What does it mean to be Pre-Chiropractic at WWU?

Students who self-identify as pre-chiropractic may consult with Pre-Healthcare Advising about matters pertaining to their preparation and application to chiropractic schools. Selection committees evaluate candidates across multiple areas through a holistic review process. Important components include GPA (both cumulative and science), exposure to the profession, letters of recommendation (typically from one chiropractor and two professors), extracurricular activities, community service, and an interview, as well as background checks (including legal, conduct, and social records). Although 135-quarter credits of undergraduate study are minimally required for admission to chiropractic schools, keep in mind many states require chiropractors to have a Bachelor’s degree in order to practice. The typical applicant has earned a four-year degree.

Pre-Chiropractic Education

Most schools express applicants should obtain a foundation of coursework selected across the Life & Physical Sciences as well as the Humanities & Social Sciences. They do not recruit students from one specific major or discipline. This allows you to explore many academic fields, to develop basic skills and knowledge, to demonstrate expertise and to experience a field of study (major) of your choice. Align with a major in which you both excel and enjoy. Pre-healthcare students have majored in diverse subjects. Although the sciences are common, other popular disciplines include Anthropology, Kinesiology, languages, Psychology, self-designed programs, and even combined majors.

Core Courses

Regardless of your major, certain prerequisites expected by most schools include:

LIFE & PHYSICAL SCIENCES, ½ with labs, 36-48 credits selected from courses in:

CHEMISTRY (NOTE: students should begin general chemistry as early in their program as possible)
- General Chemistry: CHEM 161 or Honors CHEM 125 [complete the series for some majors]
- Organic Chemistry and/or Biochemistry: CHEM 250 and/or CHEM 375
  - Some majors require the Organic Chemistry series: CHEM 351, 352, 353 plus labs

BIOLOGY
- General Biology: BIOL 204, 205 [complete the series for some majors]
- Anatomy & Physiology: BIOL 348, 349
- Microbiology recommended: BIOL 245 or BIOL 345 & 346

PHYSICS
- Physics: PHYS 114, 115 [complete the series for some majors]

MATHEMATICS
- Statistics: MATH 240 [or major equivalent; i.e. BIOL 340 for Biology majors]

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES, 24-36 credits, to include:
- Psychology 101
- English (two courses)
- Communications

This document is for preliminary advising purposes only.

We encourage you to meet with a Pre-Healthcare advisor on a regular basis to determine a plan that is best for you.

Keep informed

- WWU students may join the Advisor's Pre-chiropractic Listserv. To join, e-mail Anna.Tognazzini@wwu.edu with the following SUBJECT information: Pre-chiropractic listserv, Last name, First name, WWU student number, and major (if declared).
- Pre-health clubs: Join WWU Associated Students special interest clubs at www.as.wwu.edu/clubs/.
Notes

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP): Check with targeted schools whether they recognize AP as college-earned credit. Not all do. **It is better to view any earned credits as qualifying to enroll in upper-division courses rather than as “testing out” of prerequisites.**

DECLARING A MAJOR: Departments vary in how to declare majors. Behavioral Neuroscience, Biology, Chemistry, and others allow students to declare as a “pre-major” while taking their specified prerequisites. Some majors require a specific GPA in certain courses. Declare early, even as a “pre-major”, to help shorten your time to degree. While working on any pre-major content, explore many disciplines to keep your options open.

ACCESS TO CLASSES: High demand exists for upper-division courses, especially in the sciences. Many departments grant enrollment priority to students declared in specific majors over those seeking enrollment for professional school purposes. Registration access procedures for courses can change, and departments generally provide updates via their websites and email notifications, or by checking with the department’s program coordinator.

REPEATING/DROPPING COURSES: When you repeat a course, only your most recent grade is used when Western calculates your GPA. However, the class still shows up on your transcript. Although some students think that repeating a course will help them get into professional schools, this is almost always untrue. Medical schools will take into account ALL college-level coursework when performing their own calculation of your GPA, and this will include any courses you have repeated at Western. Still, in some circumstances it may be appropriate to repeat a course so talk to an advisor to be sure. Also, dropping a course can have an impact on eligibility for financial aid, scholarships, and athletic participation so consider your options carefully and speak with an advisor before making a decision.

SHADOWING: Students should gain shadowing experience with a non-relative chiropractor to gain exposure to the profession and generate a professional letter of recommendation. Discuss your shadowing options with Pre-healthcare advisors.

GRE: The Graduate Record Exam is available at contracted testing sites (including WWU) by pre-arranged reservation. GRE information, including free and low cost preparation materials, are available at [http://www.ets.org/gre/](http://www.ets.org/gre/).

Additional Resources

WWU Allied Health Advising: [www.wwu.edu/alliedhealth](http://www.wwu.edu/alliedhealth)
WWU Pre-health Pinterest: [www.pinterest.com/wwuprehealth/](http://www.pinterest.com/wwuprehealth/)
Association of American Chiropractic Colleges (AACC): [www.chirocolleges.org](http://www.chirocolleges.org)
Council on Chiropractic Education: [http://cce-usa.org](http://cce-usa.org)
Explore Health Careers: [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

---

**Pre-Healthcare Advising Events**

Typical programming events offered by Pre-Healthcare Advising include (but are not limited to):

**Fall:**
Health Professional & Grad School Info Fair, October 18 in MAC gym
Winter Registration Walk-in Advising: Nov 14 and Nov 15, 12-2 in Bl 415

**Winter:**
Kaplan-sponsored practice MCAT in late January/February
Spring Registration Walk-in Advising: Feb 27 and 28, 12-2 in Bl 415

**Spring:**
The Healthcare Professional School Application: A session overviewing the process
Fall Registration Walk-in Advising: May 15 and 16, 12-2 in Bl 415