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# Nondegree Curricula

## Preprofessional Programs

Entrance into professional schools is becoming increasingly competitive; therefore, it is imperative that students begin planning their curriculum at the earliest possible time in conjunction with the appropriate academic adviser.

Students who are applying with postbaccalaureate standing (unclassified) to take prerequisites for professional health schools should indicate premedical, pre dental, preveterinary medicine, etc., on their application.

### Prelegal Curriculum

The prelegal program is pursued in conjunction with a degree program. There is no specific prelaw program leading to a bachelor's degree. Students interested in the legal profession should consult with the University prelaw adviser regarding the entrance requirements of the specific law school they hope to attend.

The following curriculum is designed to meet the requirements of standard American schools of law for a broad and liberal education, while at the same time providing desirable flexibility in the individual programs. There are two patterns of concentration which will usually be indicated for the prelegal student, either of which may be selected, in consultation with the adviser, to fit best the interests of the student. These are the major-minor pattern and the liberal studies major pattern. Subject to individual variation, the fields of economics, history, and political science should receive first consideration when choosing the pattern of concentration as being the most effective background for later professional study in law.

The following courses of study are recommended. Lower division: Accountancy 201 and 202, Economics 101 and 102, Political Science 101 and 102, and a year course in history. Upper division: In the junior and senior years students will plan their course with the counsel of their adviser in terms of the field of law in which they plan to work, but keeping in mind the entrance requirements and examinations for admission to schools of law. The following list should receive prime consideration by all prelegal students in the selection of courses, though it is to be thought of as flexible in accordance with student needs. Economics 338; History 545A-545B; Political Science 301A-301B, 346, 347A-347B. Additional: Economics 380, History 536 and 547A-547B, Political Science 348.

In addition to the courses taken in the fields of concentration, upper division electives in English, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and speech communication are recommended. A mastery of English is essential.

Students interested in pursuing a legal career are counseled by the University prelaw adviser. Through this office, prelegal students receive information and advice concerning law school application and admission procedures. Guidance in undergraduate preparation for law study is also available. The University prelaw adviser can be contacted through the Department of Political Science.

### Preprofessional Health Advising Office

The preprofessional health advising office is responsible for advising premedical, pre dental, preveterinary, and allied health students in their preparation for and application to the professional schools of their choice. This office works in conjunction with the candidate's major department to establish a degree program coordinated with the preprofessional requirements of the professional schools. It is the communication link between the student and the profession, keeping the student apprised of changes in the requirements and procedures for acceptance. The advising office is located in Life Sciences, Room 204, (619) 594-6638, [www.sci.sdsu.edu/preprof/](http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/preprof/).

## Predental Curriculum

The predental program is pursued in conjunction with a degree program. Students ordinarily elect to concentrate in biology, chemistry, microbiology, or psychology with a major in one area and selected coursework in the others. Other departmental majors are permissible, however. **Predental students should meet each semester with their major departmental academic adviser to obtain approval for their program for the coming semester. In addition, predental students should confer with the predental adviser at least once each semester to discuss other preparation for dental school.**

**College preparation.** High school students planning to enter dentistry should include in their high school program the following subjects: elementary algebra, geometry, intermediate algebra, chemistry, physics, two or three years of French, German or Spanish, and four years of English.

**Admission.** Predental students must realize that the pool of dental applicants has recently increased and the competition for admission to schools of dentistry, particularly at University of California, Los Angeles and University of California, San Francisco, is great. The average overall GPA of the entering class of 2001 to UCSF was 3.51 and the science GPA was 3.44.

Admissions tests given by the American Dental Association should be taken not later than fall term one year before admission. Since the test is now given only in computer format, candidates should obtain an application packet from the preprofessional health advising office providing current information on where to take the test.

San Diego State University offers the opportunity to obtain a committee letter for students applying to health professional schools. In many instances, a health professional school will state in its secondary application that, if a student's undergraduate or postbaccalaureate school offers a committee letter, a copy of that letter is required as part of the application process. In order to obtain a committee letter, you must open a file with the Preprofessional Health Advising (PPHA) Office in LS-204 and complete all the steps of the committee procedure, which starts a year-and-a-half before applying. Therefore, it is imperative that you register with the PPHA office as soon as you begin classes at SDSU. The official committee letter, available only from the PPHA office, is SDSU's only formal endorsement of your candidacy. Most schools also require three letters of evaluation, two of which should be from science professors from whom you have taken courses. Evaluation request forms are available in the preprofessional health advising office. A publication: *Admission Requirements of the United States and Canadian Dental Schools* is available at the Campus Store or from the American Association of Dental Schools.

The preprofessional health adviser will be available to high school or transfer students by appointment during the summer before matriculation. **All predental students should establish a personal file in Life Sciences, Room 204; (619) 594-6638; [www.sci.sdsu.edu/pre-prof/](http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/pre-prof/).**

## Premedical Curriculum

The premedical program is pursued in conjunction with a degree program. Students ordinarily elect to concentrate in biology, chemistry, or microbiology, with a major in one area and selected coursework in the others. Other departmental majors are permissible, however. **Premedical students should meet each semester with their major departmental academic adviser to obtain approval for their program for the coming semester. In addition, premedical students should confer with the premedical adviser at least once each semester to discuss other preparation for medical school.**

**College preparation.** High school students planning to enter medicine should include in their high school program the following subjects: elementary algebra, geometry, intermediate algebra, chemistry, physics, two or three years of French, German or Spanish, and four years of English.

**Admission.** Most medical schools give preference to students with baccalaureate degrees in academic subjects; **premedicine is not an academic major.** Any major is acceptable to medical schools, and recent research has demonstrated that there is no bias against the nonscience major in the selection process. Nor is there any significant difference between the science and the nonscience major in medical school performance or in eventual selection of residency. The specific requirements for various majors are found in this catalog under department and program headings.

Competition for admission to California medical schools has increased markedly in the past few years. Selection for admission is based on many factors beyond the satisfactory completion of minimum requirements including undergraduate grade point average, MCAT scores, and letters of evaluation. Courses taken to satisfy the science requirements must be taken on a graded basis. The credit/no credit option should be used only sparingly in nonscience courses.

Nearly all medical schools also require applicants to take the MCAT, given early in spring and in August each year. Reservations for this examination **must** be made at least one month in advance of the scheduled date; application packets are available in the preprofessional health advising office.

The office also has a manual which describes the test and provides practice questions and suggestions for preparing for the test. Applicants are urged to take the test in the spring of the calendar year preceding the year of admission to medical school and not later than the fall term one year before anticipated admission.

San Diego State University offers the opportunity to obtain a committee letter for students applying to health professional schools. In many instances, a health professional school will state in its secondary application that, if a student's undergraduate or postbaccalaureate school offers a committee letter, a copy of that letter is required as part of the application process. In order to obtain a committee letter, you must open a file with the Preprofessional Health Advising (PPHA) Office in LS-204 and complete all the steps of the committee procedure, which starts a year-and-a-half before applying. Therefore, it is imperative that you register with the PPHA office as soon as you begin classes at SDSU. The official committee letter, available only from the PPHA office, is SDSU's only formal endorsement of your candidacy. Three to five individual letters of evaluation are also generally required by medical schools and used in the selection process. At least two letters should be from science faculty. The importance of these letters cannot be overemphasized. It is strongly recommended that premedical students secure letters from instructors immediately upon finishing courses, and that students see their adviser regularly so that the adviser can write knowledgeable recommendations when needed. Evaluation forms are available in the preprofessional health advising office.

The varying admission requirements of medical schools are listed in the publication *Medical School Admission Requirements* (available in the Campus Store). Since most students seek admission to an average of twenty medical schools, this book should be consulted during the year of application.

**Osteopathic medical schools** require basically the same minimum undergraduate program as allopathic schools. Most schools also request letters of evaluation from practicing osteopathic physicians.

The preprofessional health adviser will be available to high school or transfer students by appointment during the summer before matriculation. **All premedical students should establish a file in Life Sciences, Room 204, (619) 594-6638, [www.sci.sdsu.edu/preprof/](http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/preprof/).**

### Preveterinary Curriculum

The preveterinary program is pursued in conjunction with a degree program. Students ordinarily elect to major in biology. Other departmental majors are permissible, however. **Preveterinary students should meet each semester with their major departmental academic adviser to obtain approval for their program for the coming semester. In addition, preveterinary students should confer with the preveterinary adviser at least once each semester to discuss other preparation for veterinary medicine school.**

**College preparation.** High school students planning to enter veterinary medicine should include in their high school program the following subjects: elementary algebra, geometry, intermediate algebra, chemistry, physics and four years of English.

**Admission.** Competition for veterinary school admission continues to be great, with a 4 to 1 ratio of applicants to accepted students at University of California, Davis. All preveterinary students should consider applying to one or more out-of-state schools in addition to UC Davis, as most U.S. schools now accept nonresidents.

San Diego State University offers the opportunity to obtain a committee letter for students applying to health professional schools. In many instances, a health professional school will state in its secondary application that, if a student's undergraduate or postbaccalaureate school offers a committee letter, a copy of that letter is required as part of the application process. In order to obtain a committee letter, you must open a file with the Preprofessional Health Advising (PPHA) Office in LS-204 and complete all the steps of the committee procedure, which starts a year-and-a-half before applying. Therefore, it is imperative that you register with the PPHA office as soon as you begin classes at SDSU. The official committee letter, available only from the PPHA office, is SDSU's only formal endorsement of your candidacy. Two or three additional letters from veterinarians and science faculty are also generally required and used in the selection process. The importance of these letters cannot be overemphasized.

A publication, *Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements in the United States and Canada* is available in the preprofessional health advising office and in the Campus Store.

The preprofessional health adviser will be available to high school or transfer students by appointment during the summer before matriculation. **All preveterinary students should establish a file in Life Sciences, Room 204, (619) 594-6638, [www.sci.sdsu.edu/preprof/](http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/preprof/).**

### Allied Health Professions

The allied health professions in the College of Sciences include chiropractic medicine, dental hygiene, optometry, pharmacy, physician assistant, and podiatric medicine. San Diego State University does not offer specific degree programs in these fields. Prephysical therapy advising is in the Department of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences, ENS 331; telephone (619) 695-5161 (Dr. Lorna Francis).

**Prechiropractic Medicine, Preoptometry, Prepharmacy, Prephysician Assistant, and Prepodiatic Medicine.** Students interested in these fields usually major in biology since this curriculum is most appropriate. Other majors, such as chemistry, may be used; however, students must complete the required courses regardless of which major is chosen. In general, all schools require the same courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics; students should be in contact with the schools of their choice to determine any specific requirements.

**Academic Requirements for Entrance to a Professional Degree Program in One of the Above Allied Health Professions.** Students should see their academic adviser and the preprofessional adviser to ensure that all entrance requirements are met. Students interested in the above allied health professions (except for prephysical therapy) are encouraged to open a file early in their academic careers at the Preprofessional Health Advisory Office, Life Sciences, Room 204.

**Preoccupational Therapy.** Students interested in a career in occupational therapy may major in a variety of areas including psychology, art, or biology. There are several schools in California that offer B.S. or M.S. degrees in occupational therapy. Students must complete certain courses required by each school; in general, these include courses in the humanities, natural sciences and mathematics, and social sciences.

**Prephysical Therapy.** The prephysical therapy curriculum is pursued in conjunction with an academic major. Students ordinarily select a major in Kinesiology (emphasis in Pre-Physical Therapy) and complete selected coursework in other departments. Another departmental major often selected is biology. Prephysical therapy students should confer with their departmental adviser prior to initial registration, and at least once each semester regarding their program progress.

**Prephysical Therapy Requirements.** Course requirements for entry to physical therapy school vary according to the school. Generally, prephysical therapy students should include the following courses in their program: Biology 202, 210, 212, 336, and 436; Chemistry 200 and 201; Physics 180A-180B, 182A-182B; and Psychology 101, 270, and 350. Information regarding the required courses for specific physical therapy schools is available through the Department of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences. Each student should consult the major adviser for the level of course required when there are alternatives.

**Prephysical Therapy Recommended Electives.** In addition to the courses listed, students must complete requirements for their major. In order to enhance preparations for physical therapy, professional school students should consider completing one or more of the following courses: Biology 201 and 590; Chemistry 130; Exercise and Nutritional Sciences 303, 304, 307; Mathematics 121; Psychology 230.

**Prephysical Therapy Admission:** Most physical therapy schools give preference to students with baccalaureate degrees in academic subjects. The accredited physical therapy programs in California and their entrance requirements are available in a handout from the Department of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences. A list of physical therapy schools in other states can be obtained from the American Physical Therapy Association in Washington, D.C. ([www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)).

Students are reminded that requirements for admission to physical therapy school are varied. Therefore, the student should consult the above sources and the school(s) of choice at least two years prior to expected application. Students should expect to fulfill the following general requirements for admission: (1) specific course requirements as outlined above, (2) volunteer experience in a hospital or clinical physical therapy program, and (3) satisfactory completion of the GRE examination.

### Preparation for Other Professions

Full programs of professional study in other fields, such as agriculture, forestry, architecture, and theology, are not available at San Diego State University. However, students who may wish to take some undergraduate work in liberal arts at this university can also begin coursework in preparation for such programs. Students are advised to consult the catalog of the university to which they expect to transfer to determine requirements before arranging the program. Further information may be obtained from the Assistant Dean of Students in the appropriate college at San Diego State University.

## Certificate Programs

### Basic Certificate

The purpose of the basic certificate program is to provide individuals whose educational objectives do not require a degree program the opportunity to participate in University academic activities designed to meet specific educational needs.

Ordinarily, credit certificate programs are available to matriculated and nonmatriculated students. Students seeking a certificate must apply for admission according to the guidelines set forth by the individual certificate programs.

Coursework for a basic certificate shall not duplicate in content and level the student's prior educational experience. Unless otherwise stated, a student may apply no more than six units of coursework from a basic certificate program toward a major or minor with the approval of the department.

For a complete listing of certificate programs offered by San Diego State University, refer to the Curricula Summary section of this catalog.

### Advanced Certificate – Postbaccalaureate

The advanced certificate at the postbaccalaureate entry level provides students a program of coursework leading to a specific applied goal. The general educational background of a bachelor's degree with a major in the appropriate field(s) of study is prerequisite to such a certificate.

For a listing of admission standards and specific certificate requirements, refer to the *Bulletin of the Graduate Division*.