

Pre-Professional Advising Guide

Please visit the Pre-Health Advising [Website](#) and the Pre-Health Professions Committee [Website](#) for comprehensive information on becoming a competitive applicant for professional school in the clinical health field.

A. Overview: Competitive applicants to health-related professional schools usually possess the following record:

High overall and science (BCPM: biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics) GPA

High score on standardized entrance exam

Extensive record of relevant extracurriculars, including volunteering and/or working in clinical or research settings

Demonstrated leadership activities

If students' records are strong in all of these categories, they will be strong candidates. Students should plan their academic coursework as early as possible.

Physician (MD)	Association of American Medical Colleges (http://www.aamc.org/)
Physician (DO)	American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (http://www.aacom.org/)
Dentist	American Dental Education Association (http://www.adea.org/)
Optometrist	Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (http://www.opted.org/)
Veterinarian	Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (http://www.aavmc.org/)
Pharmacist	American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (http://www.aacp.org/)
Podiatrist	American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (http://www.aacpm.org/)

C. Timing: To have the best chance of being accepted and starting medical/professional school in the fall after graduation, students should take the appropriate entrance exam by the spring of their junior year. This means most of the critically relevant scientific coursework (material covered on the exam) should also be completed by this time. While most deadlines for professional school aren't until the fall (varies by school, ranging from September 30 to December 31), applications can be submitted to most programs starting in June. Your application will not be reviewed until all of your material

In many instances, specific programs require additional courses. Students should check with individual schools regarding requirements (and other courses that are strongly recommended to give the applicant the best opportunity to be competitive for admission). For example, the Colleges of Medicine at University of Florida and Florida State University (and many others) highly prefer/recommend taking CHE 320L (Biochemistry lab). Available advanced elective courses at UT that may be of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

BIO 220 Behavioral Bio.	BIO 307 Microbio.	BIO 320 Molecular Genetics	BIO 370 Molecular Bio.	CHE 420 Adv. Biochem.
BIO 230 Biostats	BIO 310 Develop. Bio.	BIO 330 Gen. Physiology	BIO 390 Electron Micros.	CHE 470 Tissue Culture
BIO 250 Comp. Vert. Anat.	BIO 315 Virology	BIO 350 Cell Bio.	BIO 400 Evolution	CHE 490 Mol. Basis Cancer
BIO 300 Gen. Genetics	BIO 317 Parasitology	BIO 360 Immunology	CHE 325 Bchm. Metab.	BIO 408 Bioinfo/Genomics

Most math and science classes have prerequisites. In addition, many courses are only offered during one term of the academic year. If students have a major outside of biology or chemistry, they may want to consult with a faculty member in one of those departments for advice in scheduling math and science courses.

E. Standardized tests: Students should be sure to take relevant coursework to prepare them for the standardized test for their discipline. The MCAT test for medical schools has been revamped considerably over recent years to account for newer, emerging trends in medicine. Areas of emphasis on the exam include sociology, psychology, and biochemistry. Courses at UT that should help students prepare for these changes are SOC 100, PSY 200, CHE 320 (and 320L), and CHE 325. For more information see: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/whats-mcat-exam>.

F. Pre-Health Profession Committee (PHPC) letter: Students attending the University of Tampa who intend to pursue professional doctoral studies in any of the health professions (medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatry, and pharmacy) should request a letter of recommendation from the PHPC by **March 1, 2022**. **Please note that the PHPC does not typically write letters for students with BCPM GPA's below 3.2.** Students with a BCPM GPA below 3.2 are urged to contact the Co-Chairs of the PHPC for advising. Typically, such students are recommended to seek out individual letters of recommendation in lieu of a committee letter.

G. Student organizations: The on-campus organizations Skull and Bones and Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) are for students intending to pursue a career in the health sciences. to sc Blsc OUTC HPHC (PT 318-711) (1.522-02 Tow 4186.5240) 517-983-7107 Td (a