

Pre-Professional Studies

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMS

Pre-professional curricula and advising are available for students who wish to prepare themselves for application to highly competitive professional schools including medical school, veterinary school, dental school, physical therapy school, and pharmacy school. Undergraduate students who plan to apply to one of these professional schools are asked to declare a subject major and pursue a baccalaureate degree at Fairmont State while completing the specific courses required by the professional school they desire to attend.

Students who indicate an interest in pre-professional study will be given a primary faculty advisor in the major area and a secondary faculty advisor specific to the pre-professional study they plan to pursue. Baccalaureate degrees with the most overlap with required pre-professional courses tend to be those in the College of Science and Technology; specifically biology, chemistry and forensic science degrees.

Highly motivated people who complete baccalaureate degrees before deciding to apply to professional school often elect to take required pre-professional coursework at Fairmont State. Such students tend to have a high rate of acceptance to professional schools and are asked to contact the appropriate pre-professional advisor during their first semester at Fairmont State.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Many graduates of Fairmont State successfully compete for admission to professional schools and pursue rewarding careers in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and physical therapy. Admission to professional schools is typically based on completion of specific course requirements, performance on standardized admissions tests, the overall academic transcript and grades, an essay, letters of recommendation, and an interview.

Quite often, students who originally plan to apply to professional school discover additional career possibilities and interests as they progress through college. Thus, a student who comes in believing he/she wants to be a pharmacist might discover that he/she really wants to pursue



fast fact

The annual median wage for this career field is \$83,340.00, and graduates of the program typically find employment with a salary between \$54,000 - \$56,000.00.

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a research career in pharmaceutical science instead. Baccalaureate degrees in biology, chemistry and forensic science from Fairmont State provide excellent foundations for careers or graduate study in science.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Students interested in preparing for application to a professional school should carefully consult the catalog of the specific professional school that they plan to attend. Prerequisite coursework that satisfies many professional school admissions requirements is shown here, but specific course requirements vary among professional schools. In all cases, students should declare a content major and pursue a baccalaureate degree while completing pre-professional requirements.

PRE-DENTAL AND PRE-MEDICAL STUDIES

Students planning to apply to dental or medical school should complete the basic science courses shown below as well as a broad range of general education courses with better than a B average. Completion of a baccalaureate degree with a major in biology, chemistry or forensic science is recommended. The pre-medical or pre-dental advisor should be consulted each semester.

BIOL	1105, 1106	Biological Principles I, II.....	8
CHEM	1105, 1106	Chemical Principles I, II.....	9
CHEM	2201, 2202	Organic Chemistry I, II.....	8
ENGL	1104, 1108	Written English I, II.....	6
PHYS	1101, 1102	Introduction to Physics I, II.....	8

Courses in the humanities, social sciences, and advanced courses in biology are also suggested in order to acquire a broadened intellectual background.

PRE-PHARMACY STUDIES

Many schools of pharmacy offer a doctorate of pharmacy that requires six years of study beyond high school, two years of pre-pharmacy and four years of study in a professional school of pharmacy. The following two-year preparatory program is suggested for students planning to apply to the WVU School of Pharmacy. Elective slots in the model schedule should be filled with courses that satisfy required general education credits at the pharmacy school. Students without the necessary prerequisites for calculus will be required to take MATH 1115 or 1112 and 1115. The pre-pharmacy advisor should be consulted prior to scheduling each semester.

BIOL	1105, 1106	Biological Principles I, II.....	8
BIOL	2205	Technical Microbiology.....	4
CHEM	1105, 1106	Chemical Principles I, II.....	9
CHEM	2201, 2202	Organic Chemistry I, II.....	8
ECON	2200	Economics.....	3
-OR-			
ECON	2201, 2202	Economic Principles and Problems I, II.....	6
ENGL	1104, 1108	Written English I, II.....	6
MATH	1113	Applied Statistics.....	4

-OR-			
BUS	3310	Business and Economics Statistics.....	3
MATH	1185	Applied Calculus.....	4
-OR-			
MATH	1190	Calculus I.....	4
PHYS	1101, 1102	Introduction to Physics I, II.....	8
SPCM	1100	Introduction to Speech Communications.....	3

PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDIES

All applicants to the West Virginia University Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) program are required to have a bachelor's degree before admission. Information on prerequisite equivalent coursework is provided below. Baccalaureate degrees in biology, chemistry and forensic science meet many of these prerequisites.

Students interested in admission to a physical therapy program at an institution other than WVU should consult with the pre-physical therapy advisor for assistance in getting the information about the course requirements at the other institution.

ALLH	1100	Medical Terminology.....	3
BIOL	1105, 1106	Biological Principles I, II.....	8
CHEM	1105, 1106	Chemical Principles I, II.....	9
MATH	1113	Applied Statistics.....	4
-OR-			
BUS	3310	Business and Economics Statistics.....	3
PHYS	1101, 1102	Introduction to Physics I, II.....	8
PSYC	1101	Introduction to Psychology I.....	3
PSYC	3330	Developmental Psychology.....	3
NBAN*	205	Human Anatomy.....	3
-OR-			
ATTR	219	Gross Anatomy (recommended).....	3
PSIO**	241	Elementary Physiology.....	4
-OR-			
PSIO**	441	Mechanisms of Body Function (recommended).....	4

* this course available on the web; must take the WVU course; contact WVU Dept. of Anatomy

**must take the WVU course; contact WVU Dept. of Physiology

CONTACT INFORMATION

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