

## Helpful Hints for First Year Students Interested in Health Care

(From the Medical Studies Committee)

**These are the course requirements for students interested in pre-med, pre-dental, pre-vet, pre-nursing, etc:**

- Two semesters of **General Chemistry** with labs. Chem 107A/108A or Chem 107B/108B. It is good to **take General Chemistry in your first year** to assure maximum flexibility in choosing major and completing general education requirements.
- Two semesters **Organic Chemistry** with labs. Chem 217/218.
- Two semesters **General Physics** with labs. Physics 107/108.
- One or two semesters of **Calculus**. Math 105/106. If you have already taken AP Calc it is still a good idea to take Math 105, as it will give you a chance to experience a college-level course with familiar content. **Calc is often taken in the first year**. Some medical schools and other graduate level health-related programs require two semesters of math taken in college. Students who place out of Math 105 and/or 106 should take an additional upper-level math courses to fulfill this prerequisite. Some, but not all schools will accept a statistics course in lieu of one semester of math.
- Two semesters **Biology** with labs. Bio 101 and Bio 242.
- Two courses listed as **English** – First Year Seminars do not count.
- **Biochemistry** is becoming required at some medical schools and is a course that is an important base for the biochemistry course you will take in your first year of medical school.

FYI--Physical therapy, veterinary, nursing, occupational therapy and physician assistant programs have similar but often additional prerequisites. All required prerequisites need to be taken for a grade. Pass/fail is not acceptable and any grade lower than a C- does not meet the prerequisites.

**Any major is fine** as long as the student also completes the science and math prerequisites. **AP credit cannot be used to meet a requirement for admission to any health-related graduate or professional program**. For example, a student who has AP credit that allows opting out of Bio 101 would need to take another Bio course at a higher level, in addition to Bio 242, to meet the admission prerequisites.

Good grades are very important. While many students take Chemistry and Calculus in their first semester, you should be mindful of your own abilities and academic background. It is more important to do well in your courses than to overload your schedule with math and sciences in your first year. If you need help deciding what courses to take, check with one of the Medical Studies Advisors (see below).

We have a meeting for First Year students interested in health careers during the first week of classes. Please look for the date and time in your First Year packet. **You should definitely attend this meeting!**

**The Medical Studies Advisors are Professor Lee Abrahamsen in Biology and Karen Daigler in the Bates Career Development Center.** Appointments for advising can be scheduled through Sue Cook at the OCS by calling (207) 786 - 6233, or e-mailing scook@bates.edu. In person and phone appointments are available and encouraged.

LA/KD April 2010