Pre-Professional Health Studies and Transfer Programs

One of the most rapidly expanding career fields today is that of the health sciences. At Eastern Oregon University, students planning to enter a professional program in the health care field can take their foundation courses through the pre-professional sequences. The liberal arts general education curriculum offered at EOU ensures students develop the strong foundational competencies required by the professional schools. EOU prepares the pre-professional student through academic groundwork and development, which encompasses the major field of study, the mastery of specific scientific principles, and advanced coursework.

There is no “best” major to gain entry into a professional school that requires a degree, although many EOU students complete a biology or chemistry-biochemistry degree as they encompass many of the prerequisite courses. Admission committees welcome majors outside of the sciences, but students need to be aware of the potential for an additional time commitment for completion of the prerequisite coursework. A major choice should be guided primarily by a student’s own intellectual interests and aptitudes. Most students perform better in a major that they find to be interesting, challenging and satisfying.

Students often complete pre-professional coursework at EOU, then transfer to institutions offering their undergraduate, advanced degree, or training program. Although not an exhaustive list, following are health care fields often pursued by EOU students.

**PRE-DENTISTRY**
The pre-dentistry curriculum prepares students for the Dental Admission Test (DAT) and entrance into dental school. Although some dental schools do not require a baccalaureate degree (BA/BS) for admission, it is highly recommended that students plan to complete a bachelor’s degree prior to matriculation. Typically, students choose to follow a degree program in biology or chemistry-biochemistry, although other majors may be pursued.

Typical prerequisite courses include completion of one-year sequences of general biology with lab, general chemistry with lab, organic chemistry with lab, physics with lab, anatomy and physiology with lab, in addition to biochemistry courses with lab, and English composition. Students are strongly encouraged to obtain prerequisite information from the schools to which they will be applying and to work closely with their pre-health advisor when selecting appropriate coursework to meet the prerequisite requirements. Admission to dental school is highly competitive, requiring high academic achievement and involvement in co-curricular activities such as internships, research and volunteering.

**PRE-MEDICINE**
The curriculum in pre-medicine is designed to prepare students for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and entrance into medical school. A bachelor’s degree (B.A./B.S.) is required prior to matriculation to medical school. No particular major is preferred, but a degree in biology or chemistry-biochemistry encompasses many of the prerequisite courses. The program is flexible and can be adapted to an individual’s needs and interests. Students must excel in whatever field is chosen because admission is very competitive and high academic achievement is a must. Although they do not require students to follow any precise degree program, medical schools do have specific entrance requirements.

Typical prerequisite coursework includes one-year sequences of general biology with lab, general chemistry with lab, organic chemistry with lab and physics with lab. In addition, courses in genetics, mathematics, humanities, psychology, sociology and English composition are required. Students should plan to enroll in clinical observation courses to obtain shadowing hours required by some medical schools. Students are strongly encouraged to obtain prerequisite information from schools to which they will be applying and to work closely with their advisor when selecting appropriate coursework to meet the prerequisite requirements. Admission to medical school is highly competitive requiring high academic achievement and involvement in co-curricular activities such as internships, research and volunteering.
**PRE-MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY**

The pre-medical laboratory curriculum at EOU prepares students for admission into accredited programs at hospitals and universities. Medical technologists are prepared to enter the medical laboratory science profession and to pursue career opportunities in various laboratory settings or in preparation for graduate school. Two possible options exist for students interested in medical technology. Students can complete three years of prerequisite coursework at EOU and then transfer to a university or medical school program for an additional 12 months of training. These students normally receive a Bachelor of Science degree directly from the medical technology program into which they transfer. Students can also complete a Bachelor of Science degree at EOU and then transfer to either a university or a hospital-based program for the final 12-15 months of training. Since hospital programs cannot grant degrees, students must have a Bachelor of Science degree prior to entering these programs.

**PRE-NURSING**

Nursing programs within the state of Oregon require that students take a series of prerequisite courses in order to meet admission criteria. A variety of nursing programs exist for students to consider. EOU students typically complete prerequisite coursework as required by Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing (OHSU-SON) in order to be eligible for admission to the OHSU-SON La Grande campus, or other OHSU-SON branch campuses. Completion of prerequisites does not guarantee admission to the OHSU-SON baccalaureate degree program. The pre-nursing program is a one to two-year curriculum consisting of anatomy and physiology with lab, nutrition, mathematics, English composition, statistics, human development, as well as humanities and social science electives. Additionally, completion of a chemistry and microbiology course is strongly recommended. For information about the baccalaureate degree program in Nursing on the EOU campus, see Oregon Health & Science University Nursing, in this catalog.

Students wishing to apply to other Oregon nursing programs are highly recommended to obtain prerequisite information from the schools to which they will be applying. Students should be aware that prerequisite requirements for other nursing programs may differ from those of OHSU and require a longer length of time to complete. In addition, students should be aware of the different application periods.

Students are strongly encouraged to work closely with their pre-health advisor when choosing appropriate coursework. Admission to a nursing school is competitive, requiring high academic achievement.

**PRE-PHARMACY**

EOU offers a pre-pharmacy curriculum which prepares students for entrance into pharmacy school. Although some pharmacy schools do not require a baccalaureate (B.A./B.S.) degree for admission, it is highly recommended that students plan to complete a bachelor’s degree prior to matriculation. EOU coursework prepares students for the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT), which is an admission requirement for many pre-pharmacy schools. Prerequisite coursework typically includes one-year sequences of general biology with lab, anatomy and physiology with lab, general chemistry with lab, organic chemistry with lab, and general physics with lab, in addition to courses in cell structure and function, microbiology, calculus, statistics, public speaking, general economics, general psychology, and English composition. In addition, students should plan to enroll in clinical observation courses to obtain shadowing hours as pharmacy schools encourage or require applicants to have volunteer or paid experience working with patients in a pharmacy or health-related setting (hospital, nursing home, etc.). Ongoing work or volunteer experience in a pharmacy setting may be an important factor in the admissions process. Students are strongly encouraged to work closely with their advisor when selecting appropriate coursework. Admission to pharmacy schools is highly competitive. Involvement in co-curricular activities such as internships, research and volunteering is recommended.

**PRE-OPTOMETRY**

A full curriculum of pre-professional courses is offered at Eastern Oregon University for those seeking admission to a school of optometry to complete a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree. Typically students will complete one of the science degrees, but other degrees are accepted by professional optometry schools. Typical prerequisite coursework includes one-year sequences of general chemistry with lab, anatomy and physiology with lab, and general physics with lab, in addition to courses such as biochemistry, microbiology, calculus, statistics, psychology, and English composition. Prerequisite coursework serves as preparation for the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) required for applicants seeking admission to optometry schools. Some optometry schools require observation experience under the supervision of an optometrist. Students are strongly encouraged to work closely with their advisor when selecting appropriate coursework. Admission is highly competitive. The majority of students admitted to optometry schools have above average scholastic standing, earned high pre-admission examination scores, demonstrated a good general knowledge of the profession, been active in co-curricular campus and community activities and have a carefully prepared application.
PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY
The curriculum in pre-physical therapy is designed to prepare students for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and entrance into a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. Course prerequisites for admission vary significantly across DPT programs. The most commonly required prerequisite coursework typically includes one-year sequences of general biology with lab, general chemistry with lab, general physics with lab, anatomy and physiology with lab, in addition to statistics, general psychology, English composition, humanities and social science courses. Students are strongly encouraged to work closely with their advisor when selecting appropriate coursework. Admission to physical therapy schools is highly competitive based on scholastic standing. Involvement in co-curricular activities such as internships, research and volunteering is recommended.

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
The pre-physician assistant curriculum at Eastern Oregon University is designed to meet the requirements for admission to a Physician Assistant program. Students must obtain a BA/BS degree prior to being accepted into most professional schools. Typical prerequisite coursework includes one-year sequences of general biology with lab, general chemistry with lab, and anatomy and physiology with lab. Additional courses include microbiology, college algebra and statistics, general psychology, sociology, English composition and technical writing. Students should plan to enroll in clinical observation courses to obtain shadowing hours to learn about the profession. Most professional schools require a minimum of six months to one-year in a responsible health care position (paid or volunteer). Students are strongly encouraged to obtain prerequisite requirements for the school to which they will be applying and to work closely with their advisor when selecting appropriate coursework. Admission to physician assistant programs is highly competitive, requiring high academic achievement. Involvement in co-curricular activities such as internships, research and volunteering is recommended.

PRE-VETERINARY MEDICINE
The pre-veterinary medicine curriculum at EOU is designed to meet the requirements for admission to schools of veterinary medicine. Additionally, the curriculum is designed to prepare students for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) required by most schools of veterinary medicine. Prerequisite coursework include sequences in general chemistry with lab, general biology with lab, organic chemistry with lab, and general physics with lab. Additional courses in biological sciences, biochemistry, genetics, mathematics, statistics, humanities and social sciences, communications, and English composition are recommended. Students are strongly encouraged to work closely with their advisor when choosing appropriate coursework. Admission to veterinary schools is very competitive. Involvement in co-curricular activities such as internships, research and volunteering is recommended.