

MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM



In Health Sciences at Millikin University®

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If you are interested in a career in health care, the Pre-Professional Program (Health Sciences) is designed for you. The Millikin program utilizes knowledgeable, individualized advising practices to direct your preparation for graduate professional programs in health care. The Millikin Program of Student Learning and the academic requirements of your major in conjunction with current advising practices will provide the competency-based background for each student that is sought by professional schools:

- Individuals from diverse backgrounds who have a variety of talents and interests coupled to cultural competency.
- Students with a broad educational background, including a solid foundation in the liberal arts, highly developed communication skills, and a basic competency in the natural and behavioral sciences.
- Students who demonstrate a caring concern beyond their immediate community and who have well developed leadership skills.
- Students who are academically successful and knowledgeable about current issues in health care.



Our mission is to facilitate your entry into & success in a post-graduate program in a health-related career.

From the first time you step onto the Millikin campus, you have an opportunity to meet and engage with your Pre-Professional advisor. Your Pre-Professional advisor will help you make an informed, individualized choice of career; evaluate your strengths and weaknesses; identify gaps in your preparation; connect you with community health care resources; and assist with revising your professional school application.

At campus visit days, orientation and registration, individual visits, First Week, and the regular semester advising sessions, your Pre-Professional advisor is available to meet with you. In addition, office hours encourage you to drop in to say “hello” and have your questions answered. Working together with your Academic advisor, your Pre-Professional advisor will help you develop and design a plan of study, which will provide you with the basic competencies and requirements for professional school.

Since pre-health and pre-med are not academic majors at Millikin, you will be asked to declare a major in any area that you choose—English, psychology, business, mathematics, music, biology, or chemistry are just a few.

You must complete all of the University requirements in the humanities as part of the Millikin Program of Student Learning. We encourage you to take a wide variety of courses beyond both the requirements of your major and the University Studies Program.

Choice of major is your decision. However, some majors work better than others for certain health-related fields. Typically, students interested in physical and occupational therapy, veterinary medicine, and physician assistant graduate programs choose biology as their major. For medicine and dental medicine, any major in the university is appropriate as long as the competency requirements in the natural and behavioral sciences are met.

Pre-Professional Programs in Health Sciences

- Pre-dental medicine
- Pre-medicine
- Pre-medical technology
- Pre-occupational therapy
- Pre-pharmacy
- Pre-physical therapy
- Pre-physician assistant
- Pre-optometry
- Pre-chiropractic
- Pre-veterinary medicine



ACADEMICS

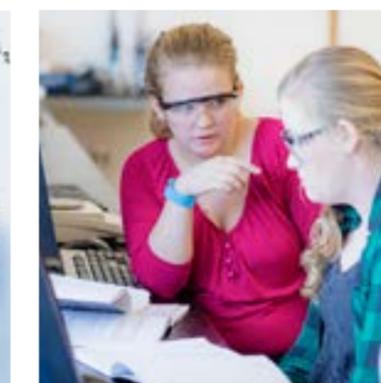
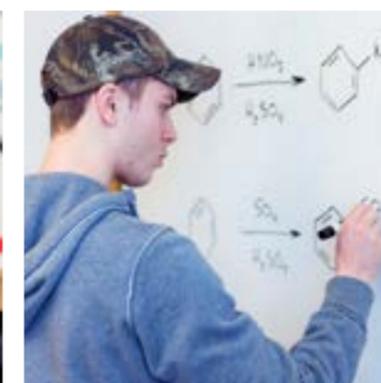
The preparation for professional school is an ongoing process that begins with your first class. Your goal is to demonstrate competency in the areas of the natural and behavioral sciences, be mathematically competent, demonstrate excellence in oral and written communication, and display a love of life-long learning. Minimally, excellent grades in the following courses should give you the ability to demonstrate basic academic competency.

General & Inorganic Chemistry with laboratory	2 semesters
Organic Chemistry with laboratory	2 semesters
Biology with laboratory	2 semesters
Physics with laboratory	2 semesters
Mathematics (through calculus)	1-2 semesters
English	2 semesters
Behavioral Sciences	3 semesters
Statistics	1 semester

There are more specific courses that are necessary for each profession. This information is available on the Millikin website under the 8-Semester Plan of Study or from the individual academic departments.



Performance Learning is the hallmark of a Millikin education and provides the perfect set up for success in professional school. At Millikin, we learn from many sources, not just textbooks. The degree of engagement in Performance Learning increases your competency in all academic areas. Success is not just about grades; rather it is about using critical thinking and ethical reasoning, and the application of acquired material to new and different situations. This type of learning is critical to success in health care.



EXPERIENCE IN HEALTH CARE

Admission committees at the professional schools look for evidence of your understanding of the profession you desire to enter. They want to see:

- Evidence of your caring and commitment to your chosen profession and your service to others.
- Exposure to your chosen field, reflecting your interest in the profession and your motivation for further study. This may involve entry-level work in the profession as well as shadowing.

At Millikin, there are a variety of mechanisms that provide you with opportunities to develop and demonstrate these traits and gain valuable experience.

These include but are not limited to:

- Internships for academic credit in various fields of health care
- Study Abroad opportunities
- Job shadowing with local health care providers

In addition to off-campus activities, admission committees look for evidence of leadership and caring beyond the Millikin community, including service organizations and positions as tutors or lab assistants. The service component of University Seminar provides meaningful assistance to the Decatur community, and gives you an early opportunity to build a résumé of experience that is attractive to professional schools.

EXPERIENCE IN RESEARCH

Research experience is not required by professional schools. However, it is strongly encouraged at Millikin and is a valuable experiential asset to carry into professional school. You should engage in undergraduate research with a Millikin faculty member as part of the natural and behavioral sciences curriculum. Students who are contemplating a MD/PhD program must have extensive research experience, both at and beyond Millikin prior to application to professional school. In addition, you will need to demonstrate evidence of publication.

APPLICATION

A PROFESSIONAL CONTACT NETWORK

Professional schools know Millikin University and our students. We have built an extensive contact network that supports the applications of qualified Millikin students to professional programs.

We will help you prepare a competitive application for post-graduate work. The director of the Pre-Professional Program will guide you through the complex application process, and provide individualized feedback and critique of the components of your application.

This is an area that is undergoing many changes, and so it is important for each student to engage with the Pre-Professional advisor in this process. Only through consultation with the Pre-Professional advisor will you know and understand what is being required by the professional schools.

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

General academic competency:
Overall grade point average

Competency in the basic natural sciences: Science grade point average

Overall competency in natural & behavioral sciences

Competency in communication and critical thinking skills: Admission examination scores

Personal competencies:
Recommendations, health-related experiences, leadership experiences, personal statement

ADMISSION EXAMINATIONS

All graduate programs in the health professions require completion of an admission examination. These examinations measure your aptitude in areas that are specifically related to the study of your chosen profession. These examinations also test your ability to apply information learned in the classroom to unique situations and also test your critical thinking skills. The examinations are generally taken during the junior year or between the junior/senior year. Millikin's Pre-Professional Program provides structured reviews for all of the admission exams. Our review system is unique and has produced consistently competitive results for students over many years. This preparation is taken seriously and is coordinated with academic work.

EXAMINATIONS REQUIRED BY EACH HEALTH-RELATED PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

- **Allopathic/Osteopathic Medicine/Podiatry**
Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- **Dental Medicine**
Dental Admission Test (DAT)
- **Optometry**
Optometry Admission Test (OAT)
- **Pharmacy**
Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)
- **Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy**
Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- **Physicians Assistant**
Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- **Podiatry**
Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- **Veterinary Medicine**
Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION AND EVALUATION

Millikin's Pre-Professional Committee is composed of faculty members from across the university. These dedicated faculty members interview primarily pre-medical and pre-dental students in the program with the goal of producing a letter of evaluation for the professional schools. The interview process uses individual, group and mini-encounter formats. Each student submits a packet of information (similar to their professional school application) that is reviewed by the Committee.

Taken together, the committee evaluates each student in the areas of motivation, academic competency, communication and critical thinking skills, as well as in the areas of leadership and maturity. The Committee, as a whole, provides the Pre-Professional Program director with a level of recommendation. The Program Director then composes a holistic letter of evaluation, which is sent, along with individual letters of Recommendation, to the designated professional schools. For dental, allopathic and osteopathic medicine, this is the preferred method of evaluation and recommendation.

Letters of recommendation solicited by the student from university faculty and others provide the professional schools with valuable information on each student's academic success, non-cognitive attributes, and personality. An ongoing discussion with your professors early in your academic career sets the stage for obtaining useful letters of recommendation.

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

One of the most important components of the application is the personal statement. The document will introduce you to the Admission Committee at each post-graduate professional school. The statement should be unique, thoughtful, insightful, and honest. Preparation of this statement will begin between the second and third year of undergraduate study. This provides time to write, think, revise, and receive feedback. You are encouraged to keep a journal of your health-related experiences that you can utilize in the preparation of this document. A workshop is available to facilitate this preparation.

THE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW

An interview at a professional school is an invited event and an integral part of the selection process. Qualified applicants are invited by the Admission Committee for an interview prior to a decision on acceptance. You will be assisted in the preparation for the interview by the Program Director. A workshop is available to guide you on the overall process.



“The Millikin Pre-Professional Program values & respects each student we work with to ensure their success.”

Dr. Cynthia Handler
Director, Pre-Professional Program

“The Pre-Professional Program at Millikin University has helped me achieve my goals of getting into professional school. I felt extremely prepared going into my interviews and was able to get help by many faculty to make my application stand out.”

Nicole Koch '17

*Pre-Physical Therapy,
Biology Major, Softball Team,
entering graduate program
at Washington University*



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. ACADEMIC STUDY

Development of programs of academic study across a wide variety of majors which include the academic admission competencies for professional schools as well as specific areas of study designated by each field of health care practice.



2. PREPARATION OF STUDENTS FOR ENTRANCE INTO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

➤ **Entrance Examinations** – structured review seminars, reflecting an increase in academic and culture competence; taught by Millikin faculty across departments; intensive 10-week commercial available for the MCAT and DAT; appropriate intensive instruction for other exams as needed.

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➤ **Health-Related Experiences** – a variety of experiences at facilities in the local area, as well as in the student’s home community; health-related experiences abroad are also available, as well as study abroad.

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➤ **Application** – support for the submission of the electronic application package early in the application process; committee letter of evaluation.

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➤ **Interview** – individualized sessions with Program Director to address areas of strength and weakness, ethical reasoning skills and knowledge of current events; other practice venues arranged as appropriate.

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➤ **Leadership and Service** – campus and community service experiences and organizations are available to each student; selection should reflect quality and quantity of commitment rather than sheer number of organizations.

3. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS ENGAGED IN THE PROGRAM

- Consistent preparation.
- Habitual academic excellence.
- Practice of professional behavior and responsibility, including the ability to meet deadlines.
- Development of interpersonal skills.
- Demonstration of cultural competency, leadership and service.

4. RECRUITING

- Participation in campus visit days and honors interview days.
- Meet individually with prospective students and families.

5. RESOURCES

- **Student Handbook** updated periodically
- **Availability of Program Director** as advisor and mentor
- **Commitment to answer many questions** from basic queries to those that are complex
- **A health profession advisor** who will provide aid in validating your choice of career and with the application process
- **Workshop Coordinated** with individual guidelines



LEIGHTY-TABOR SCIENCE CENTER

The 83,000 sq.ft. Leighty-Tabor Science Center is home to Millikin University’s Pre-Professional Office as well as the School of Nursing and the Biology, Chemistry and Physics Departments.



“The Pre-Professional Program at Millikin is what initially drew me to the school.

All of the professors invest a great deal of time into their students, providing the guidance necessary for admittance into professional school. I know I would not be attending the Medical School for International Health at Ben-Gurion University in Israel if it had not been for this program.”

Jenna Farquhar '16

*Philosophy & Biology,
Pre-Medicine track, minor in Chemistry
2nd year medical student in International Health*



Nearly 85% of Millikin medical school applicants who complete the Pre-Professional Program are admitted into medical school.



millikin.edu/preprofessional

1184 W. Main St., Decatur, IL 62522 • LTSC 404 • 217.424.3949



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