Premedicine & Professional Health Careers

- Premedicine
- Premed Completion
- Prespeech Pathology
- Prenursing
- Prephysician Assistant
- Prephysical Therapy
- Preclinical Psychology
Preparation for advanced education in healthcare professions.

PREMEDICINE AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CAREERS
The Premedicine and Professional Health Careers program at Northwestern University School of Professional Studies (SPS) is ideal for career changers or recent graduates who plan to train for careers in the healthcare industry.

The program consists of six concentrations that prepare students for standardized exams and to apply to schools of medicine and related professions (dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, podiatry), physician assistant, physical therapy, nursing, clinical psychology, and speech pathology. These concentrations are designed for students who have not completed or have never taken the courses generally required for admission to these schools.

While some options are available for full-time study, the majority of students continue to work full-time jobs while pursuing their coursework at night and on weekends.

Learn in an interactive biology curriculum
Students entering the Premedicine and Professional Health Careers program gain access to the highly regarded science curriculum of Northwestern University. Thanks to a two-million dollar grant from the Howard Hughes Science Foundation, the biological sciences program at Northwestern has completely overhauled its introductory curriculum. The redesigned lecture components emphasize interactive learning and the development of analytical reasoning and deep learning, while hands-on labs provide authentic research experience. The addition of a separate upper-level biochemistry course (BIOL SCI 308) better prepares students for the material tested on newly redesigned MCAT and for admission into medical and professional health graduate programs.

Please note Premedicine and Professional Health Careers programs are for career changers. These concentrations are not intended for academic record enhancement. Students who have already completed the majority of these courses as undergraduates will not be admitted.

Gainful employment disclosure statements for each concentration can be found online by clicking on the “Gainful Employment” left navigation tab of the web page of your concentration of interest.
NUPP — THE PREMEDICINE AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CAREERS STUDENT GROUP

Northwestern University Pre-Health Professionals (NUPP) group is a community dedicated to the successful admission of its members into programs that lead to careers in medical, health and veterinary practice. Members can take advantage of:

- Research, internship, clinical, and volunteer opportunities
- Study groups for physics, chemistry, biology and MCAT
- Tutors for organic chemistry and physics exams
- Discounted Kaplan MCAT prep course
- Mentor program — second year and alumni students mentor first year students
- Coordinated service/volunteer day opportunities
- Feinberg School of Medicine cadaver lab tour
- Meet your adviser events
- Host admissions representatives from medical, dental and allied professional schools, such as: Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine, Rush Medical College, University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Midwestern University (CCOM), and Rosalind Franklin University Chicago Medical School.

For more information, visit the Northwestern Pre-Health Professionals Facebook page.

Working in the ER here is amazing. People come from Northern Indiana and drive an hour and half or two hours just to see our physicians. When you mention to people you work and go to school here, it holds a lot of weight, not just in Chicago, but from a national perspective.”

Dennis Shea, Emergency Department Assistant at Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Premedicine

The premedicine concentration admits post-baccalaureate students seeking the biology, general and organic chemistry, and physics courses required for application to most medical schools and related professional schools. This concentration offers courses scheduled as weeknight lectures and Saturday laboratories on the Evanston campus. Students typically enroll in two courses per term, each with a laboratory, and should expect to complete the program in a total of seven quarters or 21 months.

Students in the premedicine concentration may accelerate their schedule by enrolling in intensive Summer Session courses (CHEM 110, 131, 142 and PHYSICS 130-A,B,C), with the expectation of completing all courses in 12 to 15 months. The Summer Session courses require full-time study.

See ‘Suggested Program Tracks’ for sample course sequences.

While this program meets minimal requirements for application to medical and related schools, students are strongly advised to find out the admission requirements of the medical schools in which they are interested before enrolling in the program to ensure that the SPS program fulfills their requirements.

Students enrolled in the Premedicine concentration may be eligible for financial aid. Please see the website for details.

REQUIRED COURSES

Biological Sciences
- BIOL SCI 215 Genetics and Molecular Biology
- BIOL SCI 217 Physiology
- BIOL SCI 219 Cell Biology
- BIOL SCI 220 Genetic and Molecular Processes Laboratory
- BIOL SCI 221 Cellular Processes Laboratory
- BIOL SCI 222 Integrative Laboratory
- BIOL SCI 308 Biochemistry

Chemistry
- CHEM 110 Quantitative Problem Solving in Chemistry
- CHEM 131 General Chemistry 1 (with lab, CHEM 141)
- CHEM 132 General Chemistry 2 (with lab, CHEM 142)
- CHEM 210-A Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 210-B Organic Chemistry II (with lab, CHEM 230-B)
- CHEM 210-C Organic Chemistry III (with lab, CHEM 230-C)

Physics
- PHYSICS 130-A, B, C College Physics I,II,III (with lab PHYSICS 131-A,B,C)

In addition to the program requirements, students have the option to take any of the courses offered at SPS (e.g., calculus, psychology, bioethics). However, elective courses are not eligible for financial aid.

The faculty hold you to the same high standards that traditional undergraduates must meet. These were some of the best classes I’ve ever taken, especially [the] organic chemistry course, which truly prepared me for the MCAT.”

Jordan Scher, George Washington University
School of Medicine and Health Sciences
### SUGGESTED PROGRAM TRACKS

#### 12-MONTH TRACK

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#### 15-MONTH TRACK

##### YEAR ONE

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##### YEAR TWO

| PHYSICS 130-A + lab |            |            |           |
| PHYSICS 130-B + lab |            |            |           |
| PHYSICS 130-C + lab |            |            |           |

#### 21-MONTH TRACK

##### YEAR ONE

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##### YEAR TWO

| BIOL SCI 215 (Sept. course) | BIOL SCI 219 | BIOL SCI 308 |
| BIOL SCI 217 | BIOL SCI 221 lab | BIOL SCI 222 lab |
| BIOL SCI 220 lab | CHEM 210-B + lab | CHEM 210-C + lab |
| CHEM 210-A |            |            |           |

Average MCAT of SPS premed students vs. all applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average MCAT</th>
<th>SPS PREMED GRADUATES†</th>
<th>NATIONAL AVERAGE††</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>513.1</td>
<td>501.8</td>
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†2017 data from American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS®)
Premed Completion Program

The premedicine completion program is intended for students who have completed some, but not all of the core science prerequisites needed to apply to medical school. Students in this program may take their remaining core classes through SPS and receive the same student services as those in the premedicine post-baccalaureate program. This program is not intended as a records-enhancement program. Students who have already applied to medical school or completed all their pre-medical coursework should not apply.

Students must complete the program within 12 calendar months and be enrolled in at least two units of coursework per term to be eligible for financial aid. Due to the sequential nature of the coursework, students may only begin the program in the summer or fall quarters.

Students who plan to enroll in this program during the summer immediately following the completion of their undergraduate degree may not be eligible for financial aid during that summer, depending on previous aid awards for that academic year. Please contact the Chicago Office of Financial Aid for more information.

Course plans will vary based on each student’s previously completed coursework. Upon admission into the program, students should consult with their academic advisor to create a plan of study. In order to receive a letter of completion, students must complete their individual required courses as determined in the initial advising meeting, and must complete a minimum of 4 units with a 3.0 GPA.

Courses are selected from the following:

- General Chemistry Sequence (CHEM 110, 131, 132 and 141, 142*)
- Organic Chemistry Sequence (CHEM 210-A,B,C and 230-B,C*)
- General Biology Sequence (BIOL SCI 215, 217, 219)
- General Biology Labs (BIOL SCI 220, 221, 222)
- Biochemistry (BIOL SCI 308)
- General Physics Sequence (PHYSICS 130-A,B,C and 131-A,B,C)

* Note: due to chemistry department policy, students may not begin a chemistry course in the middle of a sequence. Students who need to complete a chemistry course must take the entire sequence at SPS.

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<th>PREMED COMPLETION: COURSES OFFERED BY TERM</th>
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<td>CHEM 210-A</td>
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| Winter                                    |
| BIOL SCI 219                             |
| CHEM 210-B + 230-B (lab)                 |
| PHYSICS 130-B + 131-B (lab)              |

| Spring                                    |
| BIOL SCI 222 (lab)                       |
| CHEM 210-C + 230-C (lab)                 |
| PHYSICS 130-C + 131-C (lab)              |

| Summer                                    |
| PHYSICS 130-B + 131-B (lab)              |
| PHYSICS 130-C + 131-C (lab)              |
| CHEM 210-A                               |
| CHEM 210-C + 230-C (lab)                 |

Not sure which premed program is right for you? See page 14.
Prespeech Pathology (online)

The prespeech pathology concentration admits post-baccalaureate students into an online program of courses that will aid them in meeting the entrance requirements for the Master of Science in Speech, Language, and Learning at Northwestern University, as well as for other speech pathology master’s programs with similar requirements. These preparatory courses, known as leveling courses, ensure that all students beginning a master’s program in speech pathology have equivalent levels of preparation.

The prespeech pathology program is entirely online, consisting of five courses developed and taught by the Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) in the School of Communication at Northwestern University. Students may complete all five courses, or they may enroll only in those courses that are required to gain entrance into the master’s program of their choice. At least three courses are required for program completion.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CSD 301 Anatomy and Physiology of Vocal Mechanism
This course covers anatomical and physiological mechanisms of breathing, phonation and articulation. Laboratories include dissection and participation in physiological research.

CSD 305 Phonetics
This course is an introduction to phonological analysis, dynamics of articulation and dialect variations, focusing on training in transcription of English speech sounds.

CSD 318 Introduction to Audiology
This lecture/laboratory course introduces the measurement of hearing in humans. It covers the basic anatomy of the ear, measurement of hearing, potential disorders of hearing.

CSD 392 Language Development and Usage
This course covers the development of spoken and written language as it relates to child development, including phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic components. Cultural and individual linguistic diversity is also a focus.

CSD 465 Hearing Impairment
Principles and practices in rehabilitation of children and adults is covered in this course, including the use of sensory aids, counseling, and communication remediation, emphasizing speech reading and auditory training techniques.

Students enrolled in the prespeech pathology concentration may be eligible for financial aid. For details, please visit sps.northwestern.edu/speech-tuition.

PRESPEECH PATHOLOGY: COURSES OFFERED BY TERM

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Prenursing

The prenursing concentration admits post-baccalaureate students into a program of study that will help them meet the admission requirements of two types of nursing programs:
- Accelerated bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) programs
- Direct-entry master of science in nursing graduate programs for non-nurses

These courses are scheduled on the weeknights and Saturdays in the fall, winter, and spring. Courses may be scheduled on the Evanston or Chicago campus.

While Northwestern’s prenursing concentration offers courses generally required by the two types of nursing programs listed above, students are advised to contact the schools in which they are interested before enrolling to ensure that the SPS program fulfills their requirements.

Students enrolled in the Prenursing concentration may be eligible for financial aid. Please see the website for details.

**REQUIRED COURSES**

**Biological Sciences**
- BIOL SCI 170 Concepts of Biology
- BIOL SCI 217 Physiology
- BIOL SCI 313 Human Anatomy
- BIOL SCI 316 Human Structure and Function
- BIOL SCI 317 Regional Human Anatomy Lab
- BIOL SCI 328 Microbiology

**Chemistry**
- CHEM 110 Quantitative Problem Solving in Chemistry
- CHEM 131 General Chemistry 1 (with lab, CHEM 141)
- CHEM 132 General Chemistry 2 (with lab, CHEM 142)
- CHEM 210-A Organic Chemistry I

**Psychology**
- PSYCH 110 Introduction to Psychology

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### SUGGESTED PROGRAM TRACKS

#### FALL QUARTER START

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#### SUMMER QUARTER START

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The prephysician assistant concentration admits post-baccalaureate students into a program of study that will help them to meet the entrance requirements of master of science programs for physician assistants (PAs). These courses are scheduled on the weeknights and Saturdays in the fall, winter, and spring. Courses may be scheduled on the Evanston or Chicago campus.

This program is designed for career changers who do not have an extensive background in science. While this program meets most minimal requirements for application to physician assistant graduate programs in the Chicago area, students are strongly advised to find out the admission requirements of the graduate programs in which they are interested before enrolling to ensure that the SPS program fulfills their requirements.

Students enrolled in the prephysician assistant concentration may be eligible for financial aid. Please see the website for details.

The program was rigorous, advanced, and demanding. I have no doubt I got the best training possible to prepare me for the rigors of PA school. The professors are great teachers and I also got the application advisory support I was looking for. I highly recommend it to anyone looking to get into a top PA program.”

Dennis Shea, recent Prephysician Assistant concentration graduate

SUGGESTED PROGRAM TRACKS

TWO-YEAR TRACK

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15-MONTH TRACK

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Prephysical Therapy

The prephysical therapy concentration admits post-baccalaureate students into a program of study that will help them meet the entrance requirements for application to doctor of physical therapy (DPT) graduate programs.

These courses are scheduled on the weeknights and Saturdays in the fall, winter, and spring. Courses may be scheduled on the Evanston or Chicago campus. Students typically enroll in two courses per quarter and should expect to complete the program in a total of 15 to 24 months.

While this program meets minimal requirements for application to most physical therapy schools in Illinois, students are strongly advised to find out the admission requirements of the schools in which they are interested before enrolling in the program to ensure that the SPS program fulfills their requirements.

Students enrolled in the prephysical therapy concentration may be eligible for financial aid. Please see the website for details.

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**REQUIRED COURSES**

**Biological Sciences**
- BIOL SCI 170 Concepts of Biology
- BIOL SCI 217 Physiology
- BIOL SCI 313 Human Anatomy
- BIOL SCI 316 Human Structure and Function
- BIOL SCI 317 Regional Human Anatomy Lab
- BIOL SCI 318 Advanced Human Physiology

**Chemistry**
- CHEM 110 Quantitative Problem Solving in Chemistry
- CHEM 131 General Chemistry 1 (with lab, CHEM 141)
- CHEM 132 General Chemistry 2 (with lab, CHEM 142)

**Additional Courses**
- PHYSICS 130-A,B,C College Physics (with labs PHYSICS 131-A,B,C)
- STAT 202 Introduction to Statistics

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**SUGGESTED PROGRAM TRACK**

**TWO-YEAR TRACK**

**YEAR ONE**

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**YEAR TWO**

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**OTHER POTENTIAL TRACK**

**15-MONTH TRACK – SUMMER START**

**YEAR ONE**

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**YEAR TWO**

| BIOL SCI 316 |
| STAT 202     |

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“The SPS pre-PT track has made the originally daunting process of completing my prerequisites as a career changer much more manageable. The course work was thorough and catered to what physical therapy schools ideally want to see.”

Ami Kirollos, recent Prephysical Therapy concentration graduate
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

PREMEDICINE & PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CAREERS PROGRAMS

Admission requirements vary for each of the concentrations. Please see the Acceptance Criteria page of your concentration of interest at sps.northwestern.edu/health.

A prerequisite College Algebra or higher math level course is required for all concentrations except Prespeech and Preclinical Psychology. Applicants who have not completed the necessary math prerequisite course or have not completed them recently with a grade of B or higher, SPS offers the opportunity to complete them by enrolling as a student-at-large (see sps.northwestern.edu/sal). Prospective students should speak with an SPS admissions adviser for further information.

Please note: The concentrations in this program are designed for students who have a bachelor's degree but have not completed or have never taken the courses generally required for admission to programs of advanced study in these areas. As such, our program is designed to meet the needs of career changers and is not an academic records-enhancement program.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

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<td>March 1</td>
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• Applications are accepted year-round. If you wish to begin in a specific quarter, you must submit an application by the appropriate deadline.
• Please note that course sequencing requires premedicine, prenursing, prephysician assistant, and prephysical therapy students to begin in the summer or fall quarters.
• Preclinical psychology students can begin in any quarter.
• Preclinical psychology students can begin in any quarter.

* If you have any questions regarding prerequisites or if you would like to confirm whether or not a certain course will count towards the requirement, please email prohealth@northwestern.edu; be sure to include the college/university name, course title, number and description. You may also apply while the prerequisite courses are in progress; however, if conditionally accepted, prerequisite courses would need to be successfully completed with a B or above prior to being fully admitted.

VISIT US ONLINE OR SPEAK WITH AN ADMISSIONS ADVISER FOR MORE PROGRAM AND ADMISSION INFORMATION

sps.northwestern.edu/health
prohealth@northwestern.edu
312-503-2579

@NUSPSProHealth

Preclinical Psychology

The preclinical psychology concentration admits post-baccalaureate students into a program of courses required for application to most graduate programs awarding either the doctor of psychology in clinical psychology (PsyD) or the doctor of philosophy in clinical psychology (PhD). Students interested in graduate programs in counseling psychology or social work may also find this program beneficial. These courses are scheduled on the weeknights and Saturdays in the fall, winter, and spring. Courses may be scheduled on the Evanston or Chicago campus.

While this program meets minimal requirements for application to clinical psychology graduate programs in the Chicago area, students are strongly advised to find out the admission requirements of the graduate schools in which they are interested before enrolling in the program to ensure that the SPS program fulfills their requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

• PSYCH 110 Introduction to Psychology
• PSYCH 201 Statistical Methods in Psychology
• PSYCH 205 Research Methods in Psychology
• PSYCH 215 Psychology of Personality
• PSYCH 218 Developmental Psychology
• PSYCH 228 Cognitive Psychology
• PSYCH 303 Psychopathology
• PSYCH 306 Introduction to Clinical Psychology
• PSYCH 314 Topics in Psychology: Tests and Measurements

Study in convenient evening and weekend courses on Northwestern's Chicago and Evanston campuses — prespeech pathology students study completely online

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Advanced Studies in Biology for the Health Professions

Students enrolled in the advanced studies in biology for health professions program come from a wide range of backgrounds. This certificate program is designed for students who have already completed the prehealth core classes and wish to extend their study of biology as a means of furthering their preparation for the health professions. Students interested in careers in medicine, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, or other health careers may find it useful to complete this certificate of four to eight courses.

Students are required to take at least four courses, selected from the following courses:

- BIOL SCI 308 Biochemistry
- BIOL SCI 313 Human Anatomy
- BIOL SCI 315 Advanced Cell Biology
- BIOL SCI 316 Human Structure and Function
- BIOL SCI 317 Regional Human Anatomy Lab (.34 units*)
- BIOL SCI 318 Advanced Human Physiology
- BIOL SCI 327 Biology of Aging
- BIOL SCI 328 Microbiology
- BIOL SCI 355 Immunobiology Health, Science, and Society

* BIOL SCI 317 is .34 units. Students electing to take BIOL SCI 317 would need to take a minimum of four other courses to earn the certificate.

Courses in biological anthropology may be applied to the certificate, with the approval of the assistant dean of undergraduate and professional studies.

This certificate is not intended as an academic record-enhancement program. We recommend applicants have a minimum cumulative and science GPA of 3.0. While there are no mandatory prerequisites for the advanced studies in biology for health professions program, students should have completed the introductory science courses required for their intended graduate program. If students need to complete the introductory course sequences, students should apply to the appropriate Professional Health Careers program.

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Related Programs

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS TO FURTHER YOUR PREPARATION FOR ADVANCED HEALTHCARE STUDY

Take advantage of the flexibility these programs offer by choosing from a wide range of course options.

Please note: These programs have unique application requirements and different application deadlines than the Premedicine and Professional Health Careers programs and they do not qualify for financial aid. Individuals applying to these programs should use the Post-baccalaureate Certificate Application Form in the Certificate Programs section of sps.northwestern.edu/applications.

Visit sps.northwestern.edu/health for additional information, or contact an admissions adviser at 312-503-2579 or spspostbacc@northwestern.edu.
Advanced Studies in Psychology

Create a course of study selected from psychology courses taught by Northwestern University faculty to prepare for graduate-level programs. Students in the Advanced Studies in Psychology program complete four to eight courses, building a foundation for future study in psychology, counseling, social work, and other fields that involve the science and research of human behavior.

Select at least four courses from the following:

- PSYCH 204 Social Psychology
- PSYCH 205 Research Methods
- PSYCH 215 Psychology of Personality
- PSYCH 218 Developmental Psychology
- PSYCH 228 Cognitive Psychology
- PSYCH 303 Psychopathology
- PSYCH 306 Introduction to Clinical Psychology
- PSYCH 314 Special Topics in Psychology (may be repeated with different topics)
- PSYCH 375 Tests and Measures
- Other 300-level psychology courses*

* Any 300-level psychology course offered in SPS may be applied toward the certificate. Examples include PSYCH 339 Psychology of Gender, PSYCH 376 Cognitive Behavior Therapy, and PSYCH 377 Child Psychopathology. 300-level courses are offered on a rotating basis each academic year.

Health, Science and Society

This certificate program is designed for students interested in pursuing careers in medicine, public health, healthcare policy, or as healthcare providers and those who are interested in the impacts of science on society. Premedical and prehealth students needing additional humanities and social science coursework may find this certificate beneficial, particularly as medical and professional health schools place an increasing importance on cultural competency.

Students must complete a minimum of four courses selected from courses covering topics related to health, medicine and society.

- ANTHRO 213-CN Human Origins
- BIOL_SCI 312-CN The Evolutionary Biology of Human Anatomy, Health and Disease
- CLASSICS 110-CN Scientific Vocabulary through Classical Roots
- ECON 307-CN Economics of Medical Care
- PHIL 269-DL Bioethics
- PSYCH 204-CN Social Psychology
- PSYCH 212-CN Introduction to Neuroscience
- PSYCH 218-CN Developmental Psychology
- PSYCH 303-CN Psychopathology
- PSYCH 342-CN Evolutionary Psychology

Students may count other courses in the social sciences and humanities toward the certificate, with the approval of their academic adviser. Students may substitute one 300-level biology course toward the four-class minimum for the certificate.

“I plan to pursue a doctoral degree, and felt that I needed to strengthen my biological background for the particular work that I want to do. The program not only let me structure my own path, but also introduced me to an amazing spread of faculty who conducted their own personal research. I was able to simultaneously receive a formal education and get all of my questions answered from experts in the field.”

Samuel Sung, Advanced Studies in Biology program
What Premed Program Is Right For Me?

How many core science sequences have you taken? This includes biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry and physics.

1 or fewer full core science sequence

Have you taken the MCAT or submitted an application to medical school?

Yes

No

This program is not right for you

No

What is your previous GPA?

Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 or at least a 3.0 in science or math if applicable

Less than 3.0

Are you looking to retake courses?

No (except if it’s general chemistry that wasn’t completed in full sequence or if it’s been more than 5 years)

Yes (only if it isn’t general chemistry that wasn’t completed in full sequence or if it’s been more than 5 years)

Premed

2 or more core science sequences

Have you taken the MCAT or submitted an application to medical school?

Yes

No

This program is not right for you

No

What is your previous GPA?

Cumulative and math/science GPA of at least 3.0

Less than 3.0

Are you looking to retake courses?

No (except if it’s general chemistry that wasn’t completed in full sequence or if it’s been more than 5 years)

Yes (only if it isn’t general chemistry that wasn’t completed in full sequence or if it’s been more than 5 years)

Premed Completion

All 4 core science sequences

What is your previous GPA?

Cumulative and math/science GPA of at least 3.0

Less than 3.0

Are you looking to retake courses?

Yes

No

Do you have clinical and/or research experience?

No

Yes

Advanced Studies in Biology
Preparation for advanced education in healthcare professions.

PREMEDICINE & PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CAREERS

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