Pre-Health

Summer 2018
What does it mean to be Pre-Health?

- Pre-Health means you are preparing for a career in healthcare
- These 3 steps are essential for all pre-health students
  - **Explore** – a wide range of healthcare careers
  - **Prepare** – strong academic foundation, engage in activities (volunteer, clinical experiences, research) & reflect on your experiences. While you have to keep academics your top priority you must also learn to balance
  - **Apply** – Submit an application to the program when you are most READY to apply
- Engage with your advisor in Pre-Health Advising (PHA)
What are the pre-requisites (courses I will need to take to apply to a Health Program?)

• This will vary by the healthcare profession you pursue.

• For the majority of medical and dental schools in the US you will need the following courses:
  • Chemistry 150, 202, 203, 204, plus the labs (4 semesters)
  • Biology 141, 142, plus the labs (2 semesters)
  • Physics 141, 142, plus the labs (2 semesters)
  • QTM 100 or Econ 220 (1 semester)
  • Biochemistry (1 semester)
  • Social Sciences/Humanities (no specific list, but PHA will have suggested areas)

• Many other healthcare programs will typically require Chemistry and Biology—so that’s a good place to start

• You have TIME to complete pre-requisites, and most students use their entire Emory careers to fit in the courses they need.
What classes should I start with in my first semester?

In my first year?

• This will depend on the health professional school in which you are interested in- and you may not know for sure now- that’s OK.

• Most students start with at least one, but possibly two science courses. This decision should be made based on YOUR SCIENCE BACKGROUND. Your AP/IB or previous college credits may affect how many courses and which courses you enroll.
  • If you plan to take only one science, we recommend starting with Chem 150 and Lab (you will need to finish the Chemistry Assessment this summer)
  • If you plan to take two sciences, we recommend Chemistry (either 150 or 202z) and Biology 141 with labs.
  • If you have AP Biology credit, you must still enroll in the Biology 141 Lab before you can continue with upper level Biology courses.

• Many students consider a math course
  • QTM 100 is great to start
  • Calculus IS NOT REQUIRED for most health programs, but may be required for your major. It’s ok to wait!

• Many students consider social science and humanities courses
  • Look at introductory courses in Anthropology, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology and Religion
Do AP/IB test credits count?

• Yes, many programs accept AP/IB credits as pre-requisites, however you will not know which program(s) or schools you will be applying to for several more years.

• You may use AP/IB credits for a designated first semester course and start with the next course in a sequence.
Should I Keep my AP/IB Credit or Retake?

- Choosing to keep your AP/IB credits vs. retaking a class at Emory depends on your comfort with the sciences and WHEN you took the AP/IB course.
  - If you are a strong science student and took AP/IB in Senior year, we typically recommend keeping your AP/IB credits and continuing with a higher level.
  - If you took an AP/IB course before senior year, you may need to speak with faculty in the department about your preparation during Orientation or Add/drop/swap week
  - Note, even with Biology AP/IB credit, you still need to take Biol 141 Lab before taking upper level Biology courses
- Meet with a pre-health advisor (in PHA) to determine how AP credits will impact your pre-requisites
What if I have multiple interests (pre-business and pre-health and pre-law and dual degree)?

• It’s great to have multiple interests as you start Emory! Many of the pre-requisites for health (and other degree programs) can fulfill General Education Requirements (GERs).

• Any major is appropriate for Pre-health (we are 100% serious about this). When you choose your major, it should be based on what you are truly excited to study.

• If you are interested in applying to the Nursing School, you have two options:
  • Single Degree: Enter after your 2nd year and earn a BSN from the School of Nursing
  • Dual Degree: Enter after your 3rd year and earn a BA or BS from Emory College AND a BSN from the School of Nursing

• Students interested in applying to the Business School or Dual Degree with GT, can also be pre-health. This takes some additional planning as you need to complete their pre-requisites ALONG with your pre-health requirements. Sometimes these overlap, but sometimes they do not.
What do I need to do to apply to a Health Program (e.g. Medical, Dental, PA, PT, etc.)

- Work closely with your pre-health advisor (in the PHA) to plan your semesters
- Take the pre-requisite courses needed for your healthcare profession
- **Explore the healthcare profession you are pursuing** through volunteering, connecting with professionals, and taking advantage of professional development opportunities
- **Focus on more than just grades** in your pre-reqs, be sure to engage in volunteer activities throughout your Emory career, and be an active member of the Emory community
When will I apply to my health professional program?

• The real answer: **It Depends**! Everyone’s timeline is different

• Timelines vary by the program you decide to apply to AND when you complete your pre-requisites – **stay flexible on your timeline**

• The **PHA encourages students to apply ONLY** when they are the most **competitive** they can be for the program in which they are applying.
  • There are MANY factors that go into your readiness to apply
  • Developing a relationship with your pre-health advisor (PHA) will help you develop the best timeline/plan for you

• Many students take time between their undergraduate degrees and beginning their graduate degrees.
What pre-health advising is available?

• You have a designated advisor who can help you plan your pre-health pre-requisites, other pre-health specific questions, and GERs

• Check out the PHA website for advisor assignments: prehealth.emory.edu: Connect with US

• The PHA also has 30 Peer Mentors who hold walk-in hours throughout the semester and lead great events throughout the year
When can I connect with Pre-Heath Advising (PHA)?

• Once the semester begins, you are eligible to come in for appointments with your PHA advisor, or meet with a Peer Mentor (walk-in)

• We recommend meeting us early in your Emory Career and continuing to check-in as you progress:
  • First year: Focus on building a strong academic foundation, attending PHA events and getting involved in areas of interest
  • Second year: Focus on volunteering and attend the sophomore mandatory check up meetings
  • Third/fourth Years: Focus on your timeline for applying and decision making, assessing your readiness to apply and possibly applying
What other expectations are there?

• Develop a relationship with your PHA Advisor

• Register with the PHA to stay informed of events and deadlines: prehealth.emory.edu

• Keep track of your activities & reflect on what is meaningful to you

• Engage with our programming such as the “First Year Reflect” session

• Be open to learning about multiple health professions

• Build a strong academic foundation – ask for help when you need it

• Learn to be flexible and plan appropriately

• Avoid the following myths and talk to advisors when uncertain:
  - I must be a double major
  - I must double-up on sciences or I will fall behind
  - I must take calculus
  - I must take the pre-reqs early so I can apply in my junior summer
  - I won't get into medical school (or any other program) with a bad grade in a science course
  - I can compensate for bad grades in science courses with strong extracurriculars

• Uphold the Emory Honor and Conduct Codes
  - This is VERY important for pre-health students.
  - Even minor violations need to be reported on applications
What happens during Orientation?

• You will meet your designated Pre-Health Advising (PHA) advisor during a group session and learn about our services and programs.

• PHA advisors will discuss recommended science courses and AP credit questions.

• PHA advisors will also give general advise about ways to explore health careers, gain clinical experience and groups/clubs on campus that have an interest in health/community.
What do I need to do BEFORE Registration?

• Verify with admissions or in OPUS that AP/IB credits are posted
• Bookmark PHA website prehealth.emory.edu- especially the EXPLORE Tab
  • Pre-requisites for the different health programs are listed by program
• Decide which sciences to start with – this will vary based on your science background
  • Note Chem 150/lab, Biol 141/lab and Phys 141/ lab are ONLY offered during Fall or Summer