IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN A HEALTH PROFESSION, use your time at Duke to complete required courses, gain experience, and become an accomplished, unique individual who is knowledgeable about the world in which we live. Eventually after testing your interests and evaluating choices, you will make the decision to apply. There is no rush. There are many paths to medical school and other health professions and we encourage you to take a route that works best for you, based on your background, interests and skills.

WHAT DO HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOLS LOOK FOR? They look for applicants who are skilled, passionate, and committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others. They will expect a foundation in the sciences and experience in the health field in which you intend to work. Life experiences that come through activities such as community service, volunteering, jobs, internships, study abroad, leadership, etc. are also important in your development. At the time of your application, you will want to show:

* Academic achievement
* Experiences where you have engaged with patients and families
* Experiences where you have shadowed doctors or other health professionals
* Service to others
* Research

From these experiences, you will show your:

* Capacity to learn, adapt, and persevere
* Passion for science and the study of living systems
* Desire to help others in need, with compassion and empathy
* Respect for people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles
* Ability to communicate in written and oral form
* Behavior that is ethical and responsible, and not affected by peer pressure
* Critical thinking, logical thought, and problem-solving skills
* Understanding of the social and behavioral factors that influence health and health care

https://www.aamc.org/admissions/dataandresearch/477182/corecompetencies.html

Your time at Duke should not just be preparation for a health professions school. Use these years to test your goals, gain life experiences, and show who you are and what you can achieve. Some of your experiences at Duke may have a profound influence on your life after medical or health professions school.

NUMBERS

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<tr>
<td>70-80%</td>
<td>Acceptance rate of Duke students applying to medical schools for the first time (national average is 40-45%)</td>
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<td>3.6</td>
<td>Average science GPA* of Duke students accepted to medical schools (average total GPA is also 3.6)</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Average number of medical schools Duke students apply to</td>
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<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Percentage of Duke students applying to medical schools at the end of their senior year or after (gap years)</td>
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For dental, veterinary, nursing, physician assistant, pharmacy and physical therapy schools, the number of Duke students applying is < 20 per year and acceptance rates are similar.

* The science (BCPM) GPA is based on biology, chemistry, physics, math, statistics and science courses in some other departments; for a complete listing of Duke courses that are included, see

prehealth.duke.edu/apply/filling-out-your-application/bcmp-gpa-calculation
ADVISING

Each first-year student has a prehealth advisor based on the dorm in which he/she lives. For names of advisors and how to make appointments see: http://prehealth.duke.edu/advising

ADVISESTREAM and EMAIL LISTSERVE

AdviseStream is a personalized online planning, reporting, and tracking program that you will use to keep track of your experiences and achievements. Sign up for Advisestream this fall, and then update your courses and experiences at least once every semester.

* Keep track of courses and grades
* List and describe your experiences with people, patients, families, physicians and health professionals
* List and describe other activities (research, internships, jobs, committees, leadership, service etc.)
* Reflect on your experiences and courses and what insights they provide to your future plans
* Create a four-year plan using the Course Pathways in the Academic and Engagement Planner
* Schedule appointments with prehealth advisors
* Apply for shadowing at Duke Hospital in your sophomore and junior years, using the Advisestream training modules
* Request letters of recommendation when you apply to a health professions school
* Use your information to compose a resume
* Use your information as a template when you apply to health professions schools

To sign up for Advisestream: http://prehealth.duke.edu/prepare/advisestream
To log in: https://duke.advisestream.com

The Prehealth Email Listserv is our primary way of communicating with prehealth students (current students and alumni). We send a weekly newsletter with announcements, tips, reminders of deadlines, opportunities (jobs, research, volunteering), invitations (to attend seminars, info sessions or meet with health professionals), and other useful information.

To sign up for Listserv: https://duke.app.box.com/file/106217416634

WHAT TO DO IN YOUR FIRST OR SECOND YEAR, when you are ready

The goal of your first year is to begin. See how successful you are in your courses… what is easy, what is more challenging.

* Sign up for AdviseStream and the email listserv (above)
* Read the "Prepare" section of prehealth.duke.edu when you have questions.
* Identify a major that interests you; it does not need to be in a science
* Develop strong relationships with professors with whom you share interests
* Meet with your Prehealth Advisor each year to review requirements and plans
* Meet with a DAE (Director of Academic Achievement) if you’d like advice on civic engagement and study away
* For academic problems, seek help from your professors, the Academic Resource Center, and your Prehealth Advisor
* Find experiences where you can interact with patients and families, or individuals who deal with health problems
* Find experiences where you shadow a doctor or other health professional
* If you have time and interest, look for research experience as a volunteer in a lab, a volunteer on a project, work/study, or in paid employment, summer fellowship, or research independent study
* Gain an understanding of other cultures and work on your confidence and ability to communicate with individuals unlike you
* If you are interested, join a student prehealth group
* Look for summer experiences

* Begin to check the websites of health professions schools in your home state (or ones that you are interested in) to see what they look for in applicants and their requirements and policies; an easy way to do this is to do an internet search, e.g. google "yale med sch adm req". Or to see a state by state listing of medical schools, go to https://services.aamc.org/30/msar/home

OVERALL, LEARN FOR THE LOVE OF LEARNING. GET INVOLVED. SERVE THOSE IN NEED. VOLUNTEER. LEAD. ENJOY YOUR TIME AT DUKE AND GROW.
IDEAS FOR FINDING ...

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE and COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. DUKE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT VOLUNTEER FAIR: Thursday Sept 7 2017, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm in Penn Pavilion on West Campus; student groups and service organizations will be there. [http://community.duke.edu/duke-student-engagement/volunteer-fair-2/](http://community.duke.edu/duke-student-engagement/volunteer-fair-2/)


4. DURHAM VA HOSPITAL: across the street from Duke Hospital; volunteer with patients, transport, emergency room, hospice, requires 4 hours/week and a 6 month commitment; 919-286-0411 ext 7810 [durham.va.gov/giving/index.asp](http://durham.va.gov/giving/index.asp)

5. DUKE SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM: service-learning classes. [servicelearning.duke.edu](http://servicelearning.duke.edu)

6. DUKE ENGAGE: summer service with all expenses paid, in Durham, the US, and abroad. [dukeengage.duke.edu](http://dukeengage.duke.edu)

7. DUKE STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM at Duke Hospital (for sophomores, juniors, and seniors). Includes the Ambulatory Surgery Center, Arts and Health, Cancer Center Patient Support, Child and Adolescent Life, Emergency Department, and others. Requires a commitment for two academic semesters, 2 to 4 hours per week. Applications for interviews begin August 1, interviews will be August 30 and 31, and there is a mandatory hospital orientation session on Saturday morning, Sept 16, 2017 at 9 am. It is highly competitive. [https://dukehealth.org/volunteer-services/duke-student-volunteers](https://dukehealth.org/volunteer-services/duke-student-volunteers)

8. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN training at Duke: Facebook "Duke University EMS"

9. DUKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM AMBASSADOR PROGRAM (requires a car): for sophomores, juniors, and seniors (requires 1 completed semester of university work), must commit to one 4-hour shift each week for the academic year, 80 hours total; see the full description in the HPA newsletter of August 10, 2017. Application deadline is Sept 1, 2017, Interview dates Sept 11 and 12, Mandatory training Sept 21 Online application: [https://goo.gl/RaHyn2](https://goo.gl/RaHyn2) ; Submitting supporting documents to: Victoria.Grice@duke.edu; Questions go to Paul Brocklebank, senior at UNC-CH (pbrock42@live.unc.edu) Duke Regional Hospital: [dukehealth.org/hospitals/duke-regional-hospital/volunteer-duke-regional-hospital](http://dukehealth.org/hospitals/duke-regional-hospital/volunteer-duke-regional-hospital)

10. HELPING HAND (requires a car): prehealth internship program where you give care to seniors and disabled adults, including assisting with reading, preparing meals, providing respite for caregivers, etc; requires minimum of 10 hours/week, training is provided for working with older adults. [ahelpinghandnc.org/opportunities/internships/](http://ahelpinghandnc.org/opportunities/internships/)

11. LINCOLN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (requires a car): staff the pediatric playroom/waiting area. Call 919-956-4011 [lincolnhc.org](http://lincolnhc.org/)

12. DUKE HOMECARE & HOSPICE (requires a car): [dhch.duhs.duke.edu/volunteering](http://dhch.duhs.duke.edu/volunteering)

13. CENTRAL REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN BUTNER (requires a car): you can participate as part of psychology courses you enroll in, or call the hospital at 919 764-2000 and ask to speak with the Director of Volunteer Services; there is an orientation program during the first 2 weeks of the semester that you will need to attend, then you will get a listing of possible placements and times; pediatrics and geriatrics are available. [ndhhs.gov/dsoh/services/crh/](http://ndhhs.gov/dsoh/services/crh/)

14. SAMARITAN HEALTH CENTER (requires a car): Be a non-medical volunteer and help play with children, do projects, manage data, support a center that provides primary medical, dental and vision care to low-income residents in Durham

15. OTHER LOCAL: Volunteer Center of Durham: [thevolunteercenter.org](http://thevolunteercenter.org) and Wake Med [wakemed.org/volunteering-college-volunteering](http://wakemed.org/volunteering-college-volunteering)

16. PREHEALTH list serv: be sure to join so you can receive periodic announcements. [prehealth.duke.edu](http://prehealth.duke.edu)
17. DUKE LIST: advertises research, jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities. duke.edu

18. DUKE CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: a general listing of programs at Duke and links. civic.duke.edu/for-students/

19. DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT for Global and Civic Opportunities: For advice on local, national and international service, meet with a DAE for advice. globaladvising.duke.edu/

20. DUKE CAREER CENTER: resumes, internships, resources: studentaffairs.duke.edu/career

21. HOME: Check for positions and programs at home - your pediatrician, family doctor, friends of your family, local hospital or medical center, community groups, church, local schools, nursing homes, convalescent centers, rehabilitation centers, hospice programs.

22. OTHER AREAS: for ideas, see volunteermatch.org, idealist.org, and serve.gov

23. SUMMER HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAMS: SHPEPS are offered by a number of medical schools each summer; these are free, six-week programs that offer academic enrichment and health care exposure to students underrepresented in health professions (e.g., including individuals who identify as African American/Black, American Indian, Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino, and those from communities of socioeconomic and educational disadvantage) shpep.org

24. SCIENCE ENRICHMENT PREPARATION: The SEP Program is an 8-week summer program at UNC-Chapel Hill for talented rising sophomore and junior prehealth students. All can apply, but they are especially interested in first-generation, underrepresented minority, or socioeconomically disadvantaged students. All costs are covered and a stipend is given. nchcap.unc.edu/college/sep-program/

25. INTERNSHIPS: The Rochester Institute of Technology Internship Search Page lists research, clinical patient interactions, health organizations, non-profits and others. people.rit.edu/gtfsbi/Symphopremed.htm

26. MEDIA INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS on US Health Care: kff.org/media-internships-fellowships/

27. AAMC SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS: services.aamc.org/summerprograms

28. HEALTH CAREER INTERNSHIPS: healthcareers.org/resources/students and explorehealthcareers.org/en/careers/programs

RESEARCH

1. UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE: This site has lots of information about how to get started, opportunities, summer research programs at Duke and elsewhere, undergraduate research links, summer research programs at Duke and elsewhere, grants you can apply for, assistantships and more. undergradresearch.duke.edu/

2. MUSER: Search and apply for posted research positions in science and engineering labs; last day to apply for projects this fall is Sept 8 2017. muser.biology.duke.edu

3. also DUKE LIST, DUKE COMMUNITY CIVIC CENTER and CAREER CENTER (listed above)

4. RESEARCH AT DUKE: research.duke.edu

5. SPECIFIC INTEREST? Contact a departmental office and ask if there are jobs or volunteer positions available, or check their website.

6. BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT: biology.duke.edu/undergraduate/research-independent-study

7. PRATT SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING: pratt.duke.edu/research

8. CHRONICLE: The classified section of the Chronicle sometimes lists opportunities and jobs.

9. INSTRUCTORS. Enjoying a class? Ask the instructor if he/she is doing research or if he/she can refer you to someone else who is.

10. HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: You can find research in the arts, humanities and social sciences. There are a number of interdisciplinary programs where faculty, undergraduates, graduate students and others work as "teams", and the projects are often ones where you can participate on and off over a number of semesters. You could take an associated class, attend events,
volunteer, join a team, do a research project, and/or enroll in a research independent study. See the examples below. Also check the departments in which you are considering a major to see what they might offer or participate in.

BASS CONNECTIONS:  [https://bassconnections.duke.edu/](https://bassconnections.duke.edu/)
HUMANITIES WRIT LARGE:  [https://humanitieswritlarge.duke.edu/projects/undergraduate-research](https://humanitieswritlarge.duke.edu/projects/undergraduate-research)
DUKE WIRED: Application of technology to the study of culture, art, urban history and architecture [dukewired.org](http://dukewired.org)
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES IN LEADERSHIP:  [hart.sanford.duke.edu](http://hart.sanford.duke.edu)
DUKE IMMERSE: Four courses, one semester on a current issue [sites.duke.edu/dukeimmerse/](http://sites.duke.edu/dukeimmerse/)

**SHADOWING AT HOME**

Use all of your contacts and look for opportunities:

1. HOME PEDIATRICIAN, FAMILY DOCTOR. Contact family physicians at home; you might shadow during the summer or winter or spring breaks.

2. HOME HEALTH CARE. Check with your local hospital, medical center, rehabilitation center, retirement home, etc., or places where you volunteered in high school.

3. FAMILY FRIENDS. Check with family friends and/or health professionals you know.

4. DUKE ALUMS. Check for Duke alums in your hometown. [alumni.duke.edu/discover/people](http://alumni.duke.edu/discover/people)

5. RESEARCH CONNECTIONS. If you are working in a medical research lab, ask if there are physicians connected with the research project.

6. ATHLETE? SPORTS? If you are an athlete or like sports, check into sports medicine and orthopedics.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS. When you finish with one shadowing provider, ask for suggestions of others.

**SHADOWING AT DUKE**

Sophomores, juniors and seniors can shadow physicians, dentists and other health professionals at Duke Medical Center. See [prehealth.duke.edu/health-care-experience-shadowing](http://prehealth.duke.edu/health-care-experience-shadowing)
### RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR PREMED STUDENTS

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Also add:

- Statistics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- English *

Dental and veterinary schools have similar requirements. For other health professional schools, requirements may vary.

* A NOTE ON AP CREDIT

Most medical schools will accept AP credit. However, there are a few medical schools that state on their website that they will not accept AP credit, or they will accept AP credit but require additional or advanced courses. It is not possible to predict if their policy will change in the coming years. Our recommendation is that you follow regular placement guidelines by departments and then monitor the individual websites of medical schools in your home state or those to which you may apply later on. If you decide to apply to one of these schools and their restriction on AP credits remains, you can add additional courses in your junior or senior year.

More info on AP credit: [https://prehealth.duke.edu/prepare/course-requirements/ap-ipc-credits-and-course-choices](https://prehealth.duke.edu/prepare/course-requirements/ap-ipc-credits-and-course-choices)
WORKSHEET FOR ...  TRINITY STUDENTS

Math: choose one (all are equivalent to Calculus I)
- Math 21 (AP)
- Math 105L + 106L
- Math 111L
- Math 121 (transfer)

Chemistry: choose one series
- Chem 20 (AP), 110DL, 201DL, 202L, Biochem 301
- Chem 21 (AP), 110DL, 201DL, 202L, Biochem 301
- Chem 21 (AP), 201DL, 202L, Biochem 301  (a)

Physics: choose one series
- Physics 141L and 142L
- Physics 141L and AP credit Physics 26
- Physics 142L and AP credit Physics 25
- AP credit Physics 25,26  (b)

Biology: enroll in all three
- Biology 201L
- Biology 202L
- physiology  (choose one of Biology 329D, 329L, 278LA, or Cell Biology 503)

Statistics: choose one
- Sta 20 (AP)
- Sta 101 or 102 or higher
- Biology 304  (c)
- Psy 201L  (c)
- Social 333  (c)

Psychology: choose one
- Psy 101
- Psy 106/107  (cross-listed as Neuroscience 101)
- or Psy 102, 203, 104, 205, 207, 208, 220 or others that address behavioral determinants of health

Sociology: choose one
- Soc 110D
- or Soc 211, 212, 263, 264 or others that address the social determinants of health care
- or self-study

English: probably completed with Writing 101 and two W courses (AP English may count as well)  (d)

(a) If you have Chem 21 AP credit and go directly into Chem 201DL and if you apply to one of the medical schools that still does not accept AP credit, you can add Chem 210DL and/or Biochem 302 in your junior or senior year.

(b) If you have AP credit for both Physics 25 and 26, we recommend you take either Physics 141L or 142L as a review, or check the websites of the schools you will apply to, to see if they have a requirement for physics and to determine their policy on AP credit.

(c) If you have AP credit in math and will not take any math or computer science course at Duke, then for a statistics course you might choose to take Sta 101 or higher instead of a biology, psychology or sociology statistics course. Sta 101 (or higher) provides a QS code that you need for curriculum requirements. You need 2 QS courses to graduate. One must be from the math, statistics or computer science department. Your second QS course is usually physics - both Physics 141L and 142L are coded QS.

(d) Some medical schools specify 2 English courses while others specify 2 writing courses. Check the websites of the schools you might apply to later on. Often Writing 101 and two W's will suffice.

More info on AP credit: https://prehealth.duke.edu/prepare/course-requirements/ap-ipc-credits-and-course-choices
WORKSHEET FOR .... PRATT STUDENTS

Math: 

- math courses you take for Pratt will far exceed any health school requirement

Chemistry: 

- choose one series
  - Chem 20 (AP), 110DL, 201DL, 202L, Biochem 301
  - Chem 21 (AP), 110DL, 201DL, 202L, Biochem 301
  - Chem 21 (AP), 201DL, 202L, Biochem 301

Physics: 

- choose one series
  - Physics 151L and 152L
  - Physics 151L and Physics 26 (AP)
  - Physics 152L and Physics 25 (AP)
  - Physics 153L and Physics 25, 26 (AP)

Biology: 

- enroll in both
  - Biology 201L
  - BME 244L (this will be your second biology lab course, and it covers statistics and physiology)

- Optional: Biology 202L or self-review for the MCAT

Statistics:

- included in BME 244L

Psychology: 

- choose one
  - Psy 101
  - Psy 106/107 (cross-listed as Neuroscience 101)
  - or Psy 102, 203, 104, 205, 207, 208, 220 or others that address behavioral determinants of health

Sociology: 

- choose one
  - Soc 110D
  - or other Soc 211, 212, 263, 264 or others that address the social determinants of health care
  - or self-study

English: 

- you need both
  - Writing 101
  - AP English or one English/writing course

(a) If you have Chem 21 AP credit and go directly into Chem 201DL and if you apply to one of the medical schools that still does not accept AP credit, you can add Chem 210DL and/or Biochem 302 in your junior or senior year.

(b) Pratt guidelines for AP credit in Physics: at least one Physics course must be taken at Duke to satisfy the Physics requirement in the Engineering curriculum. If you have AP credit for Phy 25 and 26, you have three choices: (i) take Physics 153L or a higher level course, or (ii) take Physics 152L (your AP credit for Phy 26 will no longer count toward the 34 credits for graduation), or (iii) take both Physics 151L and 152L (your AP credits for Phy 25 and 26 will no longer count toward the 34 credits for graduation).

(c) Some medical schools specify 2 English courses while others specify 2 writing courses. Check the websites of the schools you might apply to, or enroll in an English course with a W code. This requirement can be completed junior or senior year if you wish.

More info on AP credit: https://prehealth.duke.edu/prepare/course-requirements/ap-ipc-credits-and-course-choices