Pre-professional Programs

Students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis may develop pre-professional study plans in either law or the health professions. With early and careful advising, students may develop an appropriate plan to prepare for their intended professional study.

Students should meet with pre-professional advisors in their interest area early in their academic careers to ensure development of sound, comprehensive study plans that aim to fulfill the admission requirements of the professional program to which they wish to apply. It is the student's responsibility to coordinate their plan of study with their intended graduate/pre-professional programs.

The following information on pre-professional study at UMSL is provided to give students minimal guidelines and assistance in planning a program.

For advising and information, contact the Marcus Allen Advising Center in the College of Arts and Sciences, 303 Lucas Hall, 314-516-5501

Pre-Law

Pre-law students at UMSL come from a variety of majors, including Art History, Criminal Justice, Economics, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and many more. Many of these majors offer pre-law tracks or minors, and you can identify yourself as a pre-law student at any time during your career at UMSL. The Pre-Law Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) advises that a wide range of undergraduate majors can serve as a path to law school:

The ABA does not recommend any undergraduate majors or group of courses to prepare for a legal education. Students are admitted to law school from almost every academic discipline. You may choose to major in subjects that are considered to be traditional preparation for law school, such as history, English, philosophy, political science, economics or business, or you may focus your undergraduate studies in areas as diverse as art, music, science and mathematics, computer science, engineering, nursing or education. Whatever major you select, you are encouraged to pursue an area of study that interests and challenges you, while taking advantage of opportunities to develop your research and writing skills. Taking a broad range of difficult courses from demanding instructors is excellent preparation for legal education. (Source: the American Bar Association (http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/pre_law.html))

After graduating from UMSL, students have gone on to attend law school locally at Saint Louis University, Washington University in St Louis, as well as at the University of Missouri-Columbia and University of Missouri-Kansas City. Graduates attend prestigious law schools outside the St Louis area as well.

There are hundreds of UMSL graduates who have gone to law school and now work as lawyers, judges, or in other careers in the legal profession. Many of them remain in the St Louis area, and the pre-law program at UMSL regularly brings them to campus to interact and share advice with students. By declaring yourself to be pre-law, you will receive updates about upcoming events and opportunities to meet and connect with alumni in the legal profession.

The pre-law advisor can assist you in selecting courses that will best meet your interests while also allowing you to develop the skills that are important for a successful law school application. For more information, please refer to the UMSL pre-law advising website.

Pre-Health Sciences

The University of Missouri · St. Louis provides advising for students planning to continue their studies to become healthcare professionals. While there are no pre-health majors, most of the prerequisite classes necessary for entry into health professions schools are offered in both the Fall and Spring Semesters with some being offered in the Summer as well. This allows students to complete any major offered by UMSL while pursuing their desired pre-health goals. For more information on pre-health, please go to: https://www.umsl.edu/divisions/artscience/advising/prehealth/index.html

Pre-requisite coursework varies depending on the professional program you choose. In addition to the courses listed below, students should actively seek out extracurricular opportunities. Such activities can include volunteering, shadowing, research, and organizational leadership. Students are encouraged to join some of the many on-campus organizations including one of the pre-health societies. Information about student organizations can be found at the Office of Student Involvement.

Suggested Courses

Common pre-requisite courses include:

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<tr>
<th>Biology</th>
<th>Chemistry</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1831 Introductory Biology: From Molecules to Organisms (MOTR BIOL 150L)</td>
<td>CHEM 1111 Introductory Chemistry I (MOTR CHEM 150L)</td>
<td>MATH 1100 Basic Calculus or MATH 1800 Analytic Geometry and Calculus I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1821 Introductory Biology: Organisms and the Environment (MOTR BIOL 150LEC)</td>
<td>CHEM 1121 Introductory Chemistry II</td>
<td>MATH 1320 Introduction to Probability and Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 2012 Genetics</td>
<td>CHEM 2482 Microbiology</td>
<td>Math 2450 Introduction to Probability and Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 3622 Cell Biology</td>
<td>CHEM 2622 Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td>MATH 2550 Analytic Geometry and Calculus I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOI 1131 Human Physiology and Anatomy I</td>
<td>CHEM 2633 Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td>MATH 2560 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOI 1141 Human Physiology and Anatomy II</td>
<td>CHEM 4712 Biochemistry</td>
<td>MATH 2850 Analytic Geometry and Calculus III</td>
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<tr>
<th>Physics</th>
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<td>As appropriate for the degree chosen:</td>
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2 The pre-law advisor can assist you in selecting courses that will best meet your interests while also allowing you to develop the skills that are important for a successful law school application. For more information, please refer to the UMSL pre-law advising website.

3 The pre-law advisor can assist you in selecting courses that will best meet your interests while also allowing you to develop the skills that are important for a successful law school application. For more information, please refer to the UMSL pre-law advising website.
PHYSICS 1011, PHYSICS 1011L, PHYSICS 1012 and PHYSICS 1012L

or

PHYSICS 2111

& PHYSICS 2112

Physics: Mechanics and Heat (MOTR PHYS 200L) and Physics: Electricity, Magnetism, and Optics

Successful completion of these recommended courses helps students prepare for required standardized exams. Students should take the required national standardized examination early in their junior year as is appropriate for the exam: The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) for Pre-Med students; the Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) for Pre-Dental students; the Optometry Admission Test (OAT) for Pre-Optometry students; and the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is generally sufficient for other professional healthcare school. (Students should consult with their intended professional school for appropriate test information.)

Each year the number of applicants to health profession schools far exceeds the number of available places. Students should meet with Career Services and the various campus advising resources available to students to explore alternative plans should they not be accepted.

Pre-Optometry

4+4 Program

The University of Missouri-St. Louis offers a four-year graduate program of study leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree; this professional degree is administered by the College of Optometry. It is one of only 20 schools or colleges of optometry in the United States and the only one in the state of Missouri. This program, as a result, makes UMSL an ideal institution for Pre-Optometry education. Various programs are available for Pre-Optometry students as noted below.

Students may pursue a traditional 4 + 4 program, which is a bachelor’s degree followed by the four-year graduate optometry program. In this case, students may pursue any bachelor’s degree, as long as the pre-optometry requirements are met.

3+4 Program

Alternatively, the College of Arts & Sciences sponsors a 3+4 program in which the undergraduate degree is granted when the student satisfactorily completes the first semester of the professional program and has met all of the conditions for the specific undergraduate degree for which the student has applied. The program is intended for students who enter as Freshman.

Students interested in this program must apply to the College of Optometry and maintain a G.P.A. of 3.2. Some summer classes may be expected, and the student should be prepared to take the OAT by the end of their sophomore year.

For more information on admission requirements for the College of Optometry, please refer to the Optometry section of this Bulletin.

Sample 3+4 Biology BS UMSL College of Optometry Plan of Study

*this plan assumes that a student has tested into MATH 1100.