Pre-Medical Advisory Program

If you are interested in becoming a doctor or dentist, MCLA can help to prepare you for your career path. Students interested in medicine or dentistry may pursue study in any of the academic majors at MCLA. The Pre-Medical Advisory Program provides mentoring, mock interviews, committee letters, career seminars, and an online repository of relevant information. Interested students should consult with the Chair of the Pre-Medical Advisory Program as soon as possible following matriculation.

**Who we are**

The Pre-Medical Advisory Committee is comprised primarily of STEM faculty with diverse backgrounds in the fields of biology, chemistry and physics. In addition to providing innovative classroom and laboratory teaching, faculty are committed to working one-on-one with students through collaborative research and individual mentoring.

Members of the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee are Dr. Ann Billetz (committee chair; Biology), Dr. Carolyn Dehner (Chemistry), Dr. George Hamaoui (Biology), Dr. Nicole Porther (Biology), Dr. Kebra Ward (Physics), and Sara Steele (Psychology)

Our final member is Dr. Peter Fishman an emergency medicine Doctor at Berkshire Medical Center.

**Whom we serve**

Students interested in medicine or dentistry and enrolled in any of the academic majors at MCLA. Pre-medical/pre-dental students who do not already have an academic advisor on the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee will be assigned a secondary advisor from the committee.

**Program requirements**

It is strongly recommended that pre-medical/pre-dental students:

* Meet with a member of the committee every semester to make sure coursework, independent activities, and MCAT/DAT preparation are on track.
* Attend events hosted by the Pre-Medical Advisory Program each semester
* Make note of information and deadlines posted on the Pre-Medical Advisory Canvas page.

**Scheduling of recommended courses:**

It is the obligation of the student to check with the professional school(s) to which they intend to apply for exact requirements.

Nearly all medical and dental schools require one year each of general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology, and physics (all with labs). Many schools require one year of English (including composition and literature), one year of mathematics (including calculus), and a semester of biochemistry. Students are strongly advised to enroll in the following:

***Freshman Year***

Introduction to Biology I & II (BIOL 150 & 160); General Chemistry I & II (CHEM 150 & 152), Pre-Calculus (MATH 150) and/or Statistics (MATH 232) in addition to Calculus (MATH 220).

***Sophomore Year***

Organic Chemistry I & II (CHEM 201 & 202); Genetics (BIOL 240), optional; Microbiology (BIOL 320), optional. Courses marked optional are helpful for the MCAT/DAT but are typically not required pre-requisites.

***Junior Year***

Biochemistry (BIOL 360); General Physics I & II (PHYS 131 & 132); Anatomy & Physiology I & II (BIOL 342 & 343), optional. Courses marked optional are helpful for the MCAT/DAT but are typically not required pre-reqs. All science requirements should be completed before the end of the junior year, prior to sitting the national pre-professional exams.The DAT or MCAT pre-professional exam should be scheduled during the spring semester or summer. Students must arrange an Interview with the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee for the spring or summer if they plan to submit a committee letter of recommendation.

**Scheduling the committee interview**

A student who wishes to obtain a letter of support from the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee must demonstrate all of the following:

1. A cumulative GPA, including all grades from all undergraduate institutions attended, of 3.4 or higher. The student must calculate this GPA and provide the calculations to the chair of the Pre-Medical Advisory Program. A GPA calculator can be found on the Pre-Medical Advisory Program Canvas page.
2. A science GPA, including all courses in Biology, Chemistry, Math and Physics from all undergraduate institutions attended, of 3.4 or higher. The student must calculate this GPA and provide the calculations to the chair of the Pre-Medical Advisory Program. A GPA calculator can be found on the Pre-Medical Advisory Program Canvas page.
3. An MCAT score of at least 500 or a DAT score of either at least 18 or at least the 50th percentile.
4. Relevant clinical experience.

If you do not meet the above four criteria, you will not be granted an interview or committee letter from the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee. If you are scheduled to take the MCAT during the summer, there will be an opportunity to meet with the committee during the summer once a score is submitted.

**Documents needed for the committee interview**

Once you are accepted to participate in an interview, you must submit the following to the chair of the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee, no later than 3 weeks before the scheduled interview:

1. Transcripts from all institutions attended (These can be unofficial.)
2. GPA calculations as described above
3. MCAT or DAT score(s)
4. At least three academic letters of recommendation, two of which must come from science faculty. The third letter can come from a faculty member who is not a science instructor, if desired. Any letters from employers or volunteer supervisors must be in addition to the three academic letters.
5. A substantial draft of your personal statement
6. A current *curriculum vitae*
7. A completed questionnaire, provided on the Pre-Medical Advisory Program Canvas page.