

Frequently Asked Questions: Pre-Medicine

What are some of the strengths of the Auburn pre-health advising program?

Students get individual guidance about course selection, choice of major, and the application process to professional schools from the pre-health advisors in the College of Sciences and Mathematics Dean's Office. Students receive advice from professionally trained advisors as well as peer advisors who have successfully participated in the program. Students are provided with opportunities to gain clinical experience in their intended professions and to engage in volunteer and leadership activities. Students can schedule mock interviews with an admissions committee member from the Alabama professional schools to get feedback about their applications and chances for acceptance during the spring semester each year.

Do Auburn advisors participate in the professional advising organizations such as the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP) and the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)?

Yes, attending and making presentations at professional meetings sponsored by these organizations allows Auburn advisors to be informed about state and national trends in the health professions.

How can prospective students find out about the quality of Auburn's academic programs?

Prospective students can talk to current medical students, practicing physicians, admissions officers of medical schools and other students who have heard about the excellent programs at Auburn.

Some colleges offer guaranteed positions in their medical schools if students complete their undergraduate courses there and perform at a certain level. Should students accept such offers even though they prefer to attend Auburn?

These programs are designed to get students to enroll in that institution. Students accepted to these programs have been identified as good candidates to get into medical schools. These students will surely be accepted to many medical schools and should not commit themselves to any one school directly out of high school. Also, students sometimes change their minds about wanting to attend medical school after about two years in college, but may feel pressured to stay in these types of programs. Students must seriously weigh the merits of a guaranteed admission program.

Auburn is supposed to be a tough school academically. Should students attend easier colleges to earn higher grades?

Students should avoid this strategy. Grades alone do not get students into medical school. Students must take a medical school admissions test and obtain a broad educational background to compete with other highly qualified students. Auburn

students perform at very competitive levels on these exams and compete with the best in the country.

Are there any scholarships available for pre-health students?

Yes, there are a limited number of scholarships available for highly qualified students. [See Scholarship page.](#)

What percentage of Auburn applicants is accepted to medical school?

This is a common question that is very difficult to answer. To accurately answer this question, the pre-health advisor would need to know the collegiate academic records, majors, admission test scores, states of residency, medical-related clinical experiences, general knowledge, record of volunteer activities, and interpersonal and interviewing skills of all Auburn applicants. Some Auburn students apply each year without participating in the pre-health programs available to them to improve their chances of acceptance and do not release this information. Some students who are not accepted one year are accepted during the following year. Also, some Auburn applicants are accepted to more than one medical school. All of these factors make it difficult to answer the question.

To be more direct, those who participate and perform well in the pre-health programs at Auburn are accepted at a very high rate. However, the reality is that not all students excel at Auburn. Nationally, the number of students accepted to medical schools and their credentials vary from year to year and from school to school. At Auburn, this number will depend on the size and competitiveness of the applicant pool for any given year.

How does Auburn compare to other Alabama schools in placing students in the state medical schools?

Auburn students are accepted to Alabama medical schools at a very competitive rate.

What are the most common majors of pre-medical students at Auburn?

Some of the most common majors include Biomedical Sciences (40%), Zoology (35%), Microbiology (10%), Chemistry (7%), Engineering (5%), and others (3-5%).

What if students want to major in one of the liberal arts, engineering, or some other curriculum?

Qualified applicants with many different majors are accepted to medical schools. However, these students should work closely with the pre-health advisors in the College of Sciences and Mathematics and participate in the programs available to assist them in reaching their personal and professional goals.

Should students gain experience in medical settings?

Students should certainly volunteer or seek paid employment in medical settings including hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices to confirm that medicine is their preferred career choice and to learn more about the profession. Medical schools expect applicants to have this experience.

Is there an active pre-health professions club at Auburn?

Yes, Auburn has a nationally recognized chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a health pre-professional honor society. Meetings are held twice a month on Tuesday evenings, and speakers address a variety of topics related to the health professions. Members also have opportunities to participate in volunteer and leadership activities sponsored by the organization. Visit the [AED Website](#) for more information.

How can students determine whether they are good candidates for acceptance to medical school?

Students can consult the Websites of the medical schools to which they plan to apply to learn the typical grade point averages, admission test scores and other qualifications of competitive applicants at those schools. Students can also meet with the Director of Pre-Health Professions Programs in the College of Sciences and Mathematics for assistance in assessing their competitiveness for acceptance. The credentials of accepted students vary from school to school and from year to year.

When should applicants take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)?

The Medical College Admission Test will be a computerized test after August 2006 and will be administered about twenty times per year. After thorough preparation, applicants should have taken it and received their scores no later than July 1 of the year they are applying to medical school. Auburn students can consult with the Director of Pre-Health Professions Programs in the College of Sciences and Mathematics Dean's Office for specific suggestions about preparing for and taking the MCAT.

When and how do students apply to medical school?

Most students apply to allopathic medical schools by using the AMCAS application available at www.aamc.org. They apply to most osteopathic medical schools using the AACOMAS application at www.aacom.org/, and they apply to most podiatric medical schools using the AACPMAS application at www.aacpm.org/. If medical schools do not use one of these centralized online application services then applicants must apply directly to the schools. Auburn students would be well advised to consult with the Director of Pre-Health Programs in the College of Sciences and Mathematics Dean's Office for assistance with all aspects of the application process since it can be complicated.

Where do most Auburn students attend medical school?

Since most Auburn students are Alabama residents, they attend either the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham or the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile because of the quality of these institutions and the lower tuition costs. However, Auburn graduates are currently enrolled in about twenty-five different medical schools, including some of the nation's most prestigious ones.

How well do Auburn students perform in medical schools?

Auburn students routinely perform at a very high level in medical school and are regularly elected to leadership positions.

What do students do if they don't get into medical schools?

Auburn's advising program is designed to inform students of the numerous opportunities available in the health professions. For this reason, students often pursue a wide variety of health careers after graduation. Also, applicants can correct deficiencies in their applications and apply again.

How long does it take to complete medical school?

Medical school programs are generally four years in length. After graduation from medical school, an additional three years or more are required to complete a residency in a chosen specialty.

Frequently Asked Questions: Pre-Dentistry

What are some of the strengths of the Auburn pre-health advising program?

Students get individual guidance about course selection, choice of major, and the application process to professional schools from the pre-health advisors in the College of Sciences and Mathematics Dean's Office. Students receive advice from professionally trained advisors as well as peer advisors who have successfully participated in the program. Students are provided with opportunities to gain clinical experience in their intended professions and to engage in volunteer and leadership activities. Students can schedule mock interviews with an admissions committee member from the Alabama professional schools to get feedback about their applications and chances for acceptance during the spring semester each year.

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Yes, attending and making presentations at professional meetings sponsored by these organizations allows Auburn advisors to be informed about state and national trends in the health professions.

How can prospective students find out about the quality of Auburn's academic programs?

Prospective students can talk to current dental students, practicing dentists, admissions officers of dental schools and other students who have heard about the excellent programs at Auburn.

Auburn is supposed to be a tough school academically. Should students attend easier colleges to earn higher grades?

Students should avoid this strategy. Grades alone do not get students into dental school. Students must take an admissions test and obtain a broad educational background to compete with other highly qualified students. Auburn students perform at very competitive levels on these exams and compete with the best in the country.

Are there any scholarships available for pre-health students?

Yes, there are a limited number of scholarships available for highly qualified students. [See Scholarship page.](#)

What are the chances of being accepted to dental school for students who have performed well at Auburn?

Well-qualified applicants have a fairly good chance of being accepted. Auburn students are placed at a very high rate.

Do students have to declare any particular major in college to go to dental school?

No, but most students at Auburn major in Zoology or Biomedical Sciences. Some students also major in Engineering, Business or the Liberal Arts. A student may major in any curriculum as long as he/she completes the minimum requirements for dental school.

Should students gain experience in dental offices?

Students should certainly volunteer or seek paid employment in dental offices to confirm that dentistry is their preferred career choice and to learn more about the profession. Dental schools expect applicants to have this experience.

Is there an active pre-health professions club at Auburn?

Yes, Auburn has a nationally recognized chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a health pre-professional honor society. Meetings are held twice a month on Tuesday evenings, and speakers address a variety of topics related to the health professions. Members also have opportunities to participate in volunteer and leadership activities sponsored by the organization. Visit the [AED Website](#) for more information.

How can students determine whether they are good candidates for acceptance to dental school?

Students can consult the Websites of the dental schools to which they plan to apply to learn the typical grade point averages, admission test scores and other qualifications of competitive applicants at those schools. Students can confirm that they are taking all required and suggested courses and meeting any other requirements for admission. The Director of Pre-Health Professions Programs in the College of Sciences and Mathematics Dean's Office is also available to help students with assessing their competitiveness for admission and with the application process to dental school.

When should applicants take the Dental Admission Test (DAT)?

The Dental Admission Test is computerized. After thorough preparation, most students should take the test by July 1 of the year they are applying to dental school, which allows time to retake it if necessary.

How and when do students apply to dental school?

Most schools participate in the online American Association of Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS). The student begins the application process in the summer between the junior and senior year. A separate application must be requested from schools that do not participate in AADSAS. Auburn students would be well

advised to consult with the Director of Pre-Health Programs in the College of Sciences and Mathematics Dean's Office for assistance with all aspects of the application process since it can be complicated.

Where do most Auburn students attend dental school?

Many Auburn students are residents of Alabama and thus attend the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in Birmingham because of the quality of the school and because of lower tuition costs. Some Alabama residents choose to attend private dental schools out of state. Students from other states should apply to the dental schools in their home states as well as private schools.

How well do Auburn students perform in dental schools?

Auburn students perform at a very high level in dental schools and are regularly elected to leadership positions.

What do students do if they don't get accepted to a dental school?

Auburn's advising program is designed to inform students of the numerous opportunities available in the health professions. For this reason, students often pursue a wide variety of health careers after graduation. Also, students can improve their applications and apply again.

How long does dental school last?

Dental school programs are usually four years in length. Upon graduation from dental school, students can enter practice or spend additional time in specialty training.

Frequently Asked Questions: Pre-Optometry

What are some of the strengths of the Auburn pre-health advising program?

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Do Auburn advisors participate in the professional advising organizations such as the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP) and the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)?

Yes, attending and making presentations at professional meetings sponsored by these

organizations allows Auburn advisors to be informed about state and national trends in the health professions.

How can prospective students find out about the quality of Auburn's academic programs?

Prospective students can talk to current optometry students, practicing optometrists, admissions officers of optometry schools and other students who have heard about the excellent programs at Auburn.

Are there any scholarships available for pre-health students?

Yes, there are a limited number of scholarships available for highly qualified students. [See Scholarship page.](#)

What are the chances of being accepted to optometry school for students who have performed well at Auburn?

Well-qualified applicants have a fairly good chance of being accepted. Auburn students are placed at a very high rate.

Do students have to declare any particular major in college to get into an optometry school?

Students with many different majors are accepted to optometry schools. Most Auburn students choose Zoology or Biomedical Sciences. The best advice is that students should select majors that can provide alternative career options in case they are not accepted to optometry school.

Should students gain experience in optometry offices?

Students should certainly volunteer or seek paid employment in optometry offices to confirm that optometry is their preferred career choice and to learn more about the profession. Optometry schools expect applicants to have this experience.

Is there an active pre-health professions club at Auburn?

Yes, Auburn has a nationally recognized chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a health pre-professional honor society. Meetings are held twice a month on Tuesday evenings, and speakers address a variety of topics related to the health professions. Members also have opportunities to participate in volunteer and leadership activities sponsored by the organization. Visit the [AED Website](#) for more information.

How can students determine whether they are good candidates for acceptance to optometry school?

Students can consult the Websites of the optometry schools to which they plan to apply to learn the typical grade point averages, admission test scores and other qualifications of competitive applicants at those schools. Students can confirm that they are taking all required and suggested courses and meeting any other requirements for admission.

When should applicants take the Optometry Admission Test (OAT)?

The Optometry Admission Test is now computerized. Most students should take it by

July 1 of the year they are applying to optometry school, which allows time to retake it if necessary.

How and when do students apply to optometry school?

Since there is no centralized application service, applicants must write to the individual optometry schools about eighteen months prior to the expected date of entry. Applications should be submitted early in the fall semester about one year before expected enrollment in optometry school.

Where do most Auburn students attend optometry school?

Many Auburn students are residents of Alabama and thus attend the University of Alabama School of Optometry in Birmingham because of the quality of the school and because of lower tuition costs. Some Alabama residents choose to attend private optometry schools out of state. Students from other states should apply to a public optometry school in their home state (if available) or to private schools. Some are able to apply to a state school if their home state has an agreement with that school.

How well do Auburn students perform in optometry school?

Auburn students perform at a very high level and are regularly elected to leadership positions.

What do students do if they don't get accepted to optometry school?

Auburn's advising program is designed to inform students of various opportunities in the health professions. For this reason, students often pursue a wide variety of health careers after graduation. Also, students can correct any deficiencies and apply again.

How long does optometry school last?

Optometry school programs include four years of specialized professional courses and clinical training. Upon completion of these four years, an individual can directly enter the practice of optometry as a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.)