Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies

TBA
Asst. Dr. Laura Dailey, M.S.

Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies is a university-wide program administered through the Provost’s Office with a curriculum that meets the needs of students preparing for admission into a variety of health professions schools and law schools. Pre-Professional students major in an academic discipline in addition to completing the prerequisite curriculum requirements. For pre-health students, the basic science courses comprising this curriculum are suitable preparation for entry into many professional areas, including medicine (allopathic and osteopathic), dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, and podiatry. Additionally, pre-law students prepare for entry into law programs through liberal arts courses that examine political and legal systems as well as internships and co-curricular experiences. Students officially accepted by Saint Louis University Office of Undergraduate Admission are eligible to begin a curriculum preparatory to both pre-health and pre-law professions. There are approximately 1500 students (freshmen through seniors) involved in the pre-professions curriculum.

This program for prelaw, premedical, pre-dental, and other pre-health professions students encourages personal contact with faculty mentors, professional advisors in the colleges, and the staff in Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies. These offices have responsibility for advisement related to the student’s overall degree requirements and career choices.

For pre-health students specifically, the Office of Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies facilitates the Pre-health Committee on Evaluations to eligible students interested in the health professions previously mentioned. The Committee is composed of the Director, Assistant Director, Academic Advisor Sr., and Academic Advisor of Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies, in addition to volunteer faculty from a variety of disciplines across campus. The Committee sends a thorough letter of evaluation and recommendation to professional schools of the student’s choice, which replaces individual letters of recommendation sought from faculty. The evaluation process of this Committee begins early in the student’s third year – or two years prior to the anticipated date of entrance to professional school.

Pre-Health

Pre-Health students’ application to professional school is completed one year in advance of the expected date of matriculation. Within the first three years, the student must complete the following required courses in basic sciences that satisfy the majority of medical and other professional schools:

Requirements for Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1240</td>
<td>Principles of Biology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1245</td>
<td>Principles of Biology I Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1260</td>
<td>Principles of Biology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1265</td>
<td>Principles of Biology II Lab</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Division Biology course</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 3020</td>
<td>Biochemistry &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 3040</td>
<td>Cell Structure and Function</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1110</td>
<td>General Chemistry I Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1120</td>
<td>General Chemistry II Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1115</td>
<td>General Chemistry I Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 1125</td>
<td>General Chemistry II Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 2410</td>
<td>Principles Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 2420</td>
<td>Principles Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 2415</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry Lab I</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 2425</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry Lab II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1510</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 1310</td>
<td>Physics I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 1320</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 1330</td>
<td>Physics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 1340</td>
<td>Physics II Laboratory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to required courses

Students are encouraged to take at least three upper division biology or chemistry courses.

Students should also be aware of the updated MCAT. New and expanded content includes biochemistry, psychology, sociology and research/research methodology.

Recommended courses include

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 3420</td>
<td>Comparative Anatomy of the Vertebrates</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 3470</td>
<td>General Physiology Laboratory</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 4440</td>
<td>Vertebrate Histology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 4540</td>
<td>Human Cellular Physiology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 2200</td>
<td>Analytical Chemistry I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 2205</td>
<td>Analytical Chemistry Lab</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 3330</td>
<td>Physical Chemistry I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 3340</td>
<td>Physical Chemistry II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 3345</td>
<td>Physical Chemistry Lab</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students completing the minimum pre-health curriculum are better prepared to take the appropriate admission test as part of the application process for professional school. Students are encouraged to take a balanced combination of natural science, language, social science, humanities, and general liberal arts (15-18 credit hours per semester). The suggested selection of courses for the beginning student is made on the basis of high school aptitude and achievement and previous humanities and science courses. Pre-health professions students are encouraged to acquire a strong background in the humanities, selecting courses in which development of communication skills and verbal reasoning are encouraged as these skills are stressed in the admission selection process by professional schools. Students are also encouraged to complete an internship and/or
shadow practitioners to gain firsthand experience in a health care setting.

**Special Program for Premedical Students**

**The Medical Scholars Program**
The Medical Scholars Program gives particular recognition to beginning freshmen premedical students. Students apply to the Medical Scholars Program on the Medical Scholars Application at the same time that they apply to Saint Louis University. Medical Scholars are advised in the Office of Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies during their freshman year.

Medical Scholars may apply to Saint Louis University School of Medicine in their sophomore year of study. They may gain early conditional acceptance for the year following completion of their undergraduate work. Qualified candidates must have at least an SAT total of 1330, or at least a 30 ACT Composite (average) score, according to the national norms for college-bound students, and completion of one year of high school biology, one year of high school chemistry, and three years of mathematics through trigonometry. Participants must be able to meet the minimum “Technical Standards” set by the School of Medicine. The standards may be viewed on the [School of Medicine's Technical Standards Website](#). Medical Scholars are required to attend a special orientation given by the Director of Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies and the Dean of Admissions of the School of Medicine. This meeting will occur at the beginning of the freshman year.

Eligible students must apply to the program during their Senior year in high school and may elect to take part in this program only in the Fall, at the beginning of their freshman year. The program is not available to transfer students or to freshmen at any other time of year.

The curriculum in the program, for freshman and sophomore years is outlined below for most majors. Any changes in courses in this curriculum require the specific approval of the Director of Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies, and the School of Medicine. Advanced Placement and 1818 credit may apply to non-science courses in this curriculum; however, a strict course substitution policy will be followed. For example, if Calculus I has been completed in the 1818 ACC Program, another math course, such as Calculus II or Statistics, must be substituted. All science courses must be taken at Saint Louis University.

In order to remain in this program the student must, at the close of the freshman year (30 semester hours minimum), have official grade point averages of at least 3.65 in 1) sciences/mathematics, and 2) cumulative (overall GPA). The minimum GPA requirements must be met on an annual basis at the end of each academic year and are noncumulative. Credits acquired between freshman and sophomore years will not be considered part of the 60 semester hours total, nor will courses taken in transfer between these years be permitted to substitute for the required science courses. It is recommended that all mathematics class be taken at St. Louis University, but some AP mathematics course credit might be accepted. Grades for transfer courses and 1818 courses are not computed into these averages; however, the credit for these courses does count toward graduation. AP or dual credit in biology, chemistry, and physics are not acceptable to meet science course requirements.

**Prerequisites for participation in the Medical Scholars Program**
ACT Composite of 30 or higher or SAT scores of 1330 or higher and excellent high school academic record which includes one year of biology, one year of chemistry and three years of mathematics through trigonometry.

**Required Courses**

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<td>CHEM 2425</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry Lab II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1900</td>
<td>Adv Strategies Rhetoric &amp; Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 1510</td>
<td>Calculus I*</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PHYS 1340</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEO 1000</td>
<td>Theological Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Calculus I is the minimum mathematics requirement for the program and for admission to most medical schools

There is some variability in coursework, in terms of course numbers and timing. Specific core courses and timing may vary by college or school. Students work with the Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies advisors to establish an appropriate course of study.

**Required in the Junior and Senior Years**

1. Completion of the Physics sequence.
2. Maintain a minimum 3.65 annual average and a minimum 3.65 science/mathematics annual average and for each academic year (fall and spring semesters).
3. The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) to be taken at the prescribed time.
4. MCAT scores do not affect acceptance; however, Medical Scholars are expected to make every effort to achieve the highest possible score.
5. Completion of the undergraduate degree program.
6. At least 14 credits must be taken in any semester.

**Students in the Medical Scholars Program are not allowed to withdraw from courses, audit courses, take courses pass/fail, receive grades of D or F, or receive incomplete grades.**

In the sophomore year, the Pre-Health Committee on Evaluations will evaluate students. These evaluations will be maintained in the Office of Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies and be kept in preparation for application to the School of Medicine. A member of the Pre-Health Committee on Evaluations will interview the student successfully maintaining the required minimum GPA averages. An evaluation will be prepared by the Committee and submitted to the School of Medicine. This evaluation contains the following documents: 1) letter of evaluation prepared by the Committee, and 2) a personal essay, “Why I Want to be a Physician.” The Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies will also send appropriate application materials to the Admissions Committee.

These materials will be submitted to the Dean of Admissions, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, during the spring of the sophomore year. The Admissions Committee of the School of Medicine will conduct interviews, and applicants will receive a response from the School of Medicine by the beginning of the junior year concerning admission.

Students gaining a conditional acceptance to Saint Louis University School of Medicine are required to:
1. complete the Physics sequence,
2. maintain the cumulative 3.65 GPA averages previously described,
3. take the MCAT at the prescribed time, and complete the Undergraduate degree program outlined in their application to the School of Medicine
4. take an upper division science course (Biology, Chemistry, or Physics) Fall and Spring semester of senior year.

If a student who has been accepted into Saint Louis University School of Medicine through participation in the Medical Scholars Program should decide to apply to other medical schools, this early acceptance will be withdrawn. If such a student wishes to be reconsidered for admission to this School of Medicine, he or she may follow the regular application process.

**Pre-Law**

A secondary major in Legal Studies (36 credit hours) and a Minor in Legal Studies (24 credit hours) are offered through the Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies Office. The minor and the secondary major provide students the opportunity to study legal ideas, legal research, legal institutions, and the legal process, while improving the student’s ability to critically analyze issues, balance conflicting interests, and articulate legal arguments clearly in oral and written communications. The secondary major has a strong multidisciplinary emphasis and allows students to study law from a broader social science perspective. A secondary major can only be earned in conjunction with a primary major. The purpose of the program is not the training of legal professionals (which requires graduate legal studies at a law school); rather the program is offered to the students as a field of critical inquiry within the framework of their undergraduate education.

**Secondary Major in Legal Studies (36 credit hours)**

*May only be done as a second major to the student’s primary major*

**Learning Objective #1-Fundamental Legal Principles**
(15 credit hours total)

- PLS 1000 Introduction to Law
- PLS 2000 Introduction to Legal Research & Writing

**AND**

- POLS 2100 American Constitution: The Original American Constitution
- **OR**
  - POLS 3130 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
  - **OR**
  - HIST 3700 U.S. Constitutional History

**AND**

- PHIL 4040 Symbolic Logic
- **OR**
  - PHIL 4060 Logic for the Pre-professional

**AND**

**One Course from the list below:**

- PHIL 4330 Philosophy of Law
- POLS 3720 Renaissance & Modern Political Thought
- HIST 3390 History of English Law
- HIST 3700 U.S. Constitutional History
- CMM 4420 Freedom of Expression
- SOC 4310 Issues in Jurisprudence

**Legal Objective #2-Critical Reading and Writing Skills/Development of Oral and Written Negotiation, Mediation, & Advocacy Skills**

(6 credit hours total from the list of coursework below)

- CMM 3050 Argumentation and Debate
- CMM 4050 Theories of Persuasion
- PHIL 3800 Language and Argument
- PLS 2500 The Anatomy of Lawsuit (2 credit hours)
- PLS 3000 Alternative Dispute Resolution
- PLS 3100 Introduction to Trial Advocacy (2 credit hours) **AND**
**Learning Objective #4-Learning Substantive Provisions of Law**

(9 credit hours required)

Any course listed for Learning Objectives 1-3 may also be taken under Learning Objective #4 **Students are encouraged to choose an elective course that relates to their undergraduate major**-

- **Allied Health Majors**
  - HIM 3100 Medico-Legal Aspects
  - PLS 3935 Issues in Health Law
- **Business & Economics Majors:**
  - MGT 2000 Legal Environment of Business I
  - MGT 4500 Legal Environment of Business II
  - MGT 3301 Negotiations
  - MGT 4401 Legal Issues in Sports and Entertainment
  - MGT 4402 Intercollegiate Athletics Management
  - ECON 4120 Law and Economics
- **Communications Majors**
  - CMM 3050 Argumentation and Debate
  - CMM 4050 Theories of Persuasion
  - CMM 4420 Freedom of Expression
- **Criminal Justice & Sociology Majors:**
  - CCJ 3330 Corporate White Collar Crime
  - CCJ 4000 Field Work Practicum
  - CCJ 4310 Issues in Jurisprudence
- **Engineering & the Sciences Majors**
  - PLS 3500 Environmental Law
- **History Majors**
  - HIST 3390 History of English Law
  - HIST 3700 US Constitutional History
- **Philosophy Majors**
  - PHIL 4330 Philosophy of Law
- **Political Science Majors**
  - POLS 2100 The American Constitution
  - POLS 3100 Judicial Politics
  - POLS 3130 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- **POLS 3200** Introduction to Trial Advocacy Lab (2 credit hours)
- **POLS 3400** Trial Advocacy Practicum Lab (2 credit hours)
- **POLS 3900** Introduction to Appellate Advocacy
- **THR 2540** Voice and Diction

**Learning Objective #3 The Practical Application of Law-Legal Internship or Service Learning Courses**

(3 credit hours total - Students must choose one option below)

- **POLS 4910** Legal Internship (Prerequisite: PLS 100 & PLS 200)
- **POLS 2200** Law: A Service Learning Experience (Prerequisite: PLS 100)
- **SWRK 5703** International Social Work
- **CCJ 4000** Field Work Practicum (ONLY 3 credit hours will count toward the secondary major in Legal Studies)
- **POLS 3800** Structure of Poverty: Globally and Locally

**Learning Objective #5-Integrating Legal Principles-Capstone**

(3 credit hours required)

- **POLS 4960** Comparative Legal Systems (Pre-Law Students)
- OR
- **POLS 4965** Foundations of Law (Pre-Law Scholars)

**Minor in Legal Studies -24 credit hours**

(All course work is three credit hours unless otherwise noted)

- **Introductory Coursework-9 credit hours**
  - *PLS 1000* Introduction to Law
  - *PLS 2000* Introduction to Legal Research and Writing
  - *Must complete ONE of the four courses below*
  - **ACCT 2200** Financial Accounting
  - **ECON 1900** Principles of Economics
  - **PHIL 4040** Symbolic Logic
  - **PHIL 4060** Logic for the Pre-professional

- **Oral and Written Communications-3 credit hours**
  - **PLS 2500** The Anatomy of a Lawsuit (2 credit hours)
  - **PLS 3000** Alternative Dispute Resolution
  - **PLS 3100** Introduction to Trial Advocacy (2 credit hours) AND
  - **PLS 3200** Introduction to Trial Advocacy Lab (0-2 credit hours)
  - **PLS 3400** Trial Advocacy Practicum Lab (0-2 credit hours)
  - **PLS 3900** Introduction to Appellate Advocacy

- **Public Service/Promotion of justice-3 credit hours**
  - **PLS 2200** Law: A Service Learning Experience (Prerequisite PLS 100)
  - **PLS 4910** Legal Internships (Prerequisite PLS 100 & PLS 200)

- **Elective Credits-6 credit hours**

  Students are encouraged to choose an elective course that relates to their undergraduate major-

  - **Allied Health Majors**
    - HIM 3100 Medico-Legal Aspects
    - PLS 3935 Issues in Health Law
  - **Business & Economics Majors:**
    - MGT 2000 Legal Environment of Business I
    - MGT 4500 Legal Environment of Business II
    - MGT 3301 Negotiations
    - MGT 4401 Legal Issues in Sports and Entertainment
    - MGT 4402 Intercollegiate Athletics Management
    - ECON 4120 Law and Economics
  - **Communications Majors**
    - CMM 3050 Argumentation and Debate
    - CMM 4050 Theories of Persuasion
CMM 4420 Freedom of Expression

**Criminal Justice & Sociology Majors:**
CCJ 3330 Corporate White Collar Crime  
CCJ 4000 Field Work Practicum  
CCJ 4310 Issues in Jurisprudence

**Engineering & the Sciences Majors**
PLS 3500 Environmental Law

**History Majors**
HIST 3390 History of English Law  
HIST 3700 Constitutional and Legal History of the United States

**Philosophy Majors**
PHIL 4330 Philosophy of Law

**Political Science Majors**
POLS 2100 The American Constitution  
POLS 3100 Judicial Politics  
POLS 3130 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties  
POLS 3640 International Law

**Psychology Majors**
PSY 4480 Psychology and Law

**Social Work Majors**
SWRK 3100 American Social Welfare Systems  
SWRK 5711 Social Work and the Law

**Theology Majors**
THEO 2515 Social Justice

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**Capstone Course-3 credit hours**
PLS 4960 Legal Certificate-Capstone Course-Comparative (Pre-Law Students only)  
OR  
PLS 4965 Foundations of Law (Pre-Law Scholars only)

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**Special Program for Prelaw Students**

**Pre-Law Scholars Program**
Students must apply and be accepted to the Pre-Law Scholars Program before they commence their freshman year studies at Saint Louis University. The Pre-Law Scholars program is an exclusive opportunity for freshman applicants who plan to eventually attend law school. Students who are accepted into this highly-selective program are placed on an admittance track to Saint Louis University, School of Law. Pre-law Scholars are required to take 17 credit hours of course work. Pre-Law Scholars are encouraged but not required to earn a Minor in Legal Studies or a Secondary Major in Legal Studies.

**Course Requirements-17 Required Credit Hours**
(All course work is three credit hours unless otherwise noted)

**Pre-Law Scholars are required to take the following Pre-Law Courses:**
- **PLS 1000** Introduction to Law  
- **PLS 2000** Introduction to Legal Research & Writing  
- **PLS 4910** Legal Internships (2)  
- **PLS 4965** Foundations of Law (during the fall semester of junior year)

**Pre-Law Scholars must also take and complete one of the five courses listed below, by the end of their junior year:**
- **ECON 1900** Principles of Economics  
- **PHIL 4060** Logic for the Pre-Professional  
- **PHIL 4040** Symbolic Logic  
- **PHIL 4330** Philosophy of Law  
- **ACCT 2200** Financial Accounting

**Pre-Law Scholars can choose one of the identified electives. Students are encouraged to choose an elective course that relates to their undergraduate major-**

**Allied Health Majors**
HIM 3100 Medico-Legal Aspects  
PLS 3935 Issues in Health Law

**Business & Economics Majors:**
MGT 2000 Legal Environment of Business I  
MGT 4500 Legal Environment of Business II  
MGT 3301 Negotiations  
MGT 4401 Legal Issues in Sports and Entertainment  
MGT 4402 Intercollegiate Athletics Management  
ECON 4120 Law and Economics

**Communications Majors**
CMM 3050 Argumentation and Debate  
CMM 4050 Theories of Persuasion  
CMM 4420 Freedom of Expression

**Criminal Justice Majors:**
CCJ 3330 Corporate White Collar Crime  
CCJ 4000 Field Work Practicum  
CCJ 4050 Criminal Law and Procedure  
CCJ 4310 Issues in Jurisprudence

**Engineering & the Sciences Majors**
PLS 3500 Environmental Law

**History Majors**
HIST 3390 History of English Law  
HIST 3700 US Constitutional History

**Philosophy Majors**
PHIL 4330 Philosophy of Law

**Political Science Majors**
POLS 2100 American Constitution  
POLS 1200 American State and Local Politics  
POLS 3100 Judicial Politics  
POLS 3130 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights  
POLS 3640 International Law

**Psychology Majors**
PSY 4480 Psychology and the Law

**Social Work Majors**
SWRK 3100 The American Social Welfare System  
SWRK 5711 Social Work and the Law

**Theology Majors**
THEO 2515 Social Justice
For further information on the Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies Curriculum contact:

Laura Dailey, M.S., Assistant Director
Verhaegen Hall, Room 105 (314) 977-2840
PHPL@slu.edu

or visit the Pre-Health and Pre-Law Studies Web Pages at
http://www.slu.edu/prehealth.xml
http://www.slu.edu/pre-law-home