

Many UC Davis undergraduates are interested in health profession careers. Health Sciences Advising (HSA) provides a wide variety of services to help students reach their educational goals. The advisers are knowledgeable about health professional schools, and can provide information about course prerequisites, application procedures and curricula. An extensive library of resource materials providing statistics and admission information on health professional schools can be found in 114 South Hall. There is also an e-mail list server to keep students informed about pre-health workshops on campus, events, news and opportunities. Below are answers to students' most frequently asked questions.

## Undergraduate Subject Requirements for Professional Schools

Each professional school has a minimum number of prerequisite courses to be taken at the undergraduate level. The following is not a definitive list, but an overview of requirements for most schools. Since course requirements vary somewhat for each school and sometimes even change, it is very important to check individual Web sites or see an adviser in HSA for more specific information.

### Medicine

- Inorganic Chemistry (1 year with lab)
- Organic Chemistry (1 year with lab)
- Biological Science (1 year with lab)
- Physics (1 year with lab)
- English (1 year)
- Mathematics (varies)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (varies)
- Some schools may require Biochemistry and Genetics courses

### Dentistry

The requirements for dental school are similar to those for medical school. Some schools may require additional Psychology and Biochemistry courses.

### Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis

- Inorganic Chemistry (1 year with lab)
- General Biology (2 quarters)
- Organic Chemistry (2 quarters)
- Physics (2 quarters)
- English (1 year, including 1 composition course)
- Biochemistry (1 course)
- Genetics (1 course)
- Physiology (1 course)
- Statistics (1 course)
- Humanities and Social Science (12 units)
- Other schools may have different requirements

## WHAT COURSES SHOULD I TAKE IN HIGH SCHOOL TO PREPARE FOR A CAREER IN THE PROFESSIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES?

In addition to meeting your UC "a-g" requirements, take as many mathematics and science courses as possible. This will best prepare you for the math and science requirements you will have at UC Davis. In addition, it is important for you to explore your interest in the health sciences from a practical standpoint: e.g., for the pre-vet student it is important to gain experience working with animals; for the pre-med student, clinical experience is important. A strong background in humanities and social sciences is also very important, especially in medicine.

## SHOULD I MAJOR IN PRE-MED (OR PRE-DENTISTRY, ETC.) AT UC DAVIS?

Many students have the misconception that "pre-med" is an academic major. It is not! A medical student's undergraduate degree might be in anthropology. Usually when students refer to "pre-med" they mean one of two things: either a designation for a career objective ("Ann is a pre-med student; she hopes to be a surgeon.") or a generalized course of study ("John is a sociology major but he is also taking pre-med courses as prerequisites for medical school.").

You should major in whatever you will enjoy! As long as you do well in the courses required for admission to your school of choice, you can major in any area. Some students choose majors in the biological sciences, where there is a great deal of overlap between courses required for their major and professional school prerequisites (courses in biological science, chemistry, physics, mathematics). Many other students choose majors not directly related to their career objective, such as English, anthropology or psychology, and use their elective units to meet the professional school requirements. Professional schools, especially medical schools, are looking for well-rounded students who have taken courses in the humanities and social sciences, and who have participated in school activities and community service. Transfer students who have completed all of their pre-med prerequisites at a community college should plan to take a number of upper-division science courses at UC Davis if they choose a non-science major. Visit HSA for more information.

## DOES UC DAVIS OFFER DEGREES IN NURSING?

Pending the successful completion of the approval processes, the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis anticipates admitting its first students in a Master of Science and Nursing (MSN) program and PhD programs in the fall of 2009. The planned Entry Level Master (ELM) of nursing science program and the bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN) program is expected to admit students in 2010 or 2011. The focus of the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing will be to create leader in nursing and will foster nursing excellence through a comprehensive educational model that incorporates scientific rigor and immersive, culturally competent, inter-professional education for its students). Visit [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/nursing/](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/nursing/) for more information.

## WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO MOST PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS?

The criteria for admission generally include:

- appropriate coursework
- strong cumulative and science GPAs
- strong standardized test scores
- strong letters of recommendation
- extracurricular activities including volunteer and work experience (especially clinical experience)
- interviews

Applicants do not need a 4.0 to get into health professional schools! A GPA is an impersonal reflection of your ability to handle university work, but an important part of your application. However, a desirable candidate must be able to offer more than a good GPA. The attributes of self-motivation, social concern, communication skills

## Other Health Sciences

The following is a partial list of health professions for which UC Davis offers preparatory coursework. Contact HSA for further information.

Chiropractic Medicine  
Clinical Lab Specialist  
Dentistry  
Hospital Administration  
Medicine  
Naturopathic Medicine  
Nursing/Nurse Practitioner  
Occupational Therapy  
Optometry  
Pharmacy  
Physical Therapy  
Physician Assistant  
Podiatric Medicine  
Public Health  
Speech/Language Pathology  
Veterinary Medicine

and maturity are also important characteristics. Do not limit your experiences or your opportunities to discover yourself. The lessons you learn outside the classroom are as pertinent as your studies; try to be as “well-rounded” as possible.

## ARE MY CHANCES FOR ADMISSION GREATER IF I ATTEND THE SAME UNIVERSITY FOR BOTH MY UNDERGRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES?

Generally, there is no direct correlation between attendance at any undergraduate school and acceptance into professional school at the same institution. At UC Davis, the School of Medicine and the School of Veterinary Medicine do not have quotas to accept or limit acceptance for our undergraduate students. However, UC Davis pre-health students have a high rate of acceptance into professional schools throughout the United States, including those at UC Davis.

## WHAT ARE MY CHANCES FOR ACCEPTANCE TO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL?

Preparation for the health professions is excellent at UC Davis, as evidenced by the large numbers of students who apply to and are admitted to programs all over the country each year. UC Davis students usually score higher than the national averages on standardized exams, including the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test), and have strong professional school acceptance rates. UC Davis undergraduates also have strong acceptance rates to the UC Davis Schools of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

## HOW DO I DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE CAREER GOALS?

The best career preparation is to explore as many academic areas as possible and discover what interests you the most. From this exploration, certain career areas will emerge as possibilities. If your interests are in the health sciences, the staff at Health Sciences Advising will be happy to talk with you about your plans and how to prepare for acceptance into any health professional schools.

## QUESTIONS?

UC Davis Health Sciences Advising, 160 South Silo, University of California, One Shields Ave., Davis, California 95616-8508, (530) 752-4475, [advisingservices.ucdavis.edu](mailto:advisingservices.ucdavis.edu)

Undergraduate Admissions, University of California, Davis, 178 Mrak Hall, One Shields Ave., Davis, California 95616-8507, (530) 752-2971, [undergradadmissions@ucdavis.edu](mailto:undergradadmissions@ucdavis.edu), [admissions.ucdavis.edu](mailto:admissions.ucdavis.edu)

### TALK TO OUR STUDENTS VIA ADMISSIONS.UCDAVIS.EDU/FACEBOOK

Prepared and distributed by Undergraduate Admissions, University of California, Davis, 178 Mrak Hall, One Shields Avenue, CA 95616-8507, (530) 752-2971, [undergradadmissions@ucdavis.edu](mailto:undergradadmissions@ucdavis.edu), [admissions.ucdavis.edu](mailto:admissions.ucdavis.edu)

The University of California does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, age, veterans status, medical condition, or marital status. The University of California is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Call (530) 752-2070 for more information.