WHY MINOR IN PRE-MEDICAL STUDIES?

Few careers are as challenging or as satisfying as the practice of medicine or one of the related health professions (dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine and others). Admission to post-baccalaureate professional schools is highly competitive, but is a realistic goal for students who carefully plan their undergraduate programs. Most professional schools value well-rounded applicants possessing a strong background in the liberal arts and solid preparation in the sciences. For this reason the University of Maine does not recommend one specific academic major for students planning to apply to medical or other professional schools. Instead students can pursue a wide variety of majors. Students in majors that don’t include the biology, chemistry, math, and physics required by most medical schools can add the Pre-Medical Studies minor to their programs to pick up those courses.

The University of Maine’s Introduction to Health Professions course is offered in the sophomore year for students thinking about a career in the health professions. The 4-credit course introduces students to the many different components of the modern health care system. Practical, hands-on experience is available through University Volunteer Corps (UVAC). Also, part-time, summer, and full-time positions and internships are listed in Careerlink on the Career Center website.

The University of Maine’s Health Professions Career Specialist provides wide-ranging support services to students planning to attend medical school or other professional schools.

UMaine’s ADVANTAGE

• Health Professions Mentor Program
• More than $40,000 in scholarships annually
• Hands-on experience available through University Volunteer Ambulance Corps (UVAC)

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

UMaine offers qualified students outstanding opportunities to work with its research faculty in a wide variety of disciplines. Participation in research helps students to develop critical thinking skills and the habits of independent scholarship that is highly valued by medical and other professional schools. Students planning careers in the health professions should work with their academic advisors and the Career Center to identify research opportunities early in their undergraduate careers.

ACCELERATED PROGRAMS

The University of Maine offers two 3 + 4 programs: one with the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNECOM) and one with New England College of Optometry (NECO) and a 3 + 3 program with Logan Chiropractic. These programs allow students to be admitted to either UNECOM, NECO or Logan after
three years at UMaine rather than the customary four years of undergraduate preparation. Upon successful completion of the first year at one of these professional schools, students in this program will receive a bachelor’s degree from UMaine. For more details and a complete UMaine curriculum, contact the Career Center at 207.581.1359.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID
Cost shouldn’t be a barrier to students in pursuing medical, dental or veterinary careers. Each year the University awards more than $40,000 in scholarships to undergraduates planning careers in the health professions. Low-interest loans totaling several hundred thousand dollars are annually given to UMaine graduates who are in medical, dental or veterinary school, to help finance their professional studies. This program is made possible through a multi-million-dollar bequest to the University in the name of Charles E. Gilbert.

HOW DO I APPLY?
Visit umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine. Apply to your preferred major and once you are enrolled at UMaine you can add the Pre-Medical Studies minor to your program if your major does not already include the science and math courses that most medical schools require.

“Originally, when I read you could get involved in the labs at UMaine, I thought I’d be washing dishes. It’s really nice, as an undergraduate, to be able to go into a lab and participate in cutting-edge research with actual biological systems.”

— Ryan Dawes, Biology major, Pre-med, Neuroscience, Psychology and Chemistry minors, Honors College President, UMaine Bioengineering Club