

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Health-Related Pre-Professional Preparation for Medicine, Dentistry, Chiropractic, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Physical/Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant, Optometry and Podiatry

Dr. Timothy A. Ballard, UNCW pre-health advisor for upper-level students
 Ms. Jamie S. Brenner, University College pre-health advisor for entry-level students
 Dr. Linda R. Collins, University College pre-health advisor for entry-level students

For general information regarding pre-health advising at UNCW, visit the Pre-Health Advising Web site at <http://www.uncw.edu/uc/prehealth> or call (910) 962-3245.

The University College Center for Academic Advising assists students in planning the required courses during their first year for health-related careers. (Note: Students interested in nursing should refer to UNCW's School of Nursing.)

Students wishing to pursue a career in the health professions may elect to major in any discipline, as long as they incorporate the courses required for admission to their desired professional school. In the first semester, their curriculum should usually include:

ENG 101 College Writing and Reading I **or**
 103 College Writing and Reading (Advanced)
 MAT ____ [according to placement]
 CHM 101 General Chemistry
 BIO 201 Principles of Biology: Cells
 Additional Basic Studies course

At a minimum, pre-professional health science preparation usually includes courses in chemistry, biology, physics, and mathematics. General lists of recommended courses are available in the Courses of Study section of the Pre-Health Advising Web site, but students are ultimately responsible for checking the prerequisites of the individual schools to which they wish to apply.

Prerequisites for admission into health professions schools should usually be taken in the first three years at UNCW, as most of the professional schools have specific entrance exams that are designed to be taken after the third year. In addition to excellent grades and entrance exam scores, there are a number of factors that affect admission to a school in the health professions. They include, but are not limited to: involvement in extracurricular activities, volunteer work in one's field of interest, and dedication and suitability to the career.

Students are encouraged to participate in pertinent health professions clubs on campus.

First-year students who wish to pursue entrance into a health profession should contact one of the University College pre-health advisors. Beyond the first year, all students (regardless of major) who are actively pursuing pre-health should contact Dr. Ballard in the Department of Biology and Marine Biology.

PRE-LAW

Mr. Michael Haas, *advisor*

Students who plan to prepare for law school may select a major in any discipline that fulfills the requirements for a baccalaureate degree at UNCW. In developing a pre-law program, the student should be aware of the recommendation of the Association of American Law Schools, which describes the basic skills and insights it believes fundamental to the later attainment of legal competence. These are (a) comprehension and expression in words; (b) critical understanding of human institutions and values with which the law deals; and (c) creative power in thinking. In order to develop these capacities, the association recommends a pre-legal education of "the broadest scope." To accomplish these goals the University of North Carolina Wilmington offers a wide range of pre-law courses. Although political science and business are frequently selected by pre-law students as their major, economics, English, history, sociology and others are sometimes selected. Regardless of the major, the pre-law student should be zealous in the selection of electives that will facilitate critical understanding of economic, political and social institutions. Since a lawyer must be able to communicate effectively, the pre-law student is well-advised to lay special emphasis on communicative skills. Also, knowledge of elementary accounting is highly recommended.

Finally, the pre-law student should remember that the quality of undergraduate instruction is more important than the subject matter area. The Association of American Law Schools recommends the selection of courses which require the greatest preparation and intellectual discipline. "The best trained applicant for law school," states the association "is the student who has studied under teachers who have inspired, challenged, and pressed him."

All candidates for law school should apply in time to ensure that their completed file is available by January 1 of the year they plan to enter. This means that they should register for either the June or September administration of the Law School Admissions Test and for the Law School Data Assembly Service. The LSAT and the LSDAS are explained fully in the Law School Admission Bulletin, which is available in the Department of Public and International Affairs. Additional information and advice may be secured from the pre-law advisor in the Department of Public and International Affairs.