



Northeastern University PreMed and PreHealth Advising Program

Pathway Handout

GETTING STARTED

Medical Applicant Portal (MAP): MAP is an online resource for undergraduate students and alumni to identify themselves as Pre-Health and stay informed of important events, services, requirements and deadlines. It also serves as a portfolio to help prepare students for the application process. Create a MAP account in StudentHub.

Connect with us: Learn more about our program and advising services, by visiting our [New Students](#) webpage.

EXPERIENTIAL PREPARATION

Community Engagement: Health professional programs expect applicants to demonstrate a desire to help, work with, and understand others. Working in healthcare requires a service orientation and commitment to your community. Engage your campus community through [student organizations](#), a [Community Service & Civic Engagement program](#), and/or a Service-Learning course. Volunteer in meaningful ways to become an engaged and educated citizen dedicated to helping others.

Research: To be an effective healthcare leader you must understand how treatments move from discovery and development to the bedside. Having an understanding of the research process allows for an informed interpretation of hypotheses, results, and translation into practice. Research is an integral part of a competitive medical school application and strongly recommended for other Pre-Health Pathways. Examples may include volunteering in academic labs, co-curricular opportunities (E.g., Directed Study, Capstone, etc.), [NU research awards and fellowships](#), and/or paid employment (E.g., Co-op, internship, etc.).

Clinical: Clinical experiences are an important way to explore the healthcare field and demonstrate ongoing interest in the profession. Clinical experience can come in a variety of roles and opportunities but should include direct interaction with practitioners (employment or shadowing) and direct care for patients (employment or volunteering). It is important to consider any program-specific clinical requirements for your chosen PreHealth pathway. For example, many PA programs require an approximate number of hours (about 2,000 for competitive applicants) of hands-on patient care experience prior to applying. Many health fields also require shadowing hours prior to applying.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Selecting an Academic Program: Health professional program requirements can be completed alongside any academic program at Northeastern. Applicants come from all academic backgrounds, and admissions committees value this diversity. Choose a major—or, for post-baccalaureate learners, a course of study—that aligns with your interests and goals. It's normal for interests and career plans to evolve. Changing direction is a natural and valuable part of the journey.

Common Courses: The courses listed on the [Academic Preparation](#) page of our website fulfill the requirements of many health professional programs and are designed to build a strong foundation in subjects relevant to your intended field and entrance exam. The page also offers guidance on GPA calculations and how to incorporate study abroad, AP/IB credits, and dual enrollment coursework into your PreHealth Pathway.

ENTRANCE EXAM

Achieving a competitive score on your health graduate program's entrance exam (E.g., MCAT, DAT, OAT, GRE, or PA-CAT), as applicable, shows preparation for your future career and is an important step in your professional journey. Learn more about the relevant entrance exam, if any, for your graduate health program by visiting our [Entrance Exams](#) webpage.

NU OPPORTUNITIES

Co-Op: NU's cornerstone Cooperative Education Program offers undergraduate students a unique opportunity to engage in full-time work as a part of their academic plan of study.

Global Experiences: The Global Experience Office (GEO) at NU provides intercultural learning that will deepen knowledge of the world, foster exploration of career opportunities, and develop global consciousness.

Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate Program: Supporting both academic record enhancers and career changers, this program provides individuals who have already completed an undergraduate degree the opportunity to complete or enhance their premedical coursework in their preparation for graduate health programs.