

A FORMULA FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS FOR PRE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

Freshman Year

- Focus on doing well in your academic courses
- Take at least one science course per semester
- Contact the pre-professional advisor
- Make a 4-year plan for academic work & extracurricular activities
- Attend seminars on professional development, student seminars on health-related studies and become involved in your prospective profession
- Research a copy of a directory of programs for the field in which you are interested. There are directories from the professional organizations to which the corresponding professional schools belong.
- Campus activities (AED, Student Government, Student Ambassadors, etc.) are good if you have time
- Do not sacrifice grades so that you can work enough to pay off the new car

Sophomore Year

- Focus on your academic work. Keep your average up there
- Make a 3-year plan with your advisor. You will need to know which courses are required for each program that you are interested in. Schools differ in their requirements
- Tentatively choose the programs to which you are going to apply. Visit them, if possible
- Begin or continue observing professionals in your field. This is extremely important
- Begin to educate yourself about preparing for the pre-professional examination needed for admission
- Volunteer in a medical and/or a non-medical setting. Both is better
- Excellent pre-pharmacy students with enough hours can begin applying now and taking the required PCAT

Junior Year

- Educate yourself about the programs in the schools in which you are interested
- Continue observing professionals
- Focus on your academic work. Courses are becoming more difficult. It is harder to mix courses and too much work
- Take the professional exam in the Spring, if needed for the programs in which you are interested
- With an advisor, evaluate your strengths/weaknesses for admission into various programs
- Evaluate different programs & decide on which schools are appropriate
- Continue your volunteer work. Take positions of higher responsibility
- Write a personal statement on why you wish to pursue your profession Do it now, you'll need it for applications and interviews
- Pre-meds and pre-dents select individuals to write letters of recommendation

Summer

- Pre-meds, pre-dents, and pre-veterinary medicine students apply to the corresponding application service.
- Schedule interviews with the Pre-Professional Committee (or in early Fall)

Senior Year

- Select individuals who will write letters of recommendation
- Pre-physical therapy, pre-physicians assistant and pre-occupational therapy students take the Graduate Record Examination
- See your pre-professional advisor
- Obtain application forms for each school (do this as early as you can)
- Apply to each school (type & keep copies of everything)
- Work on your interview skills
- Your grades and volunteer work still count, so don't slack off