



University of  
**West Florida**

### ***OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS***

The University of West Florida is dedicated to promoting the success of our pre-professional students seeking admission to medical, dental, veterinary, pharmacy, and physician assistant programs as well as other health professional schools. We offer a plethora of opportunities to assist pre-professional students in achieving this goal and we continue to develop new platforms to prepare students for admission to professional school.

#### ***Pre-Professional Advisor and the Advisory Committee***

The Pre-Professional Advisor and Pre-Professional Advisory Committee serves students from all majors on campus who are seeking admission to professional schools. The Advisor provides guidance for students and evaluation of their credentials in their efforts to apply for professional schools. Students should meet with the advisor in their sophomore year to establish a path to success in their application to a health professional program. The Advisory Committee conducts “mock” interviews and writes the letters of recommendation for students seeking admission to professional schools. For contacts and additional information go to: [www.uwf.edu/biology/preprofessional](http://www.uwf.edu/biology/preprofessional)

#### ***Pre-Professional Student Organizations***

Five student organizations focusing on pre-professional areas are available for pre-professional students. These organizations establish an atmosphere of camaraderie and provide opportunities for students to engage in health-related community service, support net-working opportunities that assist students in understanding and assessing the profession of their choice and in applying to professional schools, sponsor talks by recruiters from professional schools, as well as create a foundation for mutual support among pre-professional students regarding academic issues. These organizations include:

Alpha Epsilon Delta, the American Medical Student Association, the Pre-Pharmacy Society, the Pre-Dental Society and the Pre-Veterinary Society.

#### ***Clinical Experience in Health Care Course***

We are aware that pre-professional students must show evidence of clinical experience as part of the criteria for application to some professional specialties. In the past each student had to identify and solicit permission to engage in a clinical experience opportunity in the health care community in order to fulfill this obligation. The Department of Biology has designed a course entitled "Clinical Experience in Health Care" as an upper division elective providing clinical experience for the pre-professional student. This 3 credit hour course will place students in clinical settings within the region to provide them with the kinds of

experience for which evidence is required for application to professional schools as well as to allow them to perform in the real-world setting they have chosen to enter.

### ***P4 Program***

The Post-baccalaureate Pre-professional Preparation Program (P4 Program) is for students who hold a baccalaureate degree but do not have the science courses necessary to qualify for admission to a professional school. They now have a platform at UWF for taking the courses necessary to make successful application to medical, dental, veterinary, pharmacy, physical therapy and other professional schools in the health sciences arena. This is called the P4 Program. The P4 opens a broad mosaic of support for these students which includes the Pre-professional Advisory Committee and Pre-Professional Advisor and the five pre-professional student organizations.

### ***Agreements Between UWF and Professional Schools***

Several agreements are currently in place between the University of West Florida and professional schools that promote admission of qualified UWF graduates into the targeted professional programs.

### ***The College of Medicine at the University of South Florida***

If you are entering the UWF Honors Program as a freshman and are interested in attending medical school, you have an opportunity to receive admission to The University of South Florida College of Medicine and complete a medical degree in seven years, provided that you meet all the requirements of the program. You will do your first three years of study as an Honors student at the University of West Florida, and the fourth year at USF College of Medicine as part of your first year of medical school. You will receive your Bachelor's Degree following successful completion of the Honors Program requirements (typically after the fourth year). You will receive the Doctor of Medicine Degree after the successful completion of the medical program.

### ***The College of Medicine at Florida State University***

If you are entering the UWF Honors Program as a freshman and are interested in attending medical school, you have an opportunity to receive admission to Florida State University College of Medicine provided that you meet all the requirements of the program. FSU COM will be recruiting and advising our students, and a close relationship between the FSU COM campus and faculty will allow interaction with prospective applicants from UWF.

### ***Alabama Medical Education Coalition***

The goal of AMEC is to train osteopathic physicians who will work in underserved regions of Alabama. Students interested in Family Practice, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology are encouraged to apply. *AMEC is a dynamic partnership between **The University of West Florida,***

*20 Alabama Colleges and Universities and 10 Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. AMEC is a clearing house for admissions for qualified graduates from these schools into the osteopathic schools listed below. **AMEC has dedicated 10 slots for qualified UWF students at partner osteopathic schools.** Based on ACT and grades, students who are identified as potential applicants in their freshman year are eligible for early admission into a 7-year program in DO school.*

### ***American University at Antigua***

AUA will offer admission to its educational program leading to the Doctor of Medicine degree to graduates of the UWF programs. In addition to completing one of the Approved Programs, a student also must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be admitted to AUA.

- a. An overall Grade Point Average of 3.25 or higher;
- b. A Grade Point Average of 3.00 or higher in pre-requisite courses required by AUA;
- c. No "F" or "D" grade in any pre-requisite course required by AUA;
- d. A score of 24 or higher on the Medical College Admission Test; and
- e. A recommendation for admission by an AUA Admission Officer who has interviewed the applicant in person.

This program affords students who for a variety of reasons may not have been able to achieve the GPA and MCAT scores required for admission to most U.S. Medical schools, an opportunity to realize their goal of earning an M.D.

### ***Research Opportunities***

Some professional schools require that applicants have engaged in scientific research. Our faculty provide many opportunities for students to engage in research and are happy to have students participating in research projects for credit (Directed Independent Studies), as paid assistants or through an Honors' Program thesis project.