

Academic Considerations for Admission to Health Profession Training Programs

Different programs require different skill sets, and pre-requisite courses are designed to help you develop the skills you'll need. Each program is a little different from the others, and there are even schools within the same profession that want you to have different background preparation. Math is the best example – some medical schools require no math courses (although most applicants need some math background to take their science courses), and some may require up to two semesters of calculus and statistics. So, there's no easy way to know exactly what courses to take, but the following is a basic guideline for a few of the programs.

Click on the links for summary charts regarding pre-requisites, created by each health profession's professional association.

Requirement	Westmont Course	Med	Dental	Opt	Pharm	Phys Asst	Phys Therapy	Podiatry	Vet Med
GenChem I w/lab	CHM 5 or 5H	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
GenChem II w/lab	CHM 6 or 6H	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Organic I w/lab	CHM 101	3	3	3	3	some		3	3
Organic II w/lab	CHM 102	3	3	3	3	some		3	3
Biology I w/lab	BIO 5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Biology II w/lab	BIO 6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Physics I (w/lab)	PHY 11 or PHY 21/22	3	3	3	3		3	3	3
Physics II w/lab	PHY 13/14 or PHY 23/24	3	3	3	3		3	3	3
Calculus	MA 9 or MA 10	some		most	most		few		some
Statistics	MA 5	some	some	most	many	most	3		some
Biochem	BIO (or CHM) 113	3	few	most	some	few			many
Microbio	BIO 110		few	some	some	many	some		some
Intro Anatomy & Physiology w/lab	BIO 11 & 12 or 11 & 102		few	most	many	many	3		some
English	ENG 2 or 104	most	many	many	some	some		3	some
Others		PSY/SOC for MCAT Advanced Biology	Advanced Biology	PSY., other humanities or social sciences	ECON, Publ Speaking	PSY (intro and abnormal) Med. Term.	PSY, social sciences	Advanced Biology	Varies widely

All requirements must be taken for a grade, not P/NC. While this handout is representative of the general requirements, specific schools may have specific requirements. While these are the most common requirements for admission to a health professions training program, individual schools and professions may have additional requirements. For example, Texas schools require another full year of Biology courses. Many California schools will only accept AP on a case by case basis, and prefer that students not use AP to fulfill their pre-requisites.

[Modified from a version prepared by [Kate Fukawa-Connelly at Princeton University.](#)]