A Quick Guide to Advising a Potential Pre-Health Student

Tell the student that they should contact Dr. Geoff Church, the Health Professions Advisor in BNW 207 (x-2485, gchurch@fairfield.edu) no matter what they decide after discussing pre-health with you. Ultimately, students need to work within Fairfield’s Health Professions Program (HPP) in order to apply to professional programs in the health sciences.

Any student can prepare for a career in the health sciences, no matter how long they have been at Fairfield U. and no matter what their major is, so it’s never too late.

- In general, the prerequisite courses required to apply to medical, dental, optometry, and pharmacy programs, etc. are:
  - BI 170 and 171 (General Biology I and II)
  - CH 111 and 112 (General Chemistry I and II)
  - CH 211 and 212 (Organic Chemistry I and II)
  - PS 15 and 16 (Physics I and II)
  - EN 11 and 12 (or any two EN classes)
  - PY 101 (general psychology-ask me!)
  - ***note*** BI 107+108 (Anatomy and Physiology I and II) are required for pre-Physical Therapy, pre-Occupational Therapy or pre-Physician Assistant in addition to BI170/171 but are not required for any other pre-health area

- Courses can be taken in any year, though beginning with CH 111 in the fall of freshman year is best (as two years of chemistry are required for most programs). If a student starts later, CH 111 should be taken as soon as possible.

- Most pre-requisites should NOT be taken during the summer if it can be avoided.

- In general community college credit will not count for many programs and in the case of medical school applicants, these or AP credits, are almost never accepted.

- If a student wants to matriculate to a professional school for the fall term after graduation all courses above should be completed by the end of the junior year as they will need to apply to schools in the summer before the senior year.

- Students should sign up for the Health Professions Program with Dr. Church and begin attending informational meetings that run tri-weekly.

- Nursing interested students may contact Dr. Church; however, Dr. Theresa Quell (undergraduate student services director) in nursing is a better resource.

- All students need to compile a number of clinical observation hours which can take place during breaks or even during the fall or spring at nearby clinical sites.

- Feel free to call me when you have a student in your office if you would like some initial advice over the phone.

Good Luck! Geoff