

## Premedical and Predental

*Margaret L. Hudson, PhD, Advisor*

If you are interested in careers in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, physical therapy, pharmacy, or biomedical research, please meet with Dr. Hudson early during your first year at Seattle University, and after that on a regular basis, so that we can work together toward your professional goals. It is important also to meet regularly with your academic advisor in your major department. You will probably want to get involved in the PreHealth Club, which sponsors speakers, outings, and projects of interest to students preparing for careers in the health professions. The PreHealth Handbook, available online through the Seattle University website, should be helpful at all stages of your planning and exploration of careers in the health professions.

Most of Seattle University's premedical, predental, preveterinary, preoptometry, and other pre-health professions students major in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, general science, or psychology, but you may choose any academic major at Seattle University as long as you complete at least the minimum science course work listed below. Within the framework of any one of these undergraduate degree programs, students obtain strong backgrounds in the liberal arts through the core curriculum.

Most medical, dental, and veterinary schools typically require the following undergraduate science sequences: CHEM 121, 122, 123, 131, 132, 133, 335, 336, 337, 345, 346, 347; BIOL 161/171, 162/172, 163/173; PHYS 105, 106, 107 or PHYS 121, 122, 123. Schools of optometry generally require less organic chemistry. Professional schools also recommend or require calculus, cell physiology, and biochemistry. Check the Bulletins of the professional schools of interest to you and talk with Dr. Hudson to learn about specific requirements. Most professional schools require, as a part of the application process, nationally standardized exams that draw on your college science background and analytical skills. These exams are taken a year to a year and a half in advance of the time you expect to enroll in the professional school, so planning the timing of required science courses is important.

Competition for entrance into medical, dental, veterinary, optometry, and other health professions schools is strong. The schools look for evidence of intellectual ability, understanding of the profession based on your own direct experience, a sense of service, and personal qualities appropriate to the profession. Since required academic course work is challenging and professional demands are high, it is important that you regularly assess whether your original goal is still right for you.

The application process for entering graduate programs or professional school should start at least a year in advance of the time you hope to enroll. Dr. Hudson and your academic advisor will be happy to assist you. The required standardized tests such as the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), Optometry Admission Test (OAT), Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and the Dental Admission Test (DAT) are administered individually on computer by appointment with a testing service. The health professions schools to which you are applying will ask you to provide to them transcripts and individual letters of recommendation from people who are able to speak directly about your strengths.

The Premedical/Predental Advisory Committee is available to conduct an interview with each applicant and subsequently will write a supportive letter of evaluation for each qualified applicant. Interviews with the Committee are scheduled with Dr. Hudson and are held in May.