Special Academic Programs

Pre-Professional Health Studies

At Marquette University, pre-professional health studies means pursuing a bachelor’s degree with the intent to enroll in a professional school following graduation. Choosing a major in the College of Health Sciences provides a strong foundation in preparation for a health professions career in areas such as athletic training, chiropractic, dentistry, forensics, medicine, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, podiatry, etc. The Pre-Health Advising office within the College of Health Sciences works closely with students throughout their undergraduate career to help them identify and achieve what it takes to be a strong candidate for admission to a health professional program.

Admission requirements, including prerequisites, vary greatly among institutions and across disciplines. Students should consult graduate and professional schools of interest to identify specific course requirements. Visit the Pre-Health Advising (https://www.marquette.edu/pre-health-advising/) webpage to explore the services offered and the pre-health information available.

Direct-Admit and Early Admission Options for Health Professional Programs at MU

The programs listed below are available for admission on a competitive basis to high school seniors applying to MU and/or current MU students in specified majors. Each of these programs is an accelerated program which requires students to complete very specific curriculum requirements prior to entering the professional program in the senior year. As a result, admission to one of these programs may limit a student’s ability to study abroad, pursue second majors and/or minors, or participate in other special academic programs.

Direct-Admit and Transfer Admission to Physical Therapy: The 3+3 Direct-Admit Physical Therapy program is available to high school seniors admitted to the Exercise Physiology major. Students who did not apply or were not accepted as an incoming freshman can still track the pre-athletic training curriculum and apply any time prior to the end of the junior year. Accepted direct-admit and transfer students who meet all eligibility requirements in the first three years of undergraduate study begin the professional phase of the MAT curriculum in the summer after the junior year. This program allows a student to complete both the undergraduate and Master of Athletic Training degrees in five years instead of six years. More detailed information is available in the Athletic Training section of the Health Sciences Professional bulletin (https://bulletin.marquette.edu/healthscienceprofessional/programs/athletictraining/).

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Direct-Admit and Transfer Admission to Physician Assistant Studies: This program allows a student to complete both the undergraduate and Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree in five years instead of six years. More detailed information is available in the Physician Assistant program section of this bulletin.

Pre-Dental Scholars: The College of Health Sciences participates in the Pre-dental Scholars Program which is available on a competitive admission basis to high school seniors to the biomedical sciences major or first semester freshmen in the major (pending space availability). Participants in this 3+4 program who meet all program requirements to be admitted to the Dental School in the senior year complete both the undergraduate and Doctor of Dental Surgery degrees in a total of seven years instead of eight years. More detailed information can be found in the university Special Academic Programs (https://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicprograms/predentalscholars/) section of this bulletin, as well as the Biomedical Sciences section of this bulletin.

Pre-Law Scholars: The College of Health Sciences participates in the Pre-Law Scholars Program which is available on a competitive admission basis to high school seniors admitted to the biomedical sciences major. Participants in this 3+3 program who meet all program requirements to be admitted to the Law School in the senior year, complete both the undergraduate and Juris Doctor degrees in a total of six years instead of seven years. More detailed information can be found in the university Special Academic Programs (https://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicprograms/) section of this bulletin.

Accelerated Degree Programs (ADP) administered through the Graduate School at MU

These programs, offered through the Graduate School, have approved accelerated degree programs that allow students to begin accumulating credits towards graduate degree completion while still enrolled as an undergraduate. Applications to these programs are typically due in the junior year at MU:
Master of Science in Exercise and Rehabilitation Science - available to undergraduates in the exercise physiology and biomedical sciences majors. More detailed information can be found in the Master's Requirements for the Exercise and Rehabilitation (https://bulletin.marquette.edu/grad/programs/exerciseandrehabilitationscience/#majorrequirementstext) section of the Graduate Bulletin.

Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology - only available to undergraduates in the speech language pathology major. More detailed information can be found in the Master's Requirements for the Speech Language Pathology (https://bulletin.marquette.edu/grad/programs/speechlanguagepathology/#splamatext) section of the Graduate Bulletin.

Master of Business Administration (STEM MBA) - available to undergraduates in any major in the College of Health Sciences (Note: majors with clinical internship requirements may limit the number of graduate credits completed at the undergraduate level). More detailed information can be found in the Master of Business Administration (https://bulletin.marquette.edu/schoolofmanagement/programs/businessadministration/#masterofbusinessadministrationtext) section of the Graduate School of Management bulletin.

Dual degree programs with other universities

Early Assurance PharmD Program through the Medical College of Wisconsin: The College of Health Sciences participates in an Early Assurance PharmD program with the Medical College of Wisconsin’s (MCW) School of Pharmacy. The 3+3 Early Assurance PharmD program allows students in the Biomedical Sciences major to earn dual degrees, a bachelor’s degree from Marquette University and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin, in a total of six years. Participants in this program who meet all eligibility requirements after the first three years of the undergraduate studies at MU, matriculate into the PharmD program at MCW after the junior year. Credits completed in the first year at MCW are applied towards the completion of a bachelor's degree at MU. More detailed information can be found in the university Special Academic Programs (https://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicprograms/) section of this bulletin, as well as the Biomedical Sciences section of this bulletin.

Master of Global Health Equity through the Medical College of Wisconsin: Marquette undergraduate students majoring in Biomedical Sciences can apply for admission to the Master of Science Global Health Equity program at the Medical College of Wisconsin in the second term of the junior year. Students accepted into the program are eligible to enroll in up to 12 credits of pre-approved graduate course work during the senior year at MU to fulfill both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. A maximum of 6 of these 12 credits may be taken at MCW during the senior year. Students who meet all program requirements matriculate to MCW after the senior year upon completion of the undergraduate degree at MU.

Disciplinary Honors

The Program in Exercise Physiology and the Department of Biomedical Sciences participate in the university's disciplinary honors program. More information about the disciplinary honors program can be found in the respective majors section of this bulletin.

Summer Research Program (SRP)

The Summer Research Program provides a unique summer program for undergraduates to become immersed in an independent research experience and other enrichment activities under the guidance of a faculty mentor from various majors in the College of Health Sciences. The program is full-time during the summer with participants receiving a stipend. Admission is on a competitive basis and open to students from any major. Visit the Summer Research Program (https://www.marquette.edu/biomedical-sciences/summer-research-program.php) website for additional qualifications and application.