

PRE-MEDICAL PROGRAM

The pre-medical program prepares undergraduate or post-baccalaureate students for application to the health professional schools of medicine (allopathic or osteopathic), dentistry, optometry, podiatry, and veterinary medicine. The program also prepares students for physician assistant programs, as well as careers in biomedical research. Depending on the desired professional goal, an individualized course of study, personal counseling, and academic support are provided to each student. Optional junior/senior year biomedical research internships are available at medical schools and research institutes. The pre-medical program is supervised by a pre-medical committee composed of faculty members from various relevant departments and chaired by the pre-medical director.

Students in the program are expected to maintain the high standards of performance necessary for health professional school admission, regardless of academic major. For highly select undergraduates, early assurance programs are available in affiliation with Drexel University College of Medicine, Penn State University College of Medicine, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ontario Veterinary College, Temple University School of Dentistry, and Arcadia University's M.S. in physician assistant program; for highly qualified post-baccalaureates, an early assurance program exists with Drexel University College of Medicine.

Why Pre-Medical Studies at West Chester University?

1. **Thirty-six Year Placement Record:** Our goal is to place every student who meets the standards of our program into health professional schools. West Chester's placement record for students who have been recommended by the pre-medical committee is over 95%. In addition to those affiliations listed above, students have been accepted to medical, dental, and veterinary schools at more than 50 locations in the U.S. and abroad including

Boston University School of Medicine
Cornell University Medical College and College of Veterinary Medicine
Dartmouth Medical School
Duke University School of Medicine
George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Jefferson Medical College
Mayo Medical School
Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine
Temple University School of Medicine
Tufts University School of Medicine

Uniformed Services School of Medicine
University of Maryland School of Medicine and School of Dental Medicine
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and College of Veterinary Medicine
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, and School of Veterinary Medicine
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and School of Dental Medicine
University of Virginia School of Medicine
Vanderbilt Medical School
Washington University School of Medicine

2. **Philosophy of the Program:** Our pre-medical program selects applicants who exhibit strong potential for achieving success in a health professional career; in addition to strong academic grades and SAT scores, evidence of experience in a relevant health care setting is expected. From the very beginning, you will receive individual guidance and support to help you realize that potential. Under these supportive conditions, you are removed from the destructive competition that you may experience in a pre-medical program where students must compete for the committee's recommendation to medical school. Instead, at WCU you can focus your energy and talents on working toward the positive goal of maintaining high standards of academic performance and engaging in meaningful extracurricular activities, in an atmosphere conducive to friendship and cooperation among other students.
3. **Individual Attention:** As a medium-sized school with small classes in almost all courses, West Chester University works to foster a close relationship between students and faculty. University faculty teach all classes including lectures, labs, or recitations, allowing faculty to be acquainted with students in and out of the classroom. In addition, our small pre-medical program is structured with seminars and information sessions so that we get to know each student well; consequently, we can offer each student the highly personalized academic assistance and career guidance needed to achieve his or her goal of medical (or other health professional) school admission.
4. **Research Internship:** If you are a science major (typically biology or chemistry) who is formally affiliated with the pre-medical program, you may qualify for a biomedical research internship at a medical school or research institute in the United States or Europe during the junior or senior year. Those participating in the internship program acquire significant research experience that can represent a valuable credential in the professional school application process.

Learn More

UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

WCU students have participated in biomedical research internships at over 40 prestigious facilities including

Alfred I. DuPont Institute
Cambridge University School of Medicine
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
The Cleveland Clinic
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Harvard Medical School
Jefferson Medical College
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Linus Pauling Institute of Medicine and Science
The Mayo Clinic
Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
National Cancer Institute
Oxford University Institute of Molecular Medicine
Princeton University Department of Molecular Biology
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
The Wistar Institute

5. Undergraduate Early Assurance Programs: WCU offers several early assurance programs with the following professional schools, each of which has its own admission and continuance standards. Supplemental applications must be completed as indicated.
- Drexel University College of Medicine: A minimum SAT of 1300 is required, along with documented health care experience. The supplemental application (available online at wcupa.edu/pre-med) must be received by November 15. Students are interviewed at WCU, and qualified applications are forwarded to Drexel for review. Selected applicants are then invited for a second interview. Drexel then decides which students are granted early assurance. As a matriculant in this program who maintains its standards, you are assured admission to Drexel for medical school at the completion of your WCU degree.
 - Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine: A minimum SAT of 1250 is required, and documented health care experience is highly recommended, along with an expressed interest in primary care medicine. The supplemental application (available online at wcupa.edu/pre-med) must be received by November 1; a similar process is followed as described above, with eventual assured admission to LECOM at the completion of one's WCU degree.
 - Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine: A minimum SAT of 1250 is required, and a strong performance in the first two years of college course work, with eight of the ten prerequisite courses completed by that time. Early interview and nomination by the pre-medical committee are required, with an interview

at Hershey after your sophomore year. Admission is assured upon completion of the WCU degree as long as academic standards are maintained.

- Temple University School of Dentistry: A minimum SAT of 1150 is required; no supplemental application is needed. You must self-identify as interested in this program so that you take the necessary courses and meet academic standards.
 - Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph: No supplemental application is necessary. You must self-identify as interested in this program so that you take the necessary courses and meet academic standards.
 - Arcadia University's M.S. in physician assistant program: A minimum SAT of 1100 is required; no supplemental application is needed. You must self-identify as interested in this program so that you take prerequisite courses and meet academic standards.
6. Post-baccalaureate Early Assurance Program: WCU offers a post-baccalaureate early assurance program with Drexel University College of Medicine. This agreement allows nontraditional students attending the post baccalaureate program to gain early assurance to medical school. The supplemental application must be received by November 15. Students are interviewed at WCU, and applications of qualified students are forwarded to Drexel for a second interview. Drexel then decides which students are granted early assurance (upon completion of the prescribed course work at WCU). Requirements, supplemental application, and instructions are available at wcupa.edu/premed/.

Who Should Apply to the Pre-Medical Program?

Only academically talented and highly motivated students should apply to the pre-medical program. Highly capable college graduates who wish to prepare for health professional schools are also encouraged to apply for the post-baccalaureate program. Applicants are selected on the basis of their potential for achievement in the program and are asked to interview with the director prior to acceptance.

For More Information

Dr. Stephen J. Zimmiski, Director
117A Schmucker Science Center South
West Chester University
West Chester PA 19383
610-436-2978
E-mail: pmed@wcupa.edu
Web page: www.wcupa.edu/premed

Undergraduate Catalog: www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/

