

UCSB Health Professions Advising: Transfer Student Guide

UCSB Health Professions Advising created this guide to be used as a resource for incoming transfer students who are considering careers in the health professions. The information is organized based on where students are in their pre-professional journey when they come to UCSB.

We believe that each student's career path and personal needs vary, and we understand that the information included in this guide may not directly address each student's unique needs. Because of this, we want to encourage all incoming transfer students to please review the information on the Health Professions Advising website, particularly the FAQs, which can be found at the bottom of most pages of the website, and after doing so, to please schedule an appointment with one of our pre-health advisors sometime during your first quarter at UCSB.

FAQ for transfer students newly considering a career in the health professions

For transfer students who are newly considering pursuing a career in healthcare, we wanted to highlight a few important resources to help you get started on the right foot from the day you first step foot on campus.

Q. I want to be a physician/dentist/veterinarian, etc., but I'm having trouble explaining why. Who can help me?

A. Career Services: We all consider pursuing different careers for a wide variety of reasons, but what you may not have considered is how your current interests, skills, and values align with those of professionals currently working within your area of interest. Believe it or not, these things have an impact on how you explain to others why you are pursuing your intended profession.

Career Services has a number of tools and resources designed to help you further explore these topics and learn how they might lend themselves to careers both in healthcare and outside of it. We encourage you to first visit the Career Services website, <https://career.ucsb.edu/>, to learn more about these resources, then consider meeting with a career peer or career services counselor to discuss your interests further.

Q. I've done a lot of reflection (Hopefully even utilized Career Services), and I know I want to be a physician/dentist/veterinarian, etc., so how do I learn what is required to get into professional school?

A. Health Professions Advising Website: Our website contains information and resources to help you as you progress on your pre-health track.

Pre-Health Tracks Section: Here you will find information on prerequisite courses, sample course schedules, and links to additional resources. For many transfer students, prerequisite courses are of immediate concern. At UCSB, students must complete the General Chemistry sequence, which consists of Chem 1A/AL, 1B/BL, and 1C/CL, before they can continue onto the Introductory Biology sequence, which consists of MCDB 1A and 1B, EEMB 2 and 3, and MCDB 1LL and EEMB 2LL (Chem 1C and MCDB 1A may be taken concurrently.). These courses are required by almost all health professions schools, are also necessary for many upper-division science prerequisites.

Note: Prerequisite courses often vary from one professional school to the next. For this reason, we strongly encourage students to visit the websites of each professional school they hope to apply to later in order to become knowledgeable of all the admissions requirements--including prerequisite courses--at each school.

[Current Students Section](#): You've been admitted to UCSB, so you are a current student! In this section, you will find a great deal of information on various topics, including how to [schedule an appointment](#) with a pre-health advisor, [extracurricular experiences](#) that will help you to prepare for professional school, and [information on other resources and departments](#) on campus that can assist you.

Q. Who can answer questions I have about my classes, experiences, and professional school requirements?

A. [Your Health Professions Advisors](#): We are here to answer your questions, connect you to resources, and support you as you work toward your career goals. We have staff advisors and pre-health peer advisors who you are able to schedule a 30 minute appointment with or to speak with during drop-in advising. More information on appointments can be found on our website in the Current Students section.

Q. If I have specific questions about my major, who should I go to?

A. [Department Advisors](#): The department advisors are your experts and go-to resources for all questions directly related to your major, including pre-major requirements, petitioning for the full major, and questions about upper-division courses. Each department has a website that contains important information and resources that are specific to that major and that often contain information on various careers associated with particular majors and degrees.

Q. Is it possible to complete all of my professional school requirements before graduating from UCSB?

A. Yes, it is possible. Completion of courses will vary for each student based on past performance in prerequisites, current performance in courses, undergraduate major (can influence in which Pass Time students are able to register for science courses), and other factors. We encourage students to speak with a Health Professions Advisor to discuss individual needs.

FAQ for transfer students who have already gotten started on a pre-health track

Some students come to UCSB having already completed several professional school prerequisite courses, and many have also begun to take part in extracurricular experiences, such as shadowing, volunteering, and other clinical work, that will help them to prepare for professional school.

In addition to the information described above for transfer students newly considering careers in healthcare, we have a few tips and suggestions for those of you who are already working toward professional school requirements.

Q. How should I prepare for my first appointment with a Health Professions Advisor?

A. Review and take notes on the information contained within the Health Professions Advising website. As you read through the information, take notes and write down questions that you can then ask a pre-health advisor during an appointment or drop-in.

Q. I earned good grades before coming to UCSB, but I want to make sure I keep it up. Who can help me?

A. Contact CLAS right away for a one-on-one Academic Skills Consultation. You will soon find, as many students do, that the time management and study skills that worked for you in high school and at your community college may not be sufficient for the academic rigor you will find at UCSB. We strongly encourage you to meet with one of the academic skills consultants to gain a better understanding of your preferred learning styles and also suggestions on how to improve your existing study skills.

Q. I want to get involved right away. Do you have any suggestions?

A. Extracurricular experiences, such as shadowing, volunteering, and so on are important in preparing for professional school, but we want students to first make sure that they adjust to the UCSB campus, the quarter system, and the rigor of a four-year institution before jumping into extracurricular experiences. Time management is also crucial. We advise transfer students to wait until they have a good handle on academics, and once they feel good about how they're doing in their classes, go ahead and start gradually seeking out additional activities.

Q. How can I learn more about the admissions requirements at the professional schools I want to apply to?

A. Since many transfer students start as 3rd-years, or juniors, it is very important to start researching the admissions requirements at the professional schools you hope to apply to. We suggest using the links to the program directories, which can be found in the Additional Resources section at the bottom of each pre-health track's page, to begin documenting each program's prerequisite courses and other admissions requirements and policies. A spreadsheet is usually a great way to track this information.

Q. I completed part of a science sequence prior to coming to UCSB. What classes do I need to take at UCSB to complete the sequence?

A. This will depend on how the courses that were taken outside of UCSB are evaluated to determine their UCSB equivalencies. This is important to both your undergraduate degree requirements, particularly if you are/or plan to pursue a major within the Biology and Psychological and Brain Sciences Departments, and your professional school prerequisite course requirements because you need to meet both sets of requirements.

We encourage transfer students to check [assist.org](https://www.assist.org) to determine which UCSB courses the courses taken at their CC will satisfy and have official transcripts sent to UCSB as soon as possible so that they may be reviewed and so that prerequisites can be cleared prior to registering for courses at UCSB.

Additional Information

Students who transfer into UCSB after one year at a CC or one year at another four-year institution will, ideally, have completed at least courses that are equivalent to UCSB's General Chemistry sequence (Chem 1A/AL, 1B/BL, and 1C/CL), and ideally will have also completed courses that are equivalent to UCSB's Introductory Biology course sequence (MCDB 1A and 1B, EEMB 2 and 3, and MCDB 1LL and EEMB 2LL).

Students who transfer into UCSB after two years at a CC or two years at another four-year institution will, ideally, have completed all previously mentioned science courses, as well as a full year of courses equivalent to UCSB's Organic Chemistry series with labs (CHEM 109A, 109B, and 109C, and CHEM 6AL and 6BL), and ideally will have also completed courses that are equivalent to UCSB's Physics 6 series (PHYS 6A/AL, 6B/BL, 6C/CL).

Students who have not completed these courses may not be able to major in Biology and will likely have to take courses in the summer between their first and second years at UCSB to satisfy pre-major requirements for the Psychological and Brain Sciences majors.