

Introduction to the Prehealth Advising Program

Clark's Prehealth Advising Program prepares students to attend medical school and other health professional training programs.

Whether you hope to become a physician, pharmacist, dentist, or another type of health professional, Clark is committed to helping you find the right path. Our low student-faculty ratio means you will get to know your professors through small classes and research collaboration. Outside of Clark, Worcester abounds with hospitals and other healthcare settings for opportunities to intern, research, volunteer, network, job-shadow, and more.

Highlights

Engaging in scientific research allows you to leave a legacy of accomplishment at Clark while pursuing your intellectual curiosity, learning valuable laboratory research skills, and contributing to a team effort. You can choose to do research at Clark or at other nearby institutions through an academic internship.



"My decision to choose Clark is reaffirmed everyday. I like that people aren't afraid to be themselves. Everybody has their own thing."

- Lucyna Kogut '18, Resident in Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center



What can I do with my major?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Graduates work in diverse fields of medicine as well as in dentistry, veterinary medicine, genetic counseling, occupational therapy, pharmacy, public health, and more.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Clark's Prehealth Advising Program prepares students to attend medical and other health professional schools. Graduates have gone on to matriculate at some of the top programs in the nation, including Harvard Medical School, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and Columbia University College of Dental Medicine.

Foundational Courses

Most health professional schools require you to take specific courses during your undergraduate career, so it's important to plan your schedule early.

Required courses include the following, as well as biochemistry, statistics, and behavioral science courses:

- Introductory Chemistry
- Introductory Biology
- Introductory Physics
- Organic Chemistry
- English

YOUR CLARK EXPERIENCE



Discover and Demonstrate your Purpose



Cultivate Your Communities



Engage Locally & Globally



Develop your Professional Identity

Year 1



Learn about prehealth

Attend an orientation session for the prehealth program (premedical, pre dental, etc.). Talk with the prehealth adviser.



Follow your passions

There is no statistical evidence that the choice of major significantly affects an applicant's chances of being accepted to medical school. Follow your passions and academic interests when you select your major.



Expand your interests and build skills

Try out extracurricular activities, such as sports, clubs, student government, community service, or volunteering in a medical setting.

Look for employment or volunteer opportunities that add to your skills and experience and build the personal attributes you want to have.

Year 2



Choose a major

Focus on a path that allows you to complete and excel in all required courses plus other learning opportunities that will help you on standardized exams.



Lay the foundation

Begin preparing for standardized exams (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc.) by reviewing science courses you have taken, using commercially available study guides, and taking practice exams.



Focus on your career goals

Reach out to the Career Connections Center for help in exploring internships. Search ClarkCONNECT for alumni that can serve as mentors to help guide you along your path and provide job-shadowing or other opportunities. Look for employment that provides relevant experience.

Year 3



Look ahead

What do you need to do to make yourself a competitive applicant? Have you taken all of the required courses? Do you have sufficient relevant experience? Are you prepared for the standardized test required for some programs?

Consult with the Prehealth Advising Office to help determine if you are ready to apply this year or need a gap period. If you are applying this year, we are here to help with all aspects of the application process!



Tap into your People and Passions

Cultivate relationships with your professors and advisors who may be providing letters of recommendation for you when it comes time to apply. Engage your personal and professional contacts to gain relevant experience.

Focus on doing things you are passionate about. You are not simply looking to check boxes.

Year 4



Keep investing in yourself

Keep our office apprised of your plans as you move forward. Did you apply already? If not, what are your plans for a gap period? It is imperative that you do things that will make you a stronger applicant. This could be working as an MA, CNA, or EMT to gain more clinical experience, entering a postbaccalaureate program, or many other options.



Plan ahead

Stay focused on your ultimate goals! Have you already taken the required standardized test(s)? Did you do well enough or do you need to invest more time preparing? Do not fear a gap period. With more experience and a demonstrated commitment you will make a stronger impression on admissions committees.



Keep working with us

From first-year orientation to well after graduation, we are here to help at every step of the way. Everyone's path is different and it is not a race. Take the time necessary to make yourself the best applicant you can be.