractic Medicine Programs
Dental	ADA: Find A Dental Program or ADEA: Official Guide to Dental Schools
Dental Hygiene	ADA: Find A Dental Hygiene Program
Healthcare Administration	CAHME: Accredited Healthcare Administration Programs
Medicine (Physician)	Allopathic Medicine: AAMC: MSAR Tool Osteopathic Medicine: AACOM: U.S. Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine & AACOM: Choose DO Explorer Tool
Medical Laboratory Sciences	NAACLS: Accredited Medical/Clinical Laboratory Science Programs
Nursing	Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) & ACEN: Accredited Nursing Programs
Nutrition & Dietetics	ACEND: Accredited RDN & NDTR Programs
Occupational Therapy	AOTA: Accredited Occupational Therapy Programs
Optometry	ASCO: Accredited Optometry Programs
Orthotics & Prosthetics	NCOPE: Accredited Orthotics/Prosthetics Programs
Other Healthcare Careers	Explorehealthcareers.org
Pharmacy	ACPE: Accredited Pharmacy Schools AACP: Pharmacy School Admissions Requirements
Physical Therapy	CAPTE: Accredited Physical Therapy Programs APTA: PTCAS Program Directory
Physician Assistant	CASPA: Program Directory ARC-PA: Accredited PA Programs
Public Health	Accredited Public Health Schools & Programs
Speech Language Pathology & Audiology	Accredited Audiology & Speech-Language-Pathology Schools
Veterinary Medicine	AAVMC: Accredited Veterinary Medicine Schools VMSAR: Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirements

How Do I Become a Well-Rounded Future Applicant?

Every phase of your pre-professional journey is crucial, but students should consider focusing on areas such as:

- Admissions Test (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc.)
- GPA (Overall GPA & Overall Science GPA *(known as BCPM: biology, chemistry, physics & math)*
- Community Service/Engagement (outside of your comfort zone)
- Exposure to the Health Professions (healthcare observations, volunteering, & clinical experience)
- Leadership
- Research

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How often should a student meet with the HPAO?

Vanderbilt students are encouraged to engage with the HPAO at least once a year through six key support methods and resources: HPAO Website & Brightspace resource pages, email list, social media, walk-in hours, events and workshops, and individual appointments.

2. Do schools accept AP credits to meet the pre-requisites?

It varies. Some healthcare professional schools accept AP credits, and some do not. If a school does not accept AP credits, a student might need to take upper division classes to meet the requirements if the student chooses to use AP credit for a course. Medical schools do accept AP credit for calculus.

3. Can a student take courses during the summer at another college?

Some professional schools might prefer students to take the pre-requisites at their home institutions, but students are welcome to take summer courses at other college/universities for various needs/reasons. In most cases, VU will only allow students to take 2 summer courses away and transfer the credits to VU. Since students will be taking a minimum of 9 pre-med science pre-requisites (General Chemistry I & II, Organic Chemistry I &II, Biology I & II, Physics I & II, and Biochemistry), it is generally fine to take 2 away and 7 here. (The professional schools still get a good sense of how you did in your science courses at your home institution.) You must have courses outside of Vanderbilt pre-approved in advance to transfer to VU (early Spring semester).
Contact the Office of Academic Services and/or view this link for more details:
https://as.vanderbilt.edu/academics/summer-sessions.php

4. Are online courses acceptable?

Online courses may not be acceptable for meeting all schools' pre-requisite requirements. [Exceptions may be made during the period of COVID-19, and individual policies are typically noted on a school's website.]

5. Can a pre-health/pre-med student participate in a Study Abroad Program?

Many pre-health/pre-med students study abroad. If a student is not planning to take a gap/enhancement year before entering professional school, it is typically done during the first semester of the junior year. It can be done in the second semester of the junior year with proper planning. Things to consider are 1) preparing for and taking the admissions test (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc.) 2) determining when the 2nd semester of a 2-semester sequence of coursework will be offered/taken (ex: Biology, Physics, Organic Chemistry). {Keep in mind, many professional schools either require or prefer for pre-requisite courses to be taken in the U.S.}

6. Which courses count as English pre-requisites?

Many professional schools require a year of English with W (writing intensive) classes meeting the requirement in most cases. The W course can usually be in any area other than labs, foreign language, or technical writing, however, some schools may require at least one to be specifically in the English department. If a student is uncertain as to whether or not a specific medical school will accept a certain course as a pre-requisite, the student should contact that specific medical school to clarify.

7. Do medical schools require calculus and/or math?

Many professional schools often have a math requirement. Of those, most require 2 semesters of calculus and/ or statistics, therefore we recommend 1 semester of calculus and 1 semester of statistics. AP credit is accepted for calculus. Unsure whether a specific course meets a healthcare professional school's prerequisite requirement(s)? The student should professionally reach out to the professional school admissions team directly for clarification.

How to Professionally Contact a Professional School Admissions Office for a Specific Prerequisite Clarification:

When reaching out to a professional school admissions office by email, be clear, concise, and professional.
Be sure to include all the following information:

- ✓ A brief introduction of yourself.
- ✓ The full name of the college/university where you completed the course in question.
- ✓ The course name, number, and number of credit hours (indicate if they are semester or quarter hours).
- ✓ An attached course description or syllabus.

Why follow this approach?

- Having written confirmation provides a record of the professional school's response, which can be helpful if the course is later questioned during the admissions review.
- Admissions teams are truly very busy supporting applicants year-round. To ensure they have enough time to review your request, reach out at least one month in advance to confirm the prerequisite course(s) in question.