

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, forestry, architecture, theology, librarianship, chiropractic therapy, osteopathic medicine, and podiatric medicine. Some of these programs are described in the text that follows.

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 current developments.

A current list of preprofessional advisers is available in the Office of Advising Services, Joyal Administration Building, Room 224. For more information, call Advising Services, (559) 278-1787 or fax (559) 278-2323.

Predental. The minimum training for dentistry is a seven-year course — the first three years (90 units) of predental training in a liberal arts college 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 cumulative GPA should earn a bachelor's degree before entering 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 Aptitude Test (DAT) and evidence of physical fitness and good moral character are usually required. Many dental schools also require a personal interview; some schools administer additional tests. For other information, contact one of the predental advisers and consult dental school catalogs or www.predental.com.

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Prehealth careers. Advisement is available for students interested in preparing for health careers in occupational therapy, in chiropractic medicine, in radiological technology, as a physician's assistant, and related areas. These programs are not offered at California State University, Fresno, although most, if not all, prerequisites can be found on this campus. Admission requirements vary widely for health career programs, not only from field to field, but from institution to institution. It is recommended that students seek academic and career advisement early in their academic programs.

Contact the College of Health and Human Services for information on the Prehealth Careers Advisement Program:

Ms. Georgia Porcella, Academic Adviser
College of Health and Human Services
McLane Hall, Room 188
(559) 278-6579; FAX: (559) 278-4437
e-mail: georgiap@csufresno.edu

Prelegal. Most fully accredited law schools require a bachelor's degree for admission. Since a prelegal program providing a broad cultural background is recommended by the law schools, any baccalaureate major, depending on the student's interest, may be chosen from the university offerings. (See *Degree Programs, Majors and Minors*.) Law

schools suggest courses, but not necessarily a major, in the following: written and oral English, American and English constitutional history, world history, accounting, business administration, elementary logic, mathematics, statistics, economics, political science, philosophy, science and foreign language. A score on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is required before students can be accepted into law school. It is recommended that the LSAT be taken no later than December of the student's senior year. In addition, most law schools require a personal statement and letters of recommendation that address academic skills and preparation for the study of law. For further information consult a prelaw adviser and law school catalogs.

For a list of prelaw advisers, contact the Office of Advising Services in Joyal Administration, Room 224.
(559) 278-1787; FAX: (559) 278-2323

Prelibrarianship. Librarianship offers many career opportunities to people of different academic backgrounds, interests, and talents. Librarianship is the profession concerned with collecting, organizing, and preserving the records of society and providing access to them. Librarians work with a wide variety of people and materials (books, music, films, slides, maps, computer files, and more). Professional opportunities include service in academic, research, public, and school libraries as well as libraries and information centers in corporations, medical centers, law firms, museums, and archival collections. Computer technology offers additional career opportunities in traditional library settings and elsewhere. The basic level of education for library and information studies professional positions is the master's degree. The entrance requirements of graduate programs vary, but most library schools require a bachelor's degree, a reading knowledge of a foreign language, and courses in statistics and computer science.

For additional information about library schools, their requirements and programs, and library career opportunities, contact the prelibrarianship adviser.

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