ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

Washington College’s pre-health professions programs prepare undergraduates for careers as physicians, veterinarians, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, pharmacists, and nurses, as well as allied health careers such as physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, athletic trainers, and many more.

PREMEDECAL

Our premedical program supports students interested in pursuing a career in medicine as an allopathic physician (an M.D.), an osteopathic physician (a D.O.), a dentist, a podiatrist, an optometrist, or a veterinarian.

Although many premedical students major in one of the natural sciences, any major offered by the College may be pursued along with prerequisite courses required by the professional schools.

A Premedical Committee, including faculty members from several academic departments, provides career preparation advice to students and assistance with professional school applications. A committee process helps prepare the student to be a strong applicant and allows for an evaluative Committee Letter (the Committee’s letter of recommendation) to be sent to professional schools at the student’s request.

Premedical Committee Chair
Kathleen Verville, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology
kverville2@washcoll.edu, 410-778-7733

www.washcoll.edu/departments/premedical/

PRE-NURSING

Students in our pre-nursing program can earn either a four-year bachelor’s degree at Washington College, completing all of the pre-nursing prerequisite courses, and then apply for nursing school after they graduate, or they can opt for the 3:2 nursing articulation program with the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON).

Through our articulation agreement with UMSON, students earn two degrees in five years; a bachelor’s in biology or psychology from Washington College and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UMSON. The first three years are spent at Washington College and the final two at UMSON.

Students who opt for a traditional four-year program may benefit from our letter of agreement with Johns Hopkins University (JHU). With the assistance of a JHU liaison, qualified Washington College students can apply to the Johns Hopkins University “Master of Science in Nursing: Entry into Nursing” program.

Pre-Nursing Program Advisor
Tia Murphy, Ph.D., Chair & Associate Professor of Psychology
tmurphy2@washcoll.edu, 410-810-7476

www.washcoll.edu/departments/nursing/

PRE-PHARMACY

Students in our pre-pharmacy program can earn either a four-year bachelor’s degree at Washington College, completing all of the prerequisites for pharmacy school, and then apply for pharmacy school after they graduate, or they can opt for the 3:4 dual-degree program with the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP).

Through that articulation agreement with UMSOP, students earn two degrees in seven years; a Bachelor of Science in biology from Washington College and a Doctor of Pharmacy from UMSOP. The first three years are spent at Washington College and the final four at UMSOP.

Pre-Pharmacy Program Advisor
Martin Connaughton, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology
mconnaughton2@washcoll.edu, 410-778-7727

www.washcoll.edu/departments/pharmacy/

PRE-ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Occupational therapists, athletic trainers, physician assistants, and physical therapists are four popular career paths that fall under our Pre-Allied Health Professions program, but they are hardly the only ones. By some counts, upwards of 80 possible professions can be classified under Allied Health. Our Pre-Allied Health Professions program offers a variety of healthcare career paths and can help students find the right fit for their passions within the field.

We also have a partnership with Bridgewater College, a longtime national leader in athletic training, affording our students unique opportunities to gain admission into its M.S. program in athletic training.

Pre-Allied Health Professions Program Advisor
James Windelborn, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology
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www.washcoll.edu/academics/related-health-professions/
Why Pre-Health Professions at Washington College?

1. Our programs afford students interested in pursuing healthcare careers with myriad opportunities to prepare for those fields while simultaneously enjoying the breadth of educational, co-curricular, and extracurricular experiences offered at a nationally recognized, residential liberal arts college.

2. Because our programs are based in the liberal arts and our focus is on small classes, personal attention, and hands-on learning, we are able to consistently tell the remarkable stories of our students who go on to successful careers in every sector of healthcare. We closely mentor each student through the rigorous curriculum, preparation, and application processes needed to succeed in these dynamic patient-centered medical fields, and we graduate students who can problem-solve, think on their feet, and communicate clearly.

3. Washington College pre-health students have an extensive support network in place to help them find and secure (and sometimes even fund) internship, externship, job shadowing, and research opportunities. Such experiences are vital in gaining hands-on experience in healthcare prior to applying to professional schools.

Coordinator of Pre-Health Professions Programs
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Gabrielle James, M.D. '13
Biology and French double major
Pediatric Resident, University of Maryland Medical Center

For Gabrielle James, pursuing the premedical track at Washington College was the perfect fit. As a double major in biology and French and an avid musician, the College provided her the opportunity to successfully prepare herself for a medical career while still committing to the full liberal arts experience.

"Washington College allowed me to explore all of my interests, which has molded me into a well-rounded physician who can connect with people from different backgrounds," she reflects.

Gabrielle was an outstanding student, inducted into each of her majors’ respective honor societies and recognized with the Jane Huston Goodfellow Memorial Prize, given to an exceptional graduating science major who shows abiding appreciation for art and humanities." Her aptitude in the College’s strong natural sciences programs helped her land two summers at a selective undergraduate program at the University of Pennsylvania, working in the Department of Radiation Oncology and co-authoring a publication in the Journal of Radiation Research.

Gabrielle spent a semester studying abroad in France during her junior year. Her interests and experiences also went beyond academics – among other things, she was a flautist in the College’s wind ensemble, was active in both French Club and Health Occupations Students of America, and was a volunteer for the SafeRide program, providing transportation to students in need a ride.

That balance has helped foster a kind of perspective often lost in the highly-competitive arena of medical studies. "In this race to become a physician, it’s very easy to become single-minded, focusing all your energy on that one goal and forgetting other things that are important in life," Gabrielle observes.

After graduating from Washington College, Gabrielle went on to attend medical school at Thomas Jefferson University, but not right away. Gabrielle spent the year following her graduation back in France, maintaining the same balance of interests she had as an undergraduate student – working as an English teaching assistant, while also volunteering in a community orchestra and shadowing a pediatrician. That year further fostered Gabrielle’s growth both personally and professionally.

Gabrielle is currently a pediatric resident at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC), where her wide range of experiences at Washington College and in France have helped her adapt to working in downtown Baltimore. Her program at UMMC also places a good deal of emphasis on personal wellness, including encouragement to “keep up with activities that we are passionate about.”

That’s not difficult for Gabrielle, given her personality and her time at Washington College. She’s learned first-hand that being successful in medicine and ardently cultivating other interests are not mutually exclusive.

“One of the advantages of pursuing a medical path at a liberal arts college is that you aren’t boxed into what others think your college experiences should look like.”

We couldn’t agree more, Dr. James.