

PRESCRIBING CLINICAL HEALTHCARE PATHWAYS

DENTISTRY

A dentist is a doctor, scientist and clinician dedicated to the highest standards of health through prevention, diagnosis and treatment of oral diseases and conditions. Dentistry is a highly competitive four-year graduate program. Students should maintain a high GPA, acquire leadership skills, exposure to the world of dentistry, and score competitively on the Dental Admission Test (DAT).

RESOURCES:

- American Dental Education Association www.adea.org
- American Dental Association www.ada.org/en
- DAT (Dental Admission Test) www.ada.org/education/testing

MEDICINE

Physicians diagnose and treat injuries or illnesses and address health maintenance. Physicians work in both clinical and nonclinical settings. Clinical settings include physicians' offices and hospitals; nonclinical settings include government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and insurance companies. Physicians earn a bachelor's degree as well as a medical degree, which takes an additional 4 years to complete. They also need 3 to 9 years in internship and residency programs. Sub-specialties include additional training in a fellowship of 1 to 3 years.

ALLOPATHIC MEDICINE RESOURCES (M.D.)

- Association of American Medical Colleges (Allopathic Medicine) <https://students-residents.aamc.org/>
- MSAR (Allopathic Medical School Admission Requirements) www.aamc.org/msar

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE RESOURCES (D.O.)

- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine www.AACOM.org
- Choose DO www.choosedo.org

MCAT (Medical College Admission Test)

www.mcatofficialprep.org

OPTOMETRY

Some people will tell you that doctors of optometry diagnose and treat disorders of the eye. What optometrists really do is make a difference in lives. Optometrists reveal new vistas, return lost joys, empower greater achievement, and preserve un-lived lives.

Doctors of Optometry complete a four-year doctoral program to earn the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree. Admission is very competitive and each optometry program has slightly different criteria. It is important to review the prerequisites for each school and identify which program you wish to apply and plan accordingly. On average students should maintain a high GPA, demonstrate leadership skills, expose yourself to the world of optometry, and perform well on the Optometry Admission Test (OAT).

RESOURCES:

- Assoc. of Schools and Colleges of Optometry www.opted.org
- OAT (Optometry Admission Test) <https://oat.ada.org/>

PHARMACY

Pharmacists are essential healthcare professionals who enhance patient care and promote wellness. When pharmacists are involved in patient care, outcomes improve and costs decline. Pharmacy is a diverse and rewarding career, with opportunities for patient care, scientific research and innovation. To prepare for a career in pharmacy, a student must complete a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree at a professional college of pharmacy. A PharmD degree consists of 4 academic years of professional education completed after undergraduate coursework. The average accepted student has around a 3.5 GPA and has volunteer or paid experience working with patients in a pharmacy or health-related setting (hospital, nursing home, etc.).

RESOURCES:

- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy www.aacp.org
- Pharmacy is Right for Me <https://pharmacyforme.org/>
- University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy www.uic.edu/pharmacy

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Physician Assistants (PAs) are medical professionals who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principal healthcare provider. With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are versatile and collaborative. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving healthcare access and quality. PA students bring with them an average of more than 3,000 hours of direct patient contact experience, having worked as paramedics, athletic trainers, medical assistants, or certified nursing aides, for example. PA programs are approximately 27 months (three academic years), and include classroom instruction and more than 2,000 hours of clinical rotations. Some programs may require the GRE or MCAT for admission. Students should maintain a high GPA and demonstrate a caring attitude toward others, strong communication skills, emotional stability under stress and problem-solving ability.

RESOURCES:

- PA Education Association www.paeonline.org
- Graduate Record Exam www.ets.org/gre

PODIATRY

A Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) is qualified by their education and training to diagnose and treat conditions affecting the foot, ankle and related structures of the leg or lower extremity. Podiatrists are defined as physicians by the federal government. To enter a podiatric medical school, one must first complete a minimum of three years or 90 semester hours of college credit at an accredited institution. Over 97% of the students who enter podiatric medical school have a bachelor's degree.

Students should maintain a high GPA, demonstrate leadership skills, expose yourself to the world of podiatry, and perform well on the Medical Admission Test (MCAT).

RESOURCES:

- American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine www.aacpm.org/colleges/
- Dr. William M Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine www.rosalindfranklin.edu
- MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) www.mcatofficialprep.org

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Veterinarians are essential in ensuring the health and well-being of animals, making significant contributions to public health, food safety, and scientific research. As a DVM, you will be at the forefront of diagnosing, treating, and preventing animal illnesses, working with a variety of species ranging from household pets to livestock. Your role extends beyond clinical settings, encompassing aspects of education, advocacy, and advancing veterinary science.

Admission into veterinary medicine programs is very competitive. Although many of the veterinary medical colleges do not require a bachelor's degree for entrance, most students admitted will have completed a bachelor's degree. Students should maintain a high GPA, acquire leadership skills, extensive and diverse experience in animal care, and obtain a strong score on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) to be competitive.

RESOURCES:

- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges www.aavmc.org
- American Veterinary Medical Association www.avma.org
- Graduate Record Exam www.ets.org/gre

PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING

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EIU.EDU/PREHEALTH

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COMMON PREREQUISITES FOR PRESCRIBING CLINICAL HEALTHCARE PATHWAYS		HRS	Dentistry	Medicine	Optometry	Pharmacy	Physician Assistant	Podiatry	Veterinary Medicine
Course numbers for Eastern Illinois University									
BIOLOGY									
BIO 1500G	General Biology I	4	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
BIO 1550G	General Biology II	4	x	a	a	a	a	a	x
BIO 2210	Anatomy & Physiology I	4	x	x	x	x	x	R	x
BIO 2220	Anatomy & Physiology II	4	x	x	x	x	x	R	x
BIO 3200	Genetics	4	R	R	R		R	R	x
BIO 3300	General Microbiology	4	x	R	x	x	x		x
BIO 3120	Molecular & Cellular Biology	4	b	b	b	b	b	b	x
CHEMISTRY									
CHM 1310G	General Chemistry I	3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHM 1315G	General Chemistry I Lab	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHM 1410	General Chemistry II	3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHM 1415	General Chemistry II Lab	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHM 2440	Organic Chemistry I	3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHM 2440	Organic Chemistry I Lab	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHM 2840	Organic Chemistry II	3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHM 2845	Organic Chemistry II Lab	1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CHM 3450	Biochemistry I	3	x	x	x	R	x	R	x
PHYSICS									
PHY 1151G	Principles of Physics I	3	x	x	x	x		x	x
PHY 1152G	Principles of Physics I Lab	1	x	x	x	x		x	x
PHY 1161G	Principles of Physics II	3	x	x	x			x	x
PHY 1162G	Principles of Physics II Lab	1	x	x	x			x	x
MATH									
MAT 1271	College Algebra	3		R			R		R
MAT 2110G	Brief Calculus	3			x	x			
MAT 2250G/BIO 4750/BUS 2810/KSR 4500/PSY 3610	Statistics	4	R	R	x	x	x	R	x
BEHAVIORAL / SOCIAL SCIENCES									
ECN 2800G/2801G/2802G	Economics	3			R	x			
PHI 1900G/2500G/3020/3080	Philosophy and Ethics	4			R	x			
PSY 1879G	Intro to Psychology	3	x	R	x	a	x	R	R
SOC 1838G	Intro to Sociology	3		R		b	R		
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS									
Medical Terminology		3			R		x	R	
Dental Admissions Test (DAT)			x						
Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)				x				x	
Optometry Admissions Test (OAT)					x				
Graduate Record Exam (GRE)							x		
Minimum GPA			3.0	3.0	3.0	3.00	3.0	3.0	3.0

a/b/c: Choose a or b or c

R: Recommended

Professional health program requirements may vary. It is important to review the admissions requirements of the specific programs where you plan to apply.

WHAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE FROM OTHER APPLICANTS?

Admission into professional health programs is very competitive. Students should earn a high GPA while acquiring leadership skills, exposure to healthcare, and a competitive score on admissions tests.

+ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

- Students should maintain a strong overall and science (biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics) grade point average near or above 3.5/4.0.

+ADMISSIONS TEST SCORES

- Score near or above the national average or accepted student average at chosen programs on the DAT/MCAT/OAT/GRE.

+HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE

- Volunteer or work experience in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, assisted living centers, crisis nursery, and rehab centers is beneficial.
- Shadow a specialist in your chosen field of healthcare

+RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Working in a research setting can help make you a competitive professional health program applicant and help you to determine if a career in healthcare or research is right for you.

+LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Healthcare professionals are leaders in their communities and demonstrated leadership skills are a must. Campus and community organizations provide excellent leadership opportunities.