



GETTING STARTED

Interested students should create a **Medical Applicant Portal** (MAP) and book an advising appointment via Student Hub. MAP is an online resource for undergraduate students and alumni to identify themselves as Pre-Health and stay informed of important dates and events. It also serves as a portfolio to help prepare students for the application process.

Students admitted to US health graduate schools come from **all undergraduate majors**. Programs appreciate academic diversity. Students are encouraged to select a major based on their interests. Common majors include Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Behavioral Neuroscience and Health Science.

Our **website** houses a great deal of pertinent information and resources, including global experience.

ENTRANCE EXAMS ABROAD

Entrance exams vary by pathway and require 2-6 months of preparation. Applicants should be aware of the following options. Testing should be completed prior to submission dates below.

Testing Abroad/Remotely: **Testing in US/Canada Only:**
MCAT (Physician, Podiatrist) DAT (Dentist)
GRE (Veterinarian, PA) OAT (Optometrist)
PA-CAT (PA)

COURSEWORK TAKEN ABROAD

Health graduate programs commonly require or prefer that all prerequisite course credits are earned in the US/Canada system. Coursework taken abroad at foreign institutions through NUin or traditional study abroad may not be evaluated by a program and therefore not contribute to an applicant's satisfaction of course requirements.

Certain programs, such as the American College of Thessaloniki, are US-accredited institutions and do not pose any issue with credits taken abroad. For a more comprehensive list of these institutions, please check listings from AACOMAS (Osteopathic Medicine application) and AMCAS (Allopathic Medicine application, page 17).

If a student does take prerequisite coursework at a foreign institution, the most common remedy is to complete additional credits in that subject area during their undergraduate career (i.e. taking general chemistry abroad, then taking an additional upper-level chemistry course at NU). Students should ideally create a preliminary list of schools to understand exactly what credits would be necessary to satisfy outstanding prerequisites absent foreign credits.

While uncommon, some programs may wish to review foreign transcripts. If needed, applicants are encouraged to use a recommended foreign evaluation vendor like World Education Services (WES) to facilitate this process.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Most health graduate program application timelines span a full calendar year or more and consist of several phases where being present in the country is beneficial or necessary.

Professional Path x Application Phase	Submission (year prior to matriculation) <i>Applicants require consistent Internet access prior to/during submission</i>	Interviews <i>While interviews were virtual during COVID-19, it is expected that in-person interviews will return as the default option. Applicants should be prepared to travel during this period</i>	Program Start Dates <i>Applicants should ensure that any commitments they have will end by orientation dates</i>
Medical/Dental	June (Primary), July-August (Secondary)	August-Late Spring of following year	July/August of following year
Physician Assistant	April/May	Mid-summer-Spring of following year	May-August of following year
Veterinary	June-September	Fall-Early Spring of following year	August of following year
Optometry	July-September	Late Fall-Late Spring of following year	July/August of following year



EXPERIENTIAL OPTIONS ABROAD

NUin: In recent years, roughly 14% of applicants to medical and dental schools had participated in NUin, and saw a consistent level of success with the overall applicant group. PreHealth students looking to take introductory prerequisite courses abroad should be aware of the information on Side A of this handout.

NU Bound: Students participating in NU Bound should be aware that New College of the Humanities London is a foreign institution and prerequisite courses taken there would fall into the foreign coursework category. As this would be a two-semester program, taking a traditional PreHealth course path could ultimately mean a greater number of additional US credits would be needed to compensate for graduate health program prerequisites. Students can freely take prerequisite courses if attending Mills College.

Global Quest: Similarly, students participating in Global Quest should feel free to take prerequisite coursework if studying in Greece, but should be cognizant of prerequisite courses taken at NCH London.

Traditional Study Abroad: Students opting to travel abroad during any given academic semester of their undergraduate career should be aware of the information on Side A of this handout when selecting a destination, and that by not taking prerequisite courses for a semester, they may extend their timeline or necessitate summer credits to stay on track with their original plan. Students should meet with their PreHealth Advisor to discuss their academic plan and application timeline prior to a semester abroad to ensure an understanding of requirements.

Service Trips: Many PreHealth students develop an interest in global health, joining organizations like Global Medical/Dental Brigades or Alternative Spring Break to travel abroad and assist in providing care to a population in need. As these activities are university-sponsored and under the supervision of US practitioners/organizations, these activities are safe to participate in.

Dialogues of Civilization: Not only are dialogues wonderful global experiences for PreHealth students, but the courses are fully NU credits as well! Many students have participated in service or clinical observation while on a dialogue.

Research Co-op: PreHealth students may wish to participate in a research-focused opportunity abroad through co-op. Research can be done globally without fear of complication on a future application. PreVeterinary students have participated in the Three Seas program, while PreMed students have worked with well-known companies and organizations around the world on a variety of projects.

Clinical Observation/Co-op: Experiences within the field of healthcare are an important way to demonstrate ongoing interest in the profession and gain exposure to a diverse array of specialties. Experiences should include direct interaction with practitioners and patients, but need not be at an advanced level. Examples may include shadowing or clinical co-op positions. While clinical exposure abroad provides a valuable perspective to a PreHealth student's portfolio, ethical standards must remain consistent with those in the US. Students may refer to guidelines published by the Association of American Medical Colleges prior to engaging in clinical experience abroad. Additionally, clinical experience abroad should be supplemented with experience in the US to ensure that health graduate programs are confident in an applicant's familiarity with the system.

