

Preprofessional Preparation

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Preprofessional programs are available for students who plan to transfer to other institutions for the completion of professional curricula in such fields as law, medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, optometry, architecture, theology, librarianship, chiropractic therapy, osteopathic medicine, and podiatric medicine. Some of these programs are described here.

Students planning to complete a preprofessional program and degree at California State University, Fresno must complete a major offered at this university. They should include their preprofessional area plus their university major on all registration forms; for example, premedical-chemistry, premedical-biology, prelaw-history, prelaw-political science. There are no preprofessional majors per se. Instead, preprofessional students work toward various university degrees and while doing so, incorporate into their college programs courses required for entry into professional schools.

Careful program planning is important in order to select proper classes and complete requirements in a timely way. Regular advising is essential since professional schools change their requirements occasionally. Preprofessional students should contact their respective major and preprofessional advisers before enrolling in classes each semester to stay abreast of changes.

Students considering a preprofessional program and degree in a major within the College of Science and Mathematics may contact the Advising and Resources Center (ARC) at 559.278.4150, Science I, Room 136, www.fresnostate.edu/csm/arc, for more information.

A current list of preprofessional advisers is available in the Advising and Resources Center, Advising and Resources Center. For more information, contact ARC at 559.278.4150, or fax 559.278.5200.

Preclinical laboratory sciences. Students interested in a medical career in clinical laboratory science (CLS) can satisfy their pre-CLS requirements at California State University, Fresno. Successful completion of the following is required: CHEM 1A/1AL-B/1BL, CHEM 105, CHEM 128A-B, CHEM 129A, CHEM 150, BIOL 1A, 1B/1BL, BIOL 120, BIOL 121, BIOL 157 and 157L, BIOL 164, and PHYS 2A-B. Several other upper-level BIOL and CHEM courses are highly recommended; for details, consult a pre-CLS advisor and consult education coordinators at hospitals with one-year CLS training programs.

Dr. Fred Schreiber
Biology Department
559.278.8756; FAX: 559.278.3963
e-mail: fred_schreiber@csufresno.edu

Predental. The minimum training for dentistry is a seven-year course - the first three years (90 units) of predental training in a college or university and the remaining four years (dental training) at a school of dentistry.

However, most students are not accepted by dental schools until four years of college are completed. Due to the large number of applicants, students who do not have better than a 3.5 GPA should earn a bachelor's degree before applying to a dental school. Majors that are most compatible with required classes are in the sciences, particularly biology and chemistry. However, as long as the required preprofessional courses are completed, any major is acceptable.

The minimum predental program required by accredited dental schools is one year each of English, general chemistry, physics, and biology, plus one semester (and often one year) of organic chemistry. Check with each dental school for specific additional requirements like psychology. The Dental Admission Test (DAT) is required. Many dental schools also require a personal interview; some schools administer additional tests. For other information, contact a predental advisor and consult dental school catalogs or the American Dental Education Association at www.adea.org.

Dr. Fred Schreiber
Biology Department