

Strategies for Success in Pre-Health Care Fields

Completing the transition from the high school culture to the university culture is a challenge. In order to achieve their goal, successful pre-professional students must possess both intellectual ability and drive. Students must learn quickly to study every subject every day. Cramming will not lead to success, since exams may cover seven or eight chapters and several may fall on the same day.

The first semester's performance is a very good indicator of a student's ability to achieve success; but one bad semester, at any stage of undergraduate education, can be very difficult to overcome. Students should seize each day as an opportunity to progress. Anything that distracts or prevents focus on the course work can be very damaging. The beginning student must hold himself or herself to tough standards. The drive and ambition to succeed have to arise from within.

The bench mark to shoot for is a minimal 3.3 GPA each semester, but the goal should be 4.0. The competition is very stiff and you need to convince yourself very early that you can do the work and that you will achieve excellence. Only those who persevere will achieve success, and only those who keep their eye on their goal will enjoy the fruits of their hard work.



Combined College and Professional Degrees

The majority of applicants graduate with their baccalaureate degrees before entering a professional school. A few outstanding students with 90 or more hours may be admitted through early admission to professional schools. A student that is admitted early will be granted a leave of absence during the senior year at Marshall, by submitting in writing the request to the Dean's Office immediately after gaining admission. At the end of the first year of professional school, the student is eligible to receive a baccalaureate degree, provided they have met all requirements for graduation except the completion of the major, and providing they have at least 96 hours with a GPA of 2.0 or higher at Marshall University.



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Pre-Health Care Programs

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LEADERS in
HEALTH CARE**



**Marshall University
College of Science**



Pre-Health Care Professions

Pre-professional students, including pre-meds, are often confused about the selection of a major and which courses to take. The first thing to understand is that pre-med is not a major; it is a path through a major to a degree. Students choose a major, and as they complete the major, courses required for entry into medical school (or another health care professional school) are included in the curriculum leading to a degree. Medical schools will admit students with any major who have had the science block of courses, scored well on the admission test, and meet the other requirements. Typically, professional schools require a bachelors degree; however it is possible for excellent undergraduate juniors to earn early admission to a professional school.

Professional Degrees at the Doctorate Level Include the following:

| Career/Field | Degree |
|----------------------|----------|
| Chiropractory | DC |
| Dentistry | DDS |
| Medicine | MD |
| Optometry | OD |
| Osteopathic Medicine | DO |
| Pharmacy | Pharm.D. |
| Physical Therapy | PT |
| Podiatry | DPM |
| Veterinary Medicine | DVM |

If you are interested in any of these careers, the College of Science at Marshall University is the place for you! You will begin your academic career with introductory courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics; and you will then move on to complete advanced course work leading to your chosen undergraduate degree. Finally, you will apply for admission to the professional area of your choice. Professional schools choose people who are well rounded and who communicate clearly. Since admission exams include science, reading, and writing, both science and general education courses prepare students to score well. While studying at Marshall University, you will experience an active learning environment and instruction by first-rate faculty members. You will grow intellectually and gain the confidence you need in order to succeed.

Required Science Block

All students that plan to attend a professional school must complete the required science block.

- BSC 120– Principles of Biology I**
- BSC 121– Principles of Biology II**
- CHM 211 & 217– Principles of Chemistry I + Lab**
- CHM 212 & 218– Principles of Chemistry II + Lab**
- CHM 355– Organic Chemistry I**
- CHM 356– Organic Chemistry II**
- CHM 361– Organic Chemistry Lab**
- PHY 201 & 202– General Physics I + Lab**
- PHY 203 & 204– General Physics II + Lab**

The required science block should be regarded as a minimum. Building a science major around this block of courses provides a sound science background, but advisors will inform students of additional helpful courses. The responsibility lies with the student to become aware of the admissions criteria and course recommendations for the professional school in which he or she intends to apply.

Choosing the Correct Major for Professional Schools

Health care professional schools, including medical schools, will accept an applicant with any major who has taken the required science block. However, those applicants who do not major in science may experience difficulty in obtaining acceptable scores on the admission exams. Another incentive for choosing a science major as a foundations for health care fields is the fact that completing most other majors, plus the science block, would require the completion of approximately 158 hours. The following science majors encompass the required science block and allow graduation in four years with 128 hours:

- Biology – Biochemistry – Biomedical Science – Cellular/Molecular Biology – Chemistry – Cytotechnology - Ecology & Evolutionary Biology – Medical Technology - Microbiology**