

Pre-Med

at Centre College

Medicine and related fields are a strong area of interest for our students. Centre grads get into the top med schools, and they've established a record of success both as medical students and later in their careers.

What advantages does Centre offer pre-med students?

General Advantages. At Centre you'll get a great all-around education: first-rate teachers, first-rate facilities, and small classes that emphasize challenging and personal attention. Centre is consistently ranked among the nation's best institutions. *U.S. News and World Report* has listed us as one of the 25 colleges in America that are "tops in teaching." A Centre education gives you skills in analysis, critical thinking, and oral and written communication—abilities that enable you to get into leading med schools, do well in your professional studies, and establish a successful medical practice.

Specific Advantages. We offer numerous healthcare-related volunteer opportunities at Danville's Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center. We also provide for-credit internship opportunities in medical and other science-related settings.

Centre students have lots of opportunities to do joint research with faculty members. They often co-author papers for publication with their professors and later present their work at professional meetings. These publication credits and professional experiences help in gaining admission to med schools.

Our active Pre-Med Society for students interested in health-related careers is led by Dr. Joe Workman, the College's chief health professions advisor. In addition to discussing topics related to professional education and careers, the group organizes field trips to medical schools, sponsors guest speakers, coordinates health-care volunteer activities, and maintains a list of local physicians whom students can shadow.

Centre's size means our teachers get to know you both as a student and as a person. This enables them to give good advice about advanced study and enables them to write detailed, effective letters of recommendation in support of your application to professional schools.

What are the requirements for getting into med school?

Almost every medical school in the U.S. has the same basic entrance requirements. The requirements that follow are also essential for success on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).

- Two semesters of biology with lab
- Two semesters of general chemistry with lab
- Two semesters of organic chemistry with lab
- Two semesters of physics with lab
- Two semesters of general college composition
- General college mathematics (math requirements vary depending on the school)
- One semester of biochemistry (recommended by most medical schools)

What else do med schools want?

- High academic performance in college coursework—a 3.5 GPA or higher
- Strong performance on the MCAT—a combined score of 28 or higher
- Strong evaluations by the health professions committee at Centre
- Significant experience in the medical field



"There is a great sense of comraderie among my classmates, and I've formed amazing friendships with them. The professors are always there to help in anyway they can, and this leads to an entire network of people that are supportive."

Jamison Norwood
Centre Class of 2009
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Major

What's the timing for the med school entrance test?

Normally you take the MCAT in the spring of or summer after your junior year and apply for med school in the summer after your junior year. Dr. Workman, the pre-med advisor, provides registration information for the MCAT and the American Medical College Application Service, as well as information regarding the student-evaluation process involving faculty and staff members at the College.

What do pre-med students major in?

There's no specific undergrad major required to be admitted to medical school. A number of our recent students have gone to med school after majoring in areas such as English, philosophy, psychology, religion, and economics, in addition to the traditional sciences of biology, biochemistry and molecular biology (BMB), chemistry, and physics.

How successful are Centre students at getting into med school?

Centre students do extremely well in med school admission. The vast majority of our graduates gain entrance on their first try; for some, it takes a second try. The most accurate indication of success rate is the three-to-five year average of all who apply and persist. Centre's rate is 90-95 percent *of all who apply, not just those recommended by our evaluation committee*. Students who don't succeed on the first application typically take graduate-level courses or work in the health professions before re-applying. When this additional time is needed, our health professions advisor continues to work with those students to increase their chances for success.

What med schools do Centre grads attend?

Over the past 10 to 15 years, the majority of Centre pre-meds have attended either the University of Kentucky or the University of Louisville medical schools. But students have also been successful at Vanderbilt, Emory, University of Michigan, Medical College of Ohio, University of Cincinnati, Indiana University, Pikeville, Johns Hopkins, University of Virginia, and similar institutions.

Faculty and Advisors

A committee of science faculty advises students interested in the health professions. The major health-related fields are listed elsewhere on this page; advising is also available for other fields not listed. Specific activities of our Health Professions Advising Committee include:

- Maintaining contact with the major health organizations and professional schools to keep up on entrance requirements and admission trends.
- Visiting professional schools to develop strong relationships with admission personnel to learn about specific requirements at those schools.
- Meeting with students to plan course schedules, suggest opportunities for practical experience, and offer advice on choice of professional schools.

Members of the committee and advising areas are

CHRISTINE BARTON, Professor of Biology (Ph.D., Oregon State University); pre-optometry advisor, chris.barton@centre.edu, (859) 238-5322.

MIKE BARTON, Professor of Biology (Ph.D., Oregon State University); pre-veterinary advisor, mike.barton@centre.edu, (859) 238-5320.

STEPHANIE DEW, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University); pre-dentistry and pre-physical therapy advisor, stephanie.dew@centre.edu, (859) 238-5316.

MELANIE HAUSER, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry (Ph.D., University of Oregon); pre-pharmacy advisor, melanie.hauser@centre.edu, (859) 238-5324.

JENNIFER MUZYKA, Professor of Chemistry (Ph.D., University of Texas); pre-pharmacy advisor, jennifer.muzyka@centre.edu, (859) 238-5413.

MARGARET RICHEY, Professor of Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (Ph.D., University of Kentucky); pre-nursing advisor, peggy.richey@centre.edu, (859) 238-5319.

JOE WORKMAN, Professor of Chemistry, (Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University); Chief Health Professions Advisor, joe.workman@centre.edu, (859) 238-5415.



For further information about pre-med at Centre, write, call, or e-mail

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Health professions preparation Web page

www.centre.edu/web/academic/majors/premed.html

For general information about Centre, contact

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