

Hello Everyone!

Thank you for visiting the UCSB Health Professions Advising website as part of this year's virtual Open House events. Although we would much rather have met all of you in person, we're still glad that we're able to share with you our presentation, the FAQs you'll find below, and the rest of the great information and resources that we've packed into our website.

We know how important it is for pre-health students to get started off on the right foot when they get to campus, and it's even better when they can begin to make themselves more knowledgeable before they get to campus! We encourage all of our visitors to explore other sections of our website and to also review the additional FAQs that can be found on most pages throughout the site.

Lastly, we know that you're going to have plenty of questions, and we want to answer them. We ask, however, that you please be patient if we are not able to respond to your questions right away. As you may know, this is the time when many aspiring healthcare professionals are preparing for the application season, which also means that our office will be incredibly busy assisting those students. If you are committed to attending UCSB this fall, then please try to hold your questions until New Student Orientation, which is when we will be able to address them more fully.

Thank you again for visiting, and we hope to meet you all someday!

UCSB Health Professions Advising Staff

**Q. When and how often should I meet with a pre-health advisor?**

- A. We want all students to be comfortable scheduling appointments or attending pre-health drop-in sessions whenever and as often as they need for questions they have regarding their paths to becoming healthcare professionals. We also encourage our first-year students to consider meeting with a career counselor in Career Services in order to utilize the various tools and assessments that they provide, which are designed to help students better understand how their personal strengths, skills, and values might lend themselves to various careers, including those in healthcare.

When ready, please see the [Advising Appointments](#) section of our website for suggestions on how to prepare for your advising appointment.

**Q. What classes do I have to take to get into professional school (medical, dental, etc.)?**

- A. Admissions requirements for professional schools vary based on the type of school (ie, medical vs. dental) and even among schools of the same type (ie, medical school to medical school). Many professional schools require applicants to have completed full-year course sequences in General Chemistry and Biology with labs. Other courses often required include Physics with lab, Organic Chemistry with Lab, and Microbiology. For more information on courses you will need to take at UCSB while following a particular pre-health track, [please visit this section of our website](#).

**Q. What are Pre-Health Enrichment Courses?**

- A. In addition to the various prerequisite courses in science, math, and behavioral science that health professions school require of all applicants, UCSB also has a wide variety of courses that can help students further expand their knowledge of healthcare and healthcare-related issues. Please visit the [Pre-Health Enrichment Courses](#) section of our website to learn more about these offerings.

**Q. Is it possible to study abroad while following a pre-health track?**

- A. Yes, it is possible to study abroad as a pre-health student! Doing so during the summer months is typically ideal, but some students are able to work in a study abroad opportunity during the regular academic year. We suggest students who wish to study abroad speak to a pre-health advisor first during a drop-in advising session. Students should also work closely with EAP advisors.

**Q. Is it difficult to get research experience at UCSB?**

- A. UCSB is unique in that opportunities to take part in undergraduate research are available for those who are interested. Resources to explore when learning more about these opportunities include your very own faculty instructors, the [Faculty Research Assistance Program's \(FRAP\)](#) website, and also the [Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities \(URCA\)](#) grant.

**Q. When should I start shadowing or seeking volunteer opportunities in a clinical setting?**

- A. When you are able! We suggest incoming first-year and transfer students wait until their second quarter before getting involved in extracurricular opportunities. Doing so allows students to familiarize themselves with the university and its quarter system, develop good study habits and time management skills, and also to focus on academics. Lastly, for many first-year students, the ideal time to seek out clinical opportunities is during the summer between first and second years. Please visit the [Extracurricular Experiences](#) section of our website for more information.

**Q. What opportunities do students have for getting clinical experiences in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area?**

- A. Opportunities are available almost everywhere for the students who put in the time to research them. UCSB offers opportunities for 3rd year+ students to gain clinical experience through our INT 184PD course, and many pre-health student organizations on campus offer opportunities for students to get involved in a variety of clinical volunteer opportunities in the area.

**Q. Do I have to be a Biology major?**

- A. No. You should try to find a major that incorporates both your academic strengths and personal passions. Professional schools do not care what you major in as long as you at least complete--with excellent grades--the minimum prerequisite courses for your particular profession.

**Q. Do I have to be in the Honors Program?**

- A. No, you do not have to be in the Honors Program; however, students who are part of the program tend to have higher rates of acceptance to professional school. The reason for this is because in order to remain in the Honors Program, students *must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher*. A strong GPA is one of many factors that help a student to be considered a competitive applicant, but students who are not in the Honors Program are just as likely to be able to maintain a GPA of 3.5+.

**Q. Will my AP credits count?**

- A. Your AP credits “count” in that they can help you to meet degree requirements, provide you exposure to coursework that exceeds the typical rigor of most high school courses, and the additional units provide you with earlier pass times. On the other hand, many professional schools will not accept AP credit to satisfy prerequisite course requirements. Please speak to a pre-health advisor or plan to attend our Health Professions Advising presentation during new student orientation, which is when we will go into more detail on AP credit.

**Q. What should I focus on my first quarter?**

- A. Academics, to include developing better study skills (high school study skills are rarely sufficient for college-level courses) and better time management skills. Next, learn more about yourself and your career interests by visiting [Career Service's \(CS\)](#) website and speaking to a career counselor. CS can help you better understand how your unique strengths, skills, values and other characteristics might lend themselves to a variety of majors and careers. After that, spend time reviewing the information related to your career(s) of interest on the Health Professions Advising website, then connect with a pre-health advisor.

**Q. Is there tutoring available?**

- A. Yes! [CLAS offers a variety of services](#) designed to support students academically. We encourage our students to especially consider the one-on-one academic skills consultations and workshops that CLAS offers. These consultations and workshops help students understand and get the most out of their preferred learning styles while also exposing them to additional study and time management skills that will help them to be successful while at UCSB.

**Q. What can I do now, as a prospective student, to learn more about healthcare and being a pre-health student at UCSB?**

- A. The first thing to do is to learn more about your intended profession, and the UCSB Health Professions Advising website is a great place to start! Utilizing the information on our [Prospective Students and Parents](#) page will help you to become familiar with various sections of the website and resources available to you in it. From there, consider reviewing the career track that you are interested in following by visiting the [Pre-Health Tracks](#) section. For those who are interested in health professions but who may not know which career they would like to pursue, we encourage you to visit the [explorehealthcareers.org](http://explorehealthcareers.org) website. This site has information on many different health professions, including those that can be found in our Pre-Health Tracks section.