

Frequently Asked Questions About Transferring To University Of Florida as a Pre-Health Student From Community Colleges

1. May I major in pre-med, pre-vet, pre-dent, etc, at the University of Florida?

There is no such major as pre-med, pre-vet, pre-dent at the University of Florida. Students typically choose a major that they find interesting and reflects their intellectual curiosity and passions. If students choose to be a nonscience major, they will need to complete additional science coursework that health professional schools require as part of their curriculum. For example, if you are a history major and are pre-med, almost all the requirements for health professional school are considered additional courses you need to complete in order for you to meet the science requirements for the health professional schools.

2. Do I have to be a biology or microbiology and cell science major if I am pre-med, pre-dent, pre-vet, etc.? Isn't a biology related major more competitive?

You may choose almost any major if you wish to pursue a health professional education in a medically related program. Medical schools, dental schools, veterinary schools, etc. like to see that students have pursued a diverse, well-rounded education. In fact the schools do not have a preference of one major over another. However, students should not pursue a professional major that prepares them for a different kind of career. For example if you intend on becoming a veterinarian, you should not be pursuing a major in Nursing. It would appear to the schools that you are not completely sure of your own motivation or desire for your intended career field.

For the 2005-2006 Allopathic medical school entering class, 56.9% of its applicants majored in a biological science. The percentage of the accepted applicants that majored in the biological sciences was 56.1%. Again, this is to illustrate that there is no preference for one major over another, nor is there greater preference for science majors. This information was obtained in the Association of American Medical Colleges Publication, Medical School Admission Requirements, 2007-2008 57th edition.

3. What things will make my application profile competitive? Are strong grades all I need?

In order to be a competitive applicant, you should be able to have the following qualifications:

- a) Excellent grades, both in major coursework and math/science coursework at the University of Florida.
- b) Relevant healthcare experience throughout your college career
- c) Relevant community service throughout your college career
- d) Strong, supportive letters of recommendation from instructors from previous schools and the University of Florida
- e) Relevant and significant extracurricular activities while at previous schools and the University of Florida
- f) Competitive standardized test scores

Although excellent grades and outstanding test scores will stimulate interest from the admission committees, there is more to the application process. Schools want to know that you are truly motivated for the profession, have an innate desire to serve others, are compassionate, and have a high capacity for empathy. Students should be able to clearly articulate the reason for pursuing the career and demonstrate that they have explored the career extensively.

4. What do I need to do while earning my AA degree at the community college to prepare as a pre-health student at the University of Florida?

- a) Be sure that you are taking the appropriate courses for the major you are interested in at the University of Florida. If you are interested in applying to any majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, please visit <http://www.advising.ufl.edu/transfer/aatransfer.html> to learn what the minimum recommended courses that need to be completed for your intended major. If you are interested in a major at a different college, please contact that college directly. You can search for information about different colleges at <http://www.ufl.edu>.
- b) Complete the following pre-health courses prior to coming to the University of Florida:

** Two semesters of General Chemistry with the labs or its equivalent: usually CHM 2045, 2045L & CHM 2046, 2046L or CHM 2040, 2040L, CHM 2041 2041L & CHM 2046, 2046L

** Two semesters of General Biology with the labs or its equivalent: usually BSC 2010, 2010L & BSC 2011, 2011L
BSC 2005, 2007, 2008 & 2009L are not acceptable for most pre-health profession preparation.

**Two semesters of College-level mathematics: usually Analytical Calculus I MAC 2311 & choose as the second math course: Analytical Calculus II MAC 2312 or Introduction to Statistics STA 2023

Depending on the major you are choosing, there may be additional science or math courses you will need to complete prior to coming to the University of Florida.

** Do not take Physics prior to transferring to University of Florida, unless you intend on selecting Physics, Astronomy, Computer Science or Geology as your major, or if you decide to choose one of the several Engineering majors. If you need to take Physics to meet the admissions recommendations to transfer to University of Florida, be sure to take one of the two series of General Physics: PHY 2053, 2053L, 2054 & 2054L or PHY 2048, 2048L, 2049 & 2049L. **Some health professional schools will not accept the PHY 2004, 2004L, 2005 & 2005L series.**

** Do not take Organic Chemistry prior to transferring to University of Florida.

** It's always good to demonstrate success in the sciences at UF as well as at the community college.

- c) Be sure to be involved with getting relevant healthcare experience while completing your AA degree.
- d) Please take the time to know your professors at the school you are in and give them the opportunity to know you and your career aspirations. You might need a letter or two from them later on when you begin the application process.

5. What kind of support or advising is available for me at the University of Florida?

The University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, houses the Office of Health and Legal Professions Advising (OHLPA). This office provides pre-professional advising for both pre-law and pre-health students. Individual advising is available by walk-in or appointments throughout the year when the campus is open. Workshops are also offered every year and the topics cover Introduction to Pre-health Professions, Preparing for the application process and interviews. OHLPA also provides an announcement based listserv that all pre-health students can subscribe. This listserv provides information on relevant current healthcare news and events, workshop announcements and research/volunteer opportunities. There is also the OHLPA pre-health website at <http://www.advising.ufl.edu/ohlpa/prehealth> that contains a wealth of information and additional handouts. When it comes time to apply, OHLPA offers a Letter or Recommendation Service for applicants.

6. When do I begin the application process for health professional programs?

When you enter the University of Florida, you will be considered a third year college student, although this would be your first year at this campus. Typically students on a four-year graduation plan would begin the application process the fall term of the third year, which is the term you are entering. In the fall semester, you will begin developing the personal statement and begin building your letter of recommendation profile and begin studying for the standardized exams. The spring semester, you will be taking the standardized exams, begin applying to the schools, finalizing your personal statement and putting together the letter of recommendation packet.

However if you are not quite ready to apply so soon, it is okay to delay your application for one year. However, you should still plan to graduate after your second year at the University of Florida. During that year off between graduation and entering the health professional school, take the time to do something productive, such as work, research, etc. Continue to get healthcare experience and volunteer in community service to illustrate your continued commitment to serving others and dedication to pursuing the profession.

7. What are the most recent applicant statistics?

	Total Applicants	Accepted Applicants	Average GPA/Test
Allopathic	37,364	17,004 (45.5%)	3.63 / 30
Dentistry	9,433	4,457 (47%)	3.50 / 19
Osteopathic	6,814	3,308 (48%)	3.45 / 25
Veterinary	5,194	2,973 (57%)	3.55/ 1200
Podiatry	696	467 (67%)	3.2 / 21
Optometry	2,529	1,404 (55.5%)	3.38/323