

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Health Professions Program

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Health Professions School Course Requirements and Considerations

Thank you for checking in with Health Professions Advising! Remember, students should sign up for our list serve and get all of the program notices. This document lists those courses considered to be required for students interested in attending medical, dental, veterinary, and optometry schools. We in HP Advising urge you to bookmark a focused group of 3 schools to serve as your 'bellwether' institutions in your area of interest (e.g., medical, dental veterinary, etc.). You should also do the same for the application portals and professional societies for your area of interest, for example, AADSAS and ADEA for dentistry. In this way you can gauge changes and updates in their policies and requirements.

Some General Caveats to Consider:

Advanced Placement (AP) Credit:

We applaud your achievement in taking and seeking AP credit. And while AP credit may sometimes be used to satisfy mathematics and English/writing requirements, ***AP credit may not be accepted by an array of health professions schools, particularly for satisfying core science requirements.*** This is because health professional schools want you to demonstrate your capacity to be successful in college-level science laboratory coursework taken in-load at your home institution. We therefore discourage use of AP credit for core science requirements. If you elect to use AP credit in any aspect of your required courses, HP Advising strongly recommends you enroll in and complete upper-level course work in that same discipline. So if you have AP credit for English 110, it is advisable that you take and 200-level English writing or composition course. If you use AP credit in science, for example Physics, you should plan to take an upper level Physics with lab while at Lafayette.

Pass/Fail:

HP Advising cautions against taking any science course on a Pass/Fail or Credit/Audit/No Credit basis. You want to provide to health professions schools evidence of your success in a variety of disciplines and courses. HP Advising strongly discourages use of any of these options. And while the COVID19 pandemic resulted in some relaxation of some requirements, schools especially look skeptically on electing P/F if a numeric grade is an option. The reasons to use P/F or C/NC may be complex, so plan to explore those well in advance with Professor Nancy Waters, the Health Professions Faculty Advisor, or Ms Simona Glaus, the Health Professions Program Coordinator.

Summer School:

For some students, the option to complete summer courses offers flexibility, whether to enable study abroad or complete a double major, etc. However, HP Advising cautions your choice to complete core courses and laboratory science classes over the summer. Your goal is not just to check a box, but successfully complete the building blocks of a competitive application. Demonstrating your ability to manage rigorous lab courses among a full course load, at your home institution provides evidence of your determination and grit. Therefore, before enrolling in any required science class during the summer, HP Advising suggests that you discuss the idea with us.

Realize that while HP Advising offers this guide to coursework, we also recognize the array of competencies sought by health professional schools that are enhanced with coursework across academic divisions at Lafayette. So, we encourage students to consider courses such as bioethics, anthropology, bioinformatics, intermediate language proficiency, economics, women and gender studies, studio art and art history courses, engineering and policy studies...this array of courses and more can demonstrate evidence of your intellectual curiosity and willingness to push the envelope of your learning and mastery.

REMINDER: It is critical that you discuss course selection options with your Academic Advisor and major/minor department faculty to make the most sound choices. Be aware of course prerequisites! In addition, HP Advising suggest that you check with your bellwether schools each semester prior to course registration, to stay abreast of changing requirements and recommendations. Doing so will ensure that you are on track for applying to their particular programs, as well as many others, in the future.

Medical School Preparation Coursework (allopathic, osteopathic, and podiatric)

Required by nearly all schools, One year (two courses) of college-level:

- Biology with labs (e.g., BIOL 111/112 or higher)
- Physics with labs (e.g., PHYS 111/112 or 131/133 or 151/152)
- General Chemistry (typically Introductory Inorganic) with labs (e.g., CHEM 107/108—CHEM 103 with recitation may substitute for Chem 107, but is by invitation only)*
- Organic Chemistry with labs (e.g., CHEM 221/222); some schools may accept one organic chemistry and one biochemistry in place of the full year of organic, but it varies substantially
- English composition/writing-intensive courses
- Mathematics/Calculus/Statistics; most schools require a minimum of one calculus course and one statistics course, while a few require a full year of the calculus, a few will accept any mathematics, and some only recommend statistics; we strongly urge you to complete formal course work in both calculus and statistics

Additional coursework typically required for students applying to medical school and for strong performance on the MCAT are Biochemistry, Psychology and Sociology.

Dental School Preparation Coursework

Required by nearly all schools; One year (two courses) of college-level:

- Biology with labs (e.g., BIOL 111/112 or higher)
- Chemistry with labs (e.g., CHEM 107/108—CHEM 103 with recitation may substitute for Chem 107, but is by invitation only)*
- Organic chemistry with labs (e.g., CHEM 221/222)
- Introductory physics with labs (e.g., PHYS 111/112 or PHYS 131/133 or PHYS 151/152)
- English composition/writing-intensive courses
- Mathematics/Calculus/Statistics; most schools require a minimum of one calculus course and one statistics course, while a few require a full year of the calculus, a few will accept any mathematics, and some only recommend statistics; we strongly urge you to complete formal course work in both calculus and statistics

Strongly Recommended for schools and for DAT preparation are Biochemistry, Microbiology (required by 17 of 67 schools) and Anatomy (required by 13 of 67 schools); DAT now has appreciable genetics content, so we are recommending Molecular Genetics.

Veterinary School Preparation Coursework

Required by nearly all schools; One year (two courses) of college-level:

- Biology with labs (e.g., BIOL 111/112 or higher)
- Chemistry with labs (e.g., CHEM 107/108—CHEM 103 with recitation may substitute for Chem 107, but is by invitation only)
- Organic chemistry with labs (e.g., CHEM 221/222)
- Introductory physics with labs (e.g., PHYS 111/112 or PHYS 131/133 or PHYS 151/152)
- Mathematics/Calculus/Statistics; most schools require a minimum of one calculus course and one statistics course, while a few require a full year of the calculus, a few will accept any mathematics, and some only recommend statistics; we strongly urge you to complete formal course work in both calculus and statistics

Strongly Recommended for schools are Biochemistry and Microbiology; GRE increasingly not required.

Optometry School Preparation Coursework


Required by nearly all schools; One year (two courses) of college-level:

- Biology with labs (e.g., BIOL 111/112 or higher)
- Chemistry with labs (e.g., CHEM 107/108—CHEM 103 with recitation may substitute for Chem 107, but is by invitation only)
- Organic chemistry with labs (e.g., CHEM 221/222)
- Introductory physics with labs (e.g., PHYS 111/112 or PHYS 131/133 or PHYS 151/152)
- Mathematics/Calculus/Statistics; most schools require a minimum of one calculus course and one statistics course, while a few require a full year of the calculus, a few will accept any mathematics, and some only recommend statistics; we strongly urge you to complete formal course work in both calculus and statistics

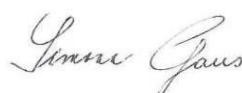
Many schools have appreciable psychology requirements so check frequently at your preferred school website. Strong OAT performance still needed for most optometry schools.

*To enable subsequent course completion, students are advised to complete the first year of chemistry upon arrival as a First Year Student at Lafayette.

Those of us in HP Advising stand ready to assist you as you cultivate the skills needed to amass a competitive portfolio to reach your goals and achieve your dreams. Plan to become engaged in our programs and the resources we offer. We look forward to working with you!



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