Pre-Health

Exploratory Advising

Health Profession Graduate Programs

This is a term that encompasses master’s and doctoral programs such as medical, dental, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, occupational therapy, optometry, podiatry, orthotics/prosthetics, and chiropractic, to name a few. You might also hear these programs referred to as professional schools.

Choosing a Major

Students interested in health professions that are graduate programs will need to earn an undergraduate degree. Professional schools do not require, or favor, any particular undergraduate major, so students should explore majors that interest them, and those that can provide a functional back-up plan (or parallel plan) in case plans change. Because schools do not require any specific major, they use certain prerequisite courses and admissions exams to determine the student’s ability to be successful in the professional school curriculum. These prerequisites are typically courses in the hard sciences such as biology, chemistry, physics, and math. Many students pursue science degrees such as biology and chemistry/biochemistry, however, just as many pursue degrees such as nutrition, business, engineering, kinesiology, political science, philosophy, Spanish, or English. Overall, your undergraduate degree has very little impact on a professional school admission decision. Follow your interests!

How to Customize Your Own Class Schedule

1. ACT/SAT Scores, AP, IBO, and Concurrent Enrollment/Transfer Credits

Gather your ACT/SAT and advanced placement (AP) scores, any concurrent enrollment, International Baccalaureate (IB), and transfer credits you have taken or are currently taking.

- Know your ACT/SAT scores so you can determine which prerequisites you have already met (particularly for math). Make sure these scores are all in Banner by clicking “Test Scores” in your student records, and double check when you took the test (math scores are only good as prereqs if taken after September 1, 2018)
- See how your AP credits will count at USU by viewing the AP table in the University Catalog. You can see if USU has received your AP scores by viewing your transcript by clicking on “View Transcript” in your student records
- See how your IBO credits will count at USU by viewing the IBO table in the University Catalog.
- See if your transfer or concurrent enrollment credits are equivalent to any courses or requirements at USU by looking at the “Course by Course” page on the transfer page. Make sure your previous courses are on your USU transcript by clicking “View Transcript” in your student records.
- Go to the Finding Your Scores/Courses webpage if you need help getting current scores or credits transferred to USU.

If you have already satisfied some recommended first semester courses listed on this guide, you may need additional credits to complete your schedule. Refer to the four-year plans in the University Catalog, register for the next courses listed in your plan, and then verify your course selections with your advisor after the date listed in the advising section below.
2. Placement Tests

Math Placement

Every incoming student has access to the ALEKS math system for free. ALEKS is the software you will use to place into a math class, and brush up on math skills you lack. You can take up to five proctored exams for placement purposes, and you can work through customized learning modules for up to six months so you can place higher in math, or learn some basic skills so your math class isn't as difficult once you get into it.

Go to ALEKS and take a proctored math exam to determine where you can place in math. After that, feel free to study in ALEKS before the semester begins, and take additional placement exams if you think you can place higher. This website has information about how to take a proctored exam in Logan, throughout Utah, and at an out-of-state location.

Note: some students with math ACT/SAT scores, AP scores, or college-credit math grades earned after September 1, 2018 are able to automatically register for a math class because they meet the pre-requisite for the course. If you think you can automatically qualify to register for a math class, click on a specific math class in the math path below to see pre-requisite scores needed for that class.

Language Placement

If you have foreign language skills, take the language placement exam by going to https://lpcs.usu.edu/programs/languages/language-testing/ if you would like to earn inexpensive elective credits for previous knowledge, or place into a higher language course.

Call the freshman hotline at 435-797-0283 if you have additional questions as you prepare.

3. Class Schedule

Use the results from steps one and two, along with the recommended courses below, to make a list of several classes you would like to take. Be sure to include a few extra courses as back-ups.

Your Math Path

- The following math path has been recommended by the advisor for this major. Start at the highest math class you can. Click on the course below to see the catalog description, along with prerequisites needed to register for the course. All math prerequisites expire after one year, so your prerequisite will only be valid to get you into another math class if it was earned after September 1, 2018.
- If you don’t have a current prerequisite needed to get into a course, or if you aren’t sure where to start in math, take a proctored ALEKS exam (see math placement section above). This applies to nearly all students who have been on leave for an extended period of time, i.e. missionaries or students on military leave.
- Many of these professional programs require a year-long series of physics. The prerequisite for physics is calculus (either MATH 1100 (Calculus Techniques) or MATH 1210 (Calculus 1)). If you are considering a science major take MATH 1210.

Your math is determined by your professional school. Make sure to check what math your major requires.

Medical

Math 0950 and Math 0995 are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.

MATH 0950 --> MATH 0995* --> MATH 1050* (QL) --> MATH 1060* --> MATH 1100* OR MATH 1210*
Dental

Math 0950 and Math 0995 are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.

MATH 0950 --> MATH 0995* --> MATH 1050* (QL) --> MATH 1060* --> MATH 1100* OR MATH 1210*

Pharmacy

Math 0950 and Math 0995 are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.

MATH 0950 --> MATH 0995* --> MATH 1050* (QL) --> MATH 1060* --> MATH 1100* OR MATH 1210*

Optometry

Math 0950 and Math 0995 are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.

MATH 0950 --> MATH 0995* --> MATH 1050* (QL) --> MATH 1060* --> MATH 1100* OR MATH 1210* --> Statistics

Podiatry

Math 0950 and Math 0995 are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.

MATH 0950 --> MATH 0995* --> MATH 1050* (QL) --> MATH 1060* --> MATH 1100* OR MATH 1210*

Chiropractic

Math 0950 and Math 0995 are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.

MATH 0950 --> MATH 0995* --> MATH 1050* (QL) --> MATH 1060* --> MATH 1100* OR MATH 1210*

Physician Assistant

Math 0950 and Math 0995 are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.

MATH 0950 --> MATH 0995* --> MATH 1050* (QL) --> Statistics

Physical Therapy

Math 0950 and Math 0995 are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.

MATH 0950 --> MATH 0995* --> MATH 1050* (QL) --> MATH 1060* --> MATH 1100* OR MATH 1210* --> Statistics

Occupational Therapy

Math 0950 and Math 0995 are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.
MATH 0950 --> MATH 0995* --> MATH 1050* (QL) --> Statistics

Note: MATH 0950 and MATH 0995* are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Math required by professional school—make sure to check what your chosen major requires as well</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Math 1100 or 1210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>Math 1100 or 1210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optometry</td>
<td>Math 1100 or 1210, statistics</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Math 1050, statistics</td>
</tr>
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<td>Math 1100 or 1210, statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>Math 1050, statistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recommended First Semester Courses**

We would encourage you to consider your science foundational knowledge to determine how many challenging science courses you take in your first semester. Read the basic, general guidelines below to make the best choice for you as an individual.

- Are you a student who has taken AP, concurrent enrollment, or honors courses in math and science during high school? If so, please choose two courses from the dark blue grouping below and fill in the rest of your schedule from the light blue.
- Are you a student who has not taken any AP, concurrent enrollment or honors courses in math and science during high school? If so, we would encourage you to choose one course from the dark blue grouping below and fill in the rest of your schedule from the light blue.

These are simply guidelines and you should use them as such. From our experience, students that take heavy academic loads (e.g. 3 science courses, >16 credits, often compromise GPA (and science foundational knowledge) or diversity/depth/breadth in extracurricular activities such as clinical experience, service, leadership, and research.

We recommend you take 15 to 16 credits your first semester. Make sure you register for a math class each semester until you are finished with math/stats.

Be sure to look at your chosen major’s first semester registration sheet to help determine which introductory and general education classes you should take.

**Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Optometry, Podiatry, Chiropractic**

**Science Prerequisites (choose one or two)**

CHEM 1210* and CHEM 1215*

Chemistry 1 and lab
Math

Other introductory or general education courses (choose two to four)

Introductory major courses

PSY 1010 (BSS)
3 credits

ENGL 1010 (CL1)
3 credits

(or ENGL 2010* (CL2) if you already have ENGL 1010 credit)

BREADTH HUMANITIES

(click here to view all options)

BREADTH CREATIVE ARTS

(click link to view all options)

BREADTH AMER. INSTITUTIONS

(click link to view all options)

Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy

Science Prerequisites (choose one or two)

BIOL 2420* - 4 credits

Human Physiology

CHEM 1210* and CHEM 1215*

Chemistry 1 and lab

Math

Other introductory or general education courses (choose two to four)

Introductory major courses

PSY 1010 (BSS)
3 credits
ENGL 1010 (CL1)
3 credits
(or ENGL 2010* (CL2) if you already have ENGL 1010 credit)

BREADTH HUMANITIES
(click here to view all options)

BREADTH CREATIVE ARTS
(click link to view all options)

BREADTH AMER. INSTITUTIONS
(click link to view all options)

Occupational Therapy

Science Prerequisites (choose one or two)

BIOL 2420 - 4 credits
Human Physiology
Math 1050* or STAT 1040*

Other introductory or general education courses (choose two to four)

Introductory major courses

PSY 1010 (BSS)
3 credits

ENGL 1010 (CL1)
3 credits
(or ENGL 2010* (CL2) if you already have ENGL 1010 credit)

BREADTH HUMANITIES
(click here to view all options)
BREADTH CREATIVE ARTS
(click link to view all options)

BREADTH AMER. INSTITUTIONS
(click link to view all options)

Prerequisites and Course Descriptions

The classes marked with an asterisk(*) have prerequisites. For course descriptions and prerequisite information, click on the the course in this guide or see the University Catalog and click on "Course Numbers and Descriptions."

If you have met a class prerequisite via AP or IBO scores or college credits, but have not yet transferred them to USU, you can request a temporary prerequisite override. Only do this if you have already met the prerequisite and are certain you can get your test scores/credits to USU and into Banner well before August 1, 2019. This is the day that your temporary override will expire and your class will be dropped unless you meet the prerequisite in Banner. After you submit a temporary override request, allow for up to 3-4 business days for the request to be processed. Once processed, the Registrar's office will reach out to you via email.

Math prerequisites only last 1 year, so will not be valid for fall 2019 semester unless they were earned after September 1, 2018.

English 1010 (CL1) and English 2010 (CL2)

The Communications Literacy 1 requirement (CL1) is typically fulfilled by ENGL 1010. You have already satisfied the CL1 requirement if you have any of the following:

- ACT English Test: Score of 29 or higher
- SAT (taken before March 2016) Critical Reading Test: Score of 640 or higher
- RSAT (SAT taken since March 2016) Reading Test: Score of 34 or higher
- AP English Language Test: Score of 3 or higher
- AP English Literature Test: Score of 3 or higher
- AP English Literature Test: Score of 3 or higher
- CLEP English Composition Test: Score of 50 or higher
- CLEP Freshman College Composition Test: Score of 53 or higher
- IBO English A1 Test: Higher-level Score of 5 or higher
- Transfer credit that is equivalent to ENGL 1010

If you have already met the CL1 requirement, you should take English 2010 (CL2). (Note: An IBO English A1 test with a score of 5 or higher satisfies both CL1 and CL2.)

When Can You Register?

Students register according to the number of earned hours on their USU transcript. You can see the number of “EARNED” hours on your transcript by clicking “View Transcript” in your student records. Remember that credits that have not yet been received or applied to your USU transcript DO NOT COUNT toward earned hours until they are officially on your USU transcript (USU cannot override this and give you an earlier registration time, even if you have credits en route to USU).

Wednesday, April 10 at 8:00 p.m.—students with 50 or more earned hours on their transcript
Wednesday, April 10 at 9:00 p.m.—students with 40 or more earned hours on their transcript

Wednesday, April 10 at 10:00 p.m.—students with 30 or more earned hours on their transcript

Thursday, April 11 at 8:00 p.m.—students with 20 or more earned hours on their transcript

Thursday, April 11 at 9:00 p.m.—students with 10 or more earned hours on their transcript

Thursday, April 11 at 10:00 p.m.—students with 0-9 earned hours on their transcript

Again, the system looks at earned hours that are already on the USU transcript when determining when a student can register. This cannot be overridden, even if the student has additional credits that are not yet on their USU transcript.

**Advising for First-Year Students in this Major**

Students should enroll in the CANVAS Prehealth Advising pages and subscribe to the Prehealth Listserv to gather additional information. This can be done from the Prehealth website [http://advising.usu.edu/exploratory/health-professions/index](http://advising.usu.edu/exploratory/health-professions/index)

For general registration questions, please call the freshman hotline at (435) 797-0283 from 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or during special hours April 10-11 from 8 a.m. to midnight. You can also email the hotline at orientation@usu.edu.

Depending upon the number of earned hours on your USU transcript, registration begins April 10 or April 11. If you have questions after you have registered for courses and spoken with your major advisor, you may make a phone or in-person appointment at: exploratory.usu.edu/newfreshman/prehealth for on or after April 15.

Yvonne Kobe, (435) 797-3373, email yvonne.kobe@usu.edu