

UC IRVINE

Medicine and Other Health Professions



“Premedicine” or “premed” is not an actual academic major. Rather, the term “premed” refers to the body of undergraduate coursework that all students must take in order to be considered for admission to the many health professional schools, such as medical, dental, pharmacy, optometry, podiatry, or veterinary school.

How to Prepare for the Health Care Professions Program

The minimum undergraduate preparation required by most schools in the health professions includes the following coursework:

- One year of biology with laboratory (some schools require more)
- One year of general chemistry with laboratory
- One year of organic chemistry with laboratory
- One year of physics with laboratory
- One year of English composition

In addition, courses in cell or molecular biology, biochemistry, statistics, genetics, and developmental physiology or comparative anatomy are recommended as is coursework in computer science. Some health science schools also recommend additional courses in, for example, English, languages other than English, social sciences, and speech communication.

What Health Professional Schools Look For

Schools in the health professions evaluate an applicant’s academic abilities and personal qualities through several factors:

- College grade point average (both cumulative GPA and science GPA)
- Scores on admissions tests (Medical College Admission Test, Dental Admission Test, Optometry Admission Test, Pharmacy College Admission Test, etc.)
- Personal Statement and interview
- In-depth letters of recommendation
- Practical volunteer experience in a health profession
- Research experience in biological, medical, behavioral, or physical sciences
- Extracurricular activities (student clubs and organizations, community involvement, athletics, etc.)
- Demonstrated leadership and community service

Health professions include:

- Chiropractic
- Occupational Therapy
- Dentistry
- Optometry
- Genetic Counseling
- Pharmacy
- Medical Technology
- Physical Therapy
- Medicine (Allopathic and Osteopathic)
- Physician Assistant
- Nursing
- Podiatry
- Veterinary Medicine



How UCI Can Help

UCI offers the following prerequisite coursework as well as volunteer and research opportunities to prepare you for the health professions:

- The Biological Sciences Core Curriculum: A broad yet intensive interdisciplinary sequence of lecture and laboratory courses in modern experimental biology
- A broad range of upper-division biology laboratory and lecture courses
- Physical sciences coursework in chemistry, calculus, and physics
- Extensive laboratory, field, and clinical undergraduate research opportunities
- Biological Sciences 3A. A course that prepares students for the application process to health professional schools
- UCI School of Medicine Annual Premedical Conference
- Health-related courses:
 - Biology of Cancer
 - Biology of Heart Disease
 - Biomedical Ethics
 - Addressing Disparities and Healthcare

Beyond the Classroom

Research opportunities and student-run clubs and programs allow students to go beyond the classroom to learn about the health professions. Each quarter, several hundred students participate in health-related undergraduate research at the School of Medicine and at the UCI Medical Center, in such departments as pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, and psychiatry and human behavior. Pre-health professions students also find support and affiliation in a variety of student clubs and organizations, including Alpha Epsilon Delta, Chicanos for Creative Medicine, the Dental Club, the Flying Samaritans, the Pre-Health Undergraduate Student Organization, Public Health Student Association, U See Eyes, and many more. For more information on pre-health student organizations and research opportunities in the Biological Sciences, go to <http://students.bio.uci.edu>

Health Professional Schools Within the University of California System

The UC system offers a variety of health professions programs. For instance, there are five medical schools within the University of California: at Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Riverside (opening 2013).

. However, you should know that attending one of the UC campuses as an undergraduate does not assure admission to a UC medical school. You must apply and be considered along with all other applicants.

In addition, UC operates several other health professions programs, including dental schools, two public health schools, two nursing schools, a school of pharmacy, and a school of veterinary science. UC also operates five general acute-care hospitals, many clinics, and two neuropsychiatric institutes in conjunction with its health sciences schools.

Consider Alternative Health Science Careers

Since competition for entrance to medical school is keen, and not all qualified applicants can be accommodated, it is important to keep alternative career opportunities in mind should you not be accepted to the professional school of your choice. For example, you might consider a career in health care administration, medical technology, public health, teaching and research in the basic medical sciences, or management positions in biomedical technology and manufacturing. A UCI education will serve you well in your pursuit of other health-related professional fields.

For More Advice

Your UCI academic counselor will help plan a program that will offer the types of courses you will need for professional school or other health-related programs and professions. In addition, health science advising is a specialty of the School of Biological Sciences Undergraduate Counseling Office, whose staff is trained to help students from every major with questions about courses, prerequisites, professional school admission requirements, and other related programs.

Additional Information

School of Biological Sciences
Undergraduate Counseling Office
University of California
Irvine, CA 92697-1460
Telephone: (949) 824-5318
www.bio.uci.edu

Admissions and Relations with Schools
260 Aldrich Hall
University of California
Irvine, CA 92697-1075
Telephone: (949) 824-6703
www.admissions.uci.edu

General Campus Information
Telephone: (949) 824-5011
www.uci.edu

UCI General Catalogue
UCI Bookstore
Telephone: (949) 824-2665
www.book.uci.edu
www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue (PDF Version)

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Campus Safety: Pursuant to the Federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, UCI annually makes available to the public statistics on reported occurrences of criminal activity on and off campus and at UCI Medical Center at www.police.uci.edu/awareness/jca.html.

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