

# 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 121. For more information, call Advising Services, (209) 278-2924.

**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 School of Health and Human Services for information on the Prehealth Careers Advisement Program:

Ms. Georgia Porcella, Coordinator  
Nursing/Physical Therapy Admissions  
San Ramon 2, Room 21  
(209) 278-6579

**Premedical.** Students interested in preparing for medical school should declare their intent at the time they apply for admission to California State University, Fresno. To do this, it is necessary that students use a term such as premedical-sociology, premedical-zoology, premedical-chemistry or premedical-general on all application, admittance, and registration papers. In case premedical-general is chosen, a specific subject major should be selected as soon as possible and not later than the sophomore year from the list of approved majors in the *Degree Requirements* section in this catalog.

Requirements for admission to medical school vary considerably from one medical school to another and change from time to time, but a well-balanced liberal education is usually specified. Some aptitude and university training in science and English are essential in medicine. The minimum requirements in these subjects specified by most medical schools can be satisfied by specific courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and English. Also, calculus is

required by some medical schools. Because of competition for admission to medical schools, a grade point average above 3.5 is highly desirable. The Medical College Aptitude Test (MCAT) is required before students can be accepted into medical school. It is recommended that the MCAT be taken and application for medical school be made at the end of the junior year.

Freshman, transfer, and all other students who are entering the program are advised to contact a premedical adviser prior to registration. (See *Advising Services*.) Each student is assigned to a member of the premedical advisory committee who assists him or her in planning a program of courses and advises him or her concerning preparatory procedures for application to medical school.

The Premedical Advisory Committee will mail to any interested student material that covers the operation of our premedical program, courses required and medical school admissions procedures. Write:

Premedical Advisory Committee  
California State University, Fresno  
2555 E. San Ramon  
Fresno, CA 93740-0070.

**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 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 requirements like psychology.