

**Cal Poly Pre-Health Advising  
Open House Webinar Q&A Transcript**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<p>Would the upside down curriculum, or any other reasons, at Cal Poly aid us or prevent our completion of all required pre-med and major courses within a span of four years?</p>	<p>The biggest factor in terms of timeline is typically major choice. Many majors in the College of Science and Math align with pre-health professions, and the prereqs are built into the major as core classes or support classes.</p>
<p>Who do I contact to learn more about pre-physical therapy at Cal Poly?</p>	<p>You can speak with our staff about it, and also we can link you with faculty in the Kinesiology Department. We are well versed in all of the prerequisites, the field of PT, and experiences locally that can help with preparing to apply.</p>
<p>What pre-vet advising opportunities do students get on campus? Who can we contact for that info?</p>	<p>We can (and do) assist pre-vet students through their time at Cal Poly, but many students will seek pre-vet support through the Animal Science department. There are pre-vet advisors within that department. Some of the faculty are veterinarians, as well. In terms of experiences, there are many opportunities for students both on campus but in the local community as well.</p>
<p>Is it possible to take nursing program prerequisites at Cal Poly the first two years, then transfer?</p>	<p>If you know that you are interested in earning a BS in Nursing (BSN) as your primary degree, it will likely be better for you to attend a BSN program from the start. It can be very challenging/tricky to transfer into a 4 year BSN program. Many times students can be accepted as a transfer to the prospective university but not get accepted into the nursing program. Additionally, if a student is successful in transferring in, it might take longer than an additional 2 years.</p>

<p>Is there any MCAT and/or medical school application support through Cal Poly?</p>	<p>Yes! The Pre Health Staff Advisors assist with the application process. You can find more information here on what we offer: <a href="https://prehealth.calpoly.edu/preparing-apply-2">https://prehealth.calpoly.edu/preparing-apply-2</a></p> <p>In terms of MCAT prep, we discuss the best options for you. The university does not offer a course, but we can offer suggestions based on feedback from students and your specific needs and learning style.</p>
<p>It states that the Pre-Health residence hall is yak?itvutvu, but is that for the 2020-2021 school year or last year's academic year?</p>	<p>yak?itvutvu is currently the residence hall for the College of Science and Mathematics and pre-health, but I am not sure if that will also be the case for next year.</p>
<p>This isn't related to pre-health but are you supposed to pay a deposit when you commit to cal poly?</p>	<p>A deposit is not required when you commit to Cal Poly.</p>
<p>What types of physicians can we shadow during Bio 253?</p>	<p>It really depends each quarter. The instructor of the course reaches out to many different clinicians in the community about shadowing opportunities. There have been several different types of physician specialties that students have shadowed. Additionally, normally (in a non-COVID summer), a local hospital chain offers a Physician Shadowing program that runs for several weeks and rotates through several specialty areas.</p>
<p>Do you have MCAT preparation courses/resources?</p>	<p>In terms of MCAT prep, we discuss the best options for you. The university does not offer a course, but we can offer suggestions on preparation based on feedback from students and your specific needs and learning style. We also have access to MCAT materials which we can share (and often have giveaways!).</p>

<p>Do you know the percentage of acceptance into PT out of Cal Poly?</p>	<p>At this time, we don't have that data. We do have many pre-PT students at Cal Poly and they are successful in gaining admission to competitive PT programs.</p>
<p>Do you get to choose what type of healthcare profession you shadow?</p>	<p>In the health professions shadowing class you get to list your preference and also if you are open to other professions. We do our best to match you with your top choice.</p>
<p>Do biology majors have priority for the more advanced bio classes over other majors such as public health or whatnot?</p>	<p>Many of the advanced Biology courses have prerequisite course requirements that can make it challenging for students in other majors to enroll in them. Mostly, once a student moves into upper division coursework (300-400 level courses), only students in that major are enrolling in the courses.</p>
<p>Can a transfer student study abroad being pre-health?</p>	<p>Yes! It will be important to create an academic plan with an advisor and get some advice on the best time frame to study abroad. You'll also want to have an idea of when you want to apply to your pre-health program because that will factor into when you study abroad.</p>
<p>In another seminar, they said it was difficult to meet the prerequisites and to study abroad and finish in 4 years? Any insight on that?</p>	<p>This really depends on what coursework you complete during your study abroad experience. It's really all about planning. You have the option to take general education coursework abroad, major/support courses, and others do pre-health work abroad. It also depends on your major, and the timing for classes and offerings. It is possible to go abroad and graduate in 4 years and be pre-health, it just requires planning early!</p>

<p>Is it true that switching majors at slo is relatively difficult?</p>	<p>It really depends what major you are trying to switch into and how impacted the major is. More about the process can be found here: <a href="https://advising.calpoly.edu/change-major">https://advising.calpoly.edu/change-major</a>. Many students switch their major successfully at Cal Poly.</p>
<p>Sorry I'm a bit late to the session , but would it be possible for an English major to be pre-med/pre-health?</p>	<p>Yes! Any major can apply to pre-health programs. It will be important to <a href="#">meet with an advisor</a> early in your academic career, so that you can create a plan to spread out prerequisite courses throughout your time at Cal Poly.</p>
<p>Do you know if there is ER shadowing available?</p>	<p>The shadowing experiences vary quarter to quarter but we typically do not have ER shadowing. If you are interested in emergency medicine, many students do EMT training and work hours locally. You can also volunteer or scribe in the ER setting.</p>
<p>Do we have to shadow through the class at Cal Poly or can we find a physician on our own?</p>	<p>It's encouraged that you start shadowing early and shadow as much as you can, so we recommend finding people on your own and also taking advantage of our course, if needed. Most students shadow in their local/home area as well as in SLO.</p>
<p>If I take a math or science course at community college, will I be able to use those credits towards medical school, or do they require those courses to be done through Cal Poly?</p>	<p>That is a very tricky situation. If you are entering CP (or any university) as a first time freshman, it is safest to take all of your prerequisite coursework at that university. If you are a transfer student, any prerequisite course work could be accepted. If you are thinking about taking prerequisite coursework at a community college, you should check with your preferred pre-health school websites beforehand.</p>

<p>How intense is the commitment to pre-health clubs?</p>	<p>This depends on how much you want to commit. Some students take on leadership roles in the club of their choice, others attend weekly, others attend as needed. It's really up to you, and your needs.</p>
<p>What are some ways to get involved if you're interested in Psychiatry?</p>	<p>There have been students in the past who have been able to connect with local psychiatrists to learn more about that specialty. Because that speciality can be much trickier to shadow, one might have better luck doing informational interviewing with psychiatrists and then shadowing other specialties.</p>
<p>Does the school I go to determine if I will get into medical school?</p>	<p>No. Many schools will tell students that it does matter though. A student's competitiveness for medical school is determined by them, and them alone. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication, starting in the first quarter college.</p>
<p>Where do students have the opportunity to shadow?</p>	<p>Through the course we offer, we have a range of practitioners we work with. Students shadow in private practices, local hospitals, clinics - anywhere they are allowed! :)</p>
<p>At what point are you able to take the BIO 253 health professions shadowing course?</p>	<p>Any time after your first year.</p>
<p>Is it a good idea to go to a private medical school?</p>	<p>This is really a personal preference decision. When it comes time to apply, there will be many factors to consider and we can help you with the process of identifying schools that are a good "fit" for you as an applicant.</p>
<p>Are california medical schools commonly harder to get into when going to a california undergraduate institution, no matter what that school may have been?</p>	<p>No, not necessarily. It really depends upon the competitiveness of the student for CA schools.</p>
<p>Does cal poly have acceptance data for PA school?</p>	<p>At this time we do not have acceptance data but we do have many applicants that apply and are successfully admitted to PA programs.</p>

<p>What would the biggest differences be in Cal Poly's Bio programs in comparison to UCSD?</p>	<p>We aren't familiar with other Biological Sciences programs. What we can say about Cal Poly's Biology program is that the classes are small, primarily taught by PhD faculty, and students can gain access to research experience, if they are interested.</p>
<p>How does the "learn by doing" philosophy play out for the biology classes?</p>	<p>All of the Biology curriculum courses are hands-on, starting in the first quarter. Nearly all of the required courses for Biology have a laboratory. If students are interested, they can get involved with research with faculty in the department (and even in other departments), if they are interested.</p>
<p>Would opting to not live in the pre-med residence hall, cause any obstacles for me?</p>	<p>No, not at all. You should select the living environment that seems to fit you best. All of the presentations and ways to connect with our office are available to all students across campus.</p>
<p>Am I able to take the bio course with the anatomy lab as a nutrition major?</p>	<p>Yes, the Anatomy/Physiology courses are open to other majors, so long as they have met any prerequisite courses.</p>
<p>Another question for transfer students, how will registering for classes work if SLO Days got pushed back and normal registration for current students opens in May?</p>	<p>Transfer students will register on August 28. Transfer SLO Days will be held on August 26 and 27. The date you are assigned to come is dependent on your major</p>