Math Guidelines for Pre-Health Students

When applying to professional school, a general rule of thumb is that students should complete a full year of math. Although professional school requirements vary widely (and it is the student’s responsibility to research these requirements), it’s best to be conservative in prerequisite recommendations.

Because UCSB does not put AP scores on students’ transcripts, students must find another way to get a full year of math on a transcript.

If a student has never taken any math courses at the college level, and they have not taken the AP Calculus exams, a solid recommendation can be Math 34A or 3A, Math 34B or 3B and PSTAT 5A or 5LS. There is no preference when it comes to Math 34 series vs 3 series.

If a student has credit for AP Calculus AB, their options are:
1. Take Math 34A/3A for study list credit, then Math 34B/3B and PSTAT
2. Take Math 34B/3B, Math 4A & PSTAT
3. Take Math 34B/3B, a CC course in math (preferably Calculus) & PSTAT

If a student has credit for AP Calculus AB & BC, their options are:
1. Take Math 34A/3A & 34B/3B for study list credit and PSTAT
   a. This option is somewhat controversial. Technically, students are repeating coursework that they have already earned credit for. This could be looked down upon by admissions counselors. However, if they took the AP test a while ago, the material may not be familiar to them anymore. Students with credit for both AP tests should meet with a pre-health advisor if possible.
2. Take some sort of combination of study list credit, CC courses & PSTAT
3. Move on to higher level math (Math 4A/B, PSTAT 5A, PSTAT 120A/B)

If a student has credit for the AP Statistics exam, their options are:
1. Take PSTAT 5A or 5LS for study list credit
2. Take a CC course in statistics, or higher level statistics at UCSB (PSTAT 120, etc)