

Pre-Health Advising



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I am always happy to meet with students individually and answer their questions related to any area in pre-health (with the exception of nursing). Students can schedule an appointment by calling the number above.

Pre-Health Advising Services

- Provide individual and group advising for students preparing for careers in the health professions including advice on completing prerequisites, student involvement, gaining experience through shadowing and volunteer work, etc.
- Help navigate the application process for professional school including overseeing the pre-professional committee letter process for medical applicants.
- Maintain information about various health professions including school catalogs and brochures. Information is available in the lobby of 107 Scates Hall for student review at any time.
- Offer workshops on various topics related to the application process including personal statements, 4 year plans, and the application process.

Student Responsibilities

- Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the Pre-Health Advisor early in their academic career to discuss their interest in healthcare and develop a timeline for application.
- Requirements for admission may vary depending on the school(s) to which a student applies. Students must check with each individual school to ensure all requirements have been met.
- Our website is updated regularly. Students should email the Pre-Health Advisor to be added to a mailing list for notification of upcoming events.
- Students should set realistic goals and develop a parallel plan for an alternate professional school or career if admission to his or her first choice is not successful.

Picking a Major

The U of M, like most universities, does not offer “pre-med” (or pre-dent, pre-pharmacy, etc.) as an actual major; rather, this is your career focus. The majority of professional programs requires or strongly encourages the completion of an undergraduate degree, although no one single major is preferred. Although many pre-health students major in biology or chemistry, it is becoming increasingly common for students to major in a non-science field and seek (and gain!) admission to professional school. A popular choice of major among “pre-pt” students is Health and Human Performance with a concentration in Exercise and Sport Sciences (EXSS) offered by The College of Education (<http://www.memphis.edu/hss/exss/exss-bsed.htm>).

Ultimately it is up to you-choose a major you are interested in and do well in that major while completing prerequisite courses needed for admission to the professional schools of your choice. Regardless of the major, students admitted to professional school excel academically, including in the prerequisite science courses, earn competitive entrance exam scores, and are well-rounded. For a complete listing of undergraduate programs at The U of M visit: <http://www.memphis.edu/majors/ugmajors.htm>.

You will be advised in the department that houses your major but should contact the Pre-Health Advisor to be added to the pre-health mailing list.

Student Involvement

There are many elements involved in becoming a competitive candidate for professional school. In addition to superior grades and strong performance on the required entrance exam, work experience, community service, evidence of leadership ability, and clinical experiences in healthcare are important factors that enhance your chances for admission. Related volunteer, research, work, and shadowing experiences helps you demonstrate to professional schools that you are dedicated, motivated, and have given significant through to your career goals. It is also important to note that the quality of the experiences is more important than the quantity; seek experiences that provide you patient interaction in a variety of settings.

There are over 200 Registered Student Organizations at The University of Memphis, including three specifically for pre-health students:

- Alpha Epsilon Delta National Pre-Professional Honor Society (AED)
- Pre-Dental Society
- Minority Association for Pre-Medical Students (MAPS)

Meeting dates and times for these groups are updated monthly on the pre-health calendar of events: <http://www.memphis.edu/cas/pre-health-events.htm>.

Contact information for each group can be found in the RSO Database: <http://saweb.memphis.edu/rsoreg/RSOList.asp>.