

Pre-Medical, Pre-Dental and Pre-Optometry

Contact

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Admission Requirements

Students interested in medical, dental or optometry schools should register at the beginning of their first year with the Health Professions Office. The Health Professions Office and Committee act as a liaison between the university and professional schools. The Health Professions Committee sets policy. This committee's special mission is to help students realize their goal of admission to a post-graduate program. Individual advisers help students in their career preparation and work closely with them during the application process.

Students should be familiar with the admissions policies of professional schools to which they apply. Applicants should take the appropriate admission test during the spring semester of their junior year. They also must meet the requirements of the undergraduate college and department in which they plan to major.

Minimum Requirements to Enter Professional School

8 credits	Biology
8 credits	Chemistry (general)
8 credits	Chemistry (organic)
6 credits	English (composition and literature)
8 credits	Physics

Program Description

Medical, dental and optometry colleges generally desire students who are prepared in the sciences and mathematics, and who are broadly educated. They require certain courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics, and recommend a liberal background in humanities and social sciences. A large majority of pre-medical, pre-dental and pre-optometry students major in sciences like biology, microbiology, biochemistry, zoology or chemistry. However, students may major in other disciplines according to their interest. The Department of Biological Sciences offers a minor in pre-medical studies that is intended for students majoring outside of the biological sciences, ensuring that they have the necessary courses. This minor consists of the science and mathematics courses required for admission to most medical schools. However, all students should consult specific programs at medical schools and other graduate institutions of interest regarding additional requirements. Those who major in a non-science department and meet only the minimum science and mathematics requirements should achieve superior grades in order to demonstrate their proficiency in these critical subjects.

Specialized Information

Gilbert Loans

Cost shouldn't be a barrier to students interested in pursuing medical, dental or veterinary careers. University of Maine Gilbert Loans allow UMaine graduates to take out low-interest loans to help further their education.

Professional School Requirements

In order to meet the minimum requirements of most medical, dental and optometry schools, students choosing to obtain a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree should plan, with the aid of an adviser, to include the specific credit categories listed. Within the framework of their major program, all of these courses should be completed before the senior year. Chemistry and biology should be taken in the first year. Many medical, dental and optometry schools require or recommend certain additional courses. Among those most commonly listed are calculus, psychology, microbiology, physiology, principles of genetics, quantitative analysis, comparative anatomy, biochemistry, physical chemistry and computer science.

Advanced Placement

Many medical, dental and optometry schools will accept advanced placement in lieu of one or more courses required in the categories. However, they may require upper-level coursework within that discipline.

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.

Academic Programs 2011–12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.