

Pre-Medical Committee

The Committee advises, facilitates and supports students in preparation for entrance into health careers such as medical, dental, veterinary medicine, and physicians' assistant program. The Committee provides the committee evaluation letters that most professional schools are now requiring.

The Committee members:

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Curriculum Requirements

Pre-Med is not a major. Medical, Dental and Veterinary Schools have no requirements for a specific undergraduate major. However, medical school curriculum is a science curriculum. Therefore, for most professional schools, there is a cluster of science courses required. In addition, a fundamental understanding of mathematics to the Calculus I (MAT 150) level and an excellent liberal arts background is expected. Students must also meet all the course requirements for their chosen major. The following science courses are strongly recommended for students to finish before their senior year and the committee interview.

Biology: BIO 102 Zoology, BIO 231 Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy; BIO 401 Animal Physiology

Chemistry: CHE 120 - 121 General Chemistry I and II; CHE 260 - 261 Organic Chemistry I and II; CHE 450 Biochemistry I

Physics: PHY 230 – 231 Physics for Scientists and Engineers I and II

Social Sciences: PSY 100 and SOC 100 or their equivalent courses

Based on our experiences and due to the keen competition for entrance into the professional schools, excellent scholastic performance in course work and standardized exams is necessary (B or better in each of the cluster courses, MCAT 30 or above). In addition, students are recommended to take more upper level courses in sciences.

Medical, Dental and Veterinary schools look for well rounded individuals. The Committee, therefore, recommends that students take as many courses from the humanities and social sciences as possible within their schedule. Medical schools encourage honors' thesis, independent study and research by students. Participation in these activities demonstrates in-depth scientific inquiry, perseverance and life-long learning skills.

Students are advised to check the websites and publications of the schools they are interested in applying and note the specific requirements of each school.

Entrance Exams for Professional Schools

MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) (<http://www.aamc.org/>)

DAT (Dental Admissions Test) (<http://www.ada.org/prof/ed/testing>)

GRE (Graduate Record Exams) (<http://www.ets.org/>)

Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions (www.kaptest.com) offers classes and free practice tests to SCSU students. Check the website for details.

The results of various pre-professional exams noted above represent an important consideration for admission into medical school, dental and veterinary school. The Committee recommends that students take these tests in the spring semester or the summer before they apply for committee interview and medical school.

Growth of Personal Attributes: (knowledge of the profession, leadership skills, extracurricular activities, hobbies, community services, experience in a health-care setting, shadowing doctors, etc.)

Strong scholastic performance alone is not sufficient for admission to medical professions. Students are strongly encouraged to actively participate in extracurricular activities, campus student organizations, and community and volunteer services.

The Committee highly recommends students seek experiences and opportunities in shadowing a doctor, working as an EMT, or providing support and assistance in emergency room.

The Research Associate Program at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport provides the opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience working in clinical settings. (www.RAprogram.org)

Guidelines for Pre-Med advisements, evaluations and interviews by the Pre-Med Committee

1. The Committee requests that all students register with the Committee as soon as possible their intention of entering a profession in health care. While at Southern, students are strongly advised to make the early acquaintance of and seek the advice of any and all members of the committee.
2. The committee conducts group and individual advisements and evaluations sessions. It is important to emphasize that pre-med advisor is secondary to the academic advisor in a student's chosen major. Students need to seek the advisement of **both advisors** for academic planning.

Due to the keen competition for entrance into the professional schools, excellent scholastic performance in course work and standardized exams is necessary. Should a student fail to achieve the standards necessary for gaining admissions to medical school, the Committee will suggest other career options to the student. The Committee hopes that this can be achieved within its advisory capacity.

3. The Committee interviews candidates in late spring or early fall to facilitate the application process and provide a committee letter on students' behalf. The candidate will submit the following to the committee well in advance of the interview:
 - a. Transcripts
 - b. MCAT/DAT/GRE or other scores required by the professional schools
 - c. Personal statements explaining their background, experiences and professional goals
 - d. Curriculum Vitae
 - e. Individual evaluation letters from at least 3 Committee members (one each from Biology, Chemistry, and Physics or their substitute faculty if the students have not had an existing committee member) as it is the Committee members who will be involved in the evaluative procedure. Students are required to request 2 more letters from other faculty members (sciences, liberal arts, humanities, etc.) who do not serve on the committee and 1 or 2 more letters from non-faculty members (work supervisors, volunteer coordinator, physicians, etc.)
4. The Committee will arrange a 30 minutes interview for each student. The interview has two primary purposes:

- a. To better acquaint Committee members with the student for evaluation and recommendation
 - b. To provide the student experiences that will be beneficial for future medical school interviews.
5. At the conclusion of the interview, The Committee will review all the data available and arrive at a committee recommendation of one of the following:
 - a. Recommend highly
 - b. Recommend confidently
 - c. Recommend
 - d. Recommend with reservation
 - e. Do not recommend
6. The student will then be informed of the committee decision and must request, in writing, that the Committee provide a recommendation letter.

Pre-Medical Committee Calendar

Students can contact any committee members for questions they may have at any time.

Fall: Group and individual advisement and evaluation

Spring: Group and individual advisement and evaluation

February: Candidates acquire the interview materials from the chairperson

April: Candidates submit the committee interview materials

May: Committee interview

June through September: Committee letters sent out

September: Committee interview for students whose portfolio was not completed during the previous cycle.