Pre-Chiropractic

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 121 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.*

Ongoing consultations with the Pre-Healthcare advisors is encouraged for effective holistic preparation.

Keep informed

- WWU students may join the Advisor’s Pre-chiropractic Listserv. To join, e-mail Renee.Murray@wwu.edu or 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/.

Contact Information

**Pre-Med Advisors:**
- George Kriz, Ph.D.
  360-650-3268
  George.Kriz@wwu.edu
- Renée Murray, M.Ed.
  360-650-3268
  Renee.Murray@wwu.edu
- Anna Tognazzini, M.Ed.
  360-650-2155
  Anna.Tognazzini@wwu.edu

To meet with an advisor:
- Call 360-650-4240
  Old Main 280

Pre-Healthcare

Professions Advising

Website:

[www.wwu.edu/careers/prehealth.shtml](http://www.wwu.edu/careers/prehealth.shtml)
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, Kinesiology, and others allow students to declare as a "pre-major" while addressing their specified prerequisites. Some majors require a specific GPA across foundational 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 volume student 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 impacted courses can change, and departments commonly provide procedural updates through websites, seminars, and email notifications.

REPEATING/DROPPING COURSES: Regardless of Western’s policies, which are provided in the university catalog, https://catalog.wwu.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=2750, these actions are not generally viewed favorably by professional schools. Whereas Western may calculate the most recent repeated course into its GPA, some professional schools will average all grades earned for a course. While an isolated case may be acceptable, it will likely require an explanation on your application. Discuss your options first with a Pre-Healthcare Advisor. Be mindful both dropping and repeating courses can have an impact on eligibility for financial aid, scholarships, and athletic participation as well. Consult advisors in each area that applies to you when making your 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/.

Additional Resources

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

Pre-Healthcare Advising Events

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

Fall:
Health Professional School & Grad School Info Fair, October 19, 2017
Winter 2018 Pre-Registration Drop-in Advising (in BI 415): Nov 15 (10am-1pm); Nov 16 (3-5pm)

Winter:
Kaplan-sponsored practice GRE
Spring 2018 Pre-Registration Drop-in Advising (in BI 415): Feb 28 (12-3pm); March 1 (2-4pm)

Spring:
The Healthcare Professional School Application: A session overviewing the process
Fall 2018 Pre-Registration Drop-in Advising (in BI 415): May 16 (12-3pm); May 17 (2-4pm)