

# Pre-Medicine/Health Professions

[vanderbilt.edu/hpao](http://vanderbilt.edu/hpao)

Students interested in pursuing a post-graduate degree in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or other health professions may select any of Vanderbilt's undergraduate majors. In addition to a faculty adviser in their major, these students will also work with the Health Professions Advisory Office (HPAO) to ensure that they take the courses recommended for admission to a graduate program in their chosen field and to assist them in the application process. Students interested in Nursing should contact Dr. Jana Lauderdale in the School of Nursing ([jana.lauderdale@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jana.lauderdale@vanderbilt.edu)).

There is no preferred major for students interested in the health professions; in fact, Vanderbilt graduates currently enrolled in medical school have degrees in a wide range of disciplines including (but not limited to) Neuroscience, English, Economics, Spanish, and Child Development, in addition to the more traditional majors like Biological Sciences and Engineering. Students interested in medicine and other health-related professions will find their required science courses are complemented by Vanderbilt's liberal arts core of writing, humanities, and social science coursework.

Each year, 65-70% of first-time Vanderbilt applicants to medical school are admitted to at least one allopathic (M.D.) school, compared to the national acceptance rate of 41-43%. In addition, Vanderbilt students regularly outperform the nation on the MCAT.

For statistics regarding the most recent graduating class, please reference the Annual Report on the Health Professions Advisory Office's website: [as.vanderbilt.edu/hpao](http://as.vanderbilt.edu/hpao).

## **Health Professions Advisory Office**

Once students interested in the health professions arrive on campus for their freshman year, they are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the Health Professions Advisory Office to discuss their curriculum and to prepare for applying to graduate school. Appointments may be booked from the HPAO website. The HPAO also holds periodic group meetings for students. The HPAO will provide to students information on careers and programs in the health professions.

## **Pre-Medical Requirements**

While there are some variations between schools, almost all U.S. medical schools will accept as minimum preparation in science, one year each of general chemistry, general physics, general biology, and organic chemistry, each with the appropriate laboratory. One year of English and one or two semesters of Calculus/Math are sometimes required.

Freshmen are encouraged to take General Chemistry (1601 and 1602) and lab (1601L and 1602L) in order to be on track. Other than this, there is no preferred sequence of classes. Most students try to complete their requirements by the summer after their junior year (or after their senior year if they prefer to take a gap year). Students are invited to discuss their paths with both their academic adviser and the Health Professions Advisory Office.

Students who have taken AP Biology, AP Chemistry and/or AP Physics in high school will receive course credit for scores of 4 or 5 on the Biology exam and a score of 5 on the Physics or Chemistry exam. That credit may not satisfy the entrance requirements for all medical schools. Students may enroll in the required courses or take higher level science classes to satisfy entrance requirements.

In 2015, a new MCAT was introduced to reflect the changing nature of medical education. In addition to the coursework listed above, students should take a semester of statistics, biochemistry, sociology, and psychology. The Vanderbilt HPAO website has more information about course work and test preparation.

## **Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED)**

Alpha Epsilon Delta is the undergraduate pre-health professions honor society. The goal of AED is to help its members realize their dreams of becoming health care professionals within the context of Vanderbilt, providing a number of services to students in the pre-health sciences. Past speakers have included physicians, medical educators, and medical students who presented information on their particular medical specialty, medical school, or medical research. Other topics have covered admission to medical school, alternatives to medical school, how to write a good essay, MD/PhD programs, women in medicine, and the future of health care in America. AED also sponsors various medical

community service projects throughout the year, a tutoring program for required pre-med courses, an informal MCAT class and a Shadowing Program to match pre-medical students with student mentors.

### ***Minority Association of Premedical Students (MAPS)***

The primary purpose of MAPS is to provide under represented pre-health students with knowledge, skills and experiences that are both prerequisite and related to professional participation in health care fields. MAPS endeavors to enhance recruitment of under-represented students into health care, enrich the academic and professional development of these students, and produce competitive candidates for professional health related programs who are knowledgeable about the admissions processes.

MAPS also facilitates interaction between its members and educators and administrators of the institutions training health professionals, for recruiting activities, the exchange of pertinent information and material, and the identification of resources and mentors. It also provides a means to address concerns of its members.

### ***Pre-Pharmacy Society***

Today, pharmacy is an expanding field with vast career opportunities in several different areas. The Vanderbilt Pre-Pharmacy Society strives to promote interests in pharmacy and its related areas of study. We familiarize members with the pharmacy school application process to better prepare them for pharmacy school admission as well as create better opportunities for hands-on experience for students interested in pharmacy and pharmaceutical related areas of study. Through this organization, students will not only gain knowledge regarding the pharmacy field's immense prospects, but will also gain insight as to different pharmacy fields' roles in today's health care and ever-growing society.

### ***Pre-Dental Society Vanderbilt University***

The Pre-Dental Society Vanderbilt University (PDSVU) is devoted to providing educational, support, and volunteer opportunities for all pre-dental students on campus.

The PDSVU organizes dental school visits, DAT strategy sessions and DAT practice exams. It serves as a resource for students seeking more information about the varied aspects of the dental profession by providing access to influential people within the dental community, access to the knowledge accrued by pre-dental students on campus, as well as published resources. In addition, the PDSVU partners with the

Health Professions Advisory Office to improve on campus offerings to pre-dental students.

By fostering a collaborative environment for any Vanderbilt students aspiring to become dentists, periodontists, orthodontists, endodontists, and oral and maxillofacial surgeons, the Pre-Dental Society helps to develop a spirit of cooperation across Vanderbilt's campus—a collective spirit that is becoming more necessary in the medical profession today.

### ***Vanderbilt Pre-Veterinary Medicine Society (VVMS)***

Vanderbilt University's Pre-Veterinary Medicine Society is a student organization that serves to promote and stimulate interest in veterinary medicine by gathering students so that they may support one another in scholarship, fellowship and leadership. VVMS offers opportunities for members to shadow local veterinarians, observe surgeries, visit shelters, zoos and rescue centers, and gain advice from guest speakers ranging from veterinarians to veterinary school admissions directors. VVMS supports Vanderbilt's pre-veterinary students through the long difficult process of applying to veterinary school by offering advice, guidance and volunteer opportunities.

### ***For Additional Information:***

Visit the Health Professions Advisory Office's website at [as.vanderbilt.edu/hpao](http://as.vanderbilt.edu/hpao)

Visit the Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) Pre-health Society website at [vandypremed.wixsite.com/vanderbiltaed](http://vandypremed.wixsite.com/vanderbiltaed)

Visit the Pre-Dental Society website at [anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/predental](http://anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/predental)

Visit the Pre-Pharmacy Society website at [anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/vanderbiltprepharmacysocietyvpps](http://anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/vanderbiltprepharmacysocietyvpps)

Visit the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Society website at [anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/vanderbiltpreveterinarymedicinesociety](http://anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/vanderbiltpreveterinarymedicinesociety)