Health Career Prerequisites

What classes do I need to take? Being a pre-health student means that you will be responsible for keeping track of your major requirements (UCR degree requirements) as well as your health profession’s requirements. Below are general requirements for the most common health professions. REMEMBER: These general requirements can vary between schools. **Always double check the prerequisite courses of the schools you plan on applying to.**

**Pre-Health Core Requirements**

- 1 year of English
- 2 quarters of Calculus
- 1 year of General Chemistry with Lab
- 1 year of Biology with Lab
- 1 year of Organic Chemistry with Lab
- 1 year of Physics with Lab
- 1 quarter of Biochemistry

**In addition** to the core requirements above, a list of common prerequisites for several health professions are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine (M.D. / D.O.)</th>
<th>Pharmacy (PharmD)</th>
<th>Optometry (O.D.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 quarter of Statistics</td>
<td>1 quarter of Statistics</td>
<td>1 year of Human Anatomy &amp; Phys. w/ Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 quarters of General Psychology</td>
<td>1 year of Human Anatomy &amp; Phys. w/ Lab</td>
<td>1 quarter of Microbiology w/ Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 quarter of General Sociology</td>
<td>1 quarter of Microbiology w/ Lab</td>
<td>1 quarter of Statistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dentistry (D.D.S. / D.M.D.)**

- 1 year Human Anatomy & Phys. w/ Lab
- 1 quarter Microbiology w/ Lab

**Recommended**
- Immunology
- Histology
- Molecular Biology
- Genetics

**Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)**

- 1 year of Human Anatomy & Phys. w/ Lab
- 1 quarter of Public Speaking

*Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry are not required

**Nursing** and **Physician Assistant** programs do not follow the same core requirements as listed above.

The prerequisites for these programs are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursing</th>
<th>Physician’s Assistant (P.A.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year of math: college algebra &amp; statistics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year of English</td>
<td>1 year of English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year of Chemistry w/ Lab</td>
<td>1 year of General Chemistry w/ Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year of Human Anatomy &amp; Phys. w/ Lab</td>
<td>1 year of General Biology w/lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 quarter of Microbiology w/ Lab</td>
<td>1 year of Human Anatomy &amp; Phys. w/ Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 quarter of Psychology</td>
<td>1 quarter of Microbiology w/ Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 quarter of Nutrition</td>
<td>1 quarter of Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 quarter of Public Speaking</td>
<td>*1 quarter of Organic/Biochemistry and Biology may be required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**MATH**
- MATH 007A/009A - First Year Calculus
- MATH 007B/009B - First Year Calculus
- STAT 100A - Intro. to Statistics

For students whose AP credit replaced classes above:
- MATH 009C - First Year Calculus
- MATH 010A - Calculus: Several Variables
- MATH 010B - Calculus: Several Variables
- MATH 046 - Intro to Ordinary Differential Equations

**ENGLISH**
- ENGL 001A - English Composition
- ENGL 001B - English Composition
- ENGL 001C - English Composition
- HNPG 002W - Principles of Civic Engagement

For students whose AP credit replaced classes above:
- ENGL 020A - Intro. to British Literature
- ENGL 020B - Intro. to American Literature
- ENGL 020C - Intro. to Critical Perspective
- CRWT 056 - Intro. to Creative Writing
- CRWT 176 - Topics in Craft of Writing

**GENERAL CHEMISTRY**
- CHEM 001A - General Chemistry
- CHEM 01LA - General Chemistry Lab
- CHEM 001B - General Chemistry
- CHEM 01LB - General Chemistry Lab
- CHEM 001C - General Chemistry
- CHEM 01LC - General Chemistry Lab

**BIOCHEMISTRY**
- BCH 100 - Elementary Biochemistry
- BCH 110 A, B, C - General Biochemistry

**BIOLOGY**
- BIL 005A - General Biology
- BIL 05LA/05B - General Biology Lab
- BIL 005B with lab - General Biology
- BIL 005C with lab - General Biology

**UPPER DIVISION BIOLOGY**
- BIL 102 - Introductory Genetics
- BIL 107A - Molecular Biology
- BIL 110 - Biology of Human Problems
- BIL 121 - Microbiology
- BIL 121L - Microbiology Lab
- BIL 128 - Immunology

**ORGANIC CHEMISTRY**
- CHEM 08A with lab - Organic Chemistry
- CHEM 08B with lab - Organic Chemistry
- CHEM 08C with lab - Organic Chemistry

**PHYSICS**
- PHYS 002A - General Physics
- PHYS 02LA - General Physics Lab
- PHYS 002B - General Physics
- PHYS 02LB - General Physics Lab
- PHYS 02LC - General Physics
- PHYS 02LC - General Physics Lab

**SOCIOLOGY**
- SOC 001 - Intro. to Sociology
- SOC 127 - Social Determinants of Health
- SOC 167 - Medical Sociology

**ECONOMICS**
- ECON 002 - Intro. to Macroeconomics
- ECON 003 - Intro. to Microeconomics

**PHILOSOPHY**
- PHIL 002 - Contemporary Moral Issues

**PUBLIC POLICY**
- PBPL 004 - Ethics, Professionalism, & Public Pol.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**
- TFDP 505 - Public Speaking

**ANATOMY / PHYSIOLOGY**
- BIOL 161A - Functional Anatomy of Vertebrates
- BIOL 161B - Functional Anatomy of Vertebrates
- BIOL 171 - Human Anatomy & Physiology
- BIOL 171L - Human Anatomy & Physiology Lab

*UCR does not offer a full year of Human Anatomy and Physiology. Please see an HPAC Advisor regarding taking this series outside of UCR.

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**Have you met with an HPAC advisor?**

Pre-health advisors in the Health Professions Advising Center (HPAC) are highly skilled and resourced to discuss and advise on issues regarding pre-health admissions criteria such as course requirements, curricular involvement, personal statement review, professional test preparation, and much more.

To meet with an HPAC Advisor, please contact HPAC to set up an appointment.