



Health Professions Pathways Program (H3P)

In the Jesuit tradition, pre-health studies at Gonzaga sharpen the mind and inspire the heart. Students receive a strong background in science, a comprehensive liberal arts education, and co-curricular opportunities necessary to develop a philosophical and humanitarian perspective to understand and be committed to addressing social and ethical issues related to health care. Through a comprehensive support network, the Health Professions Pathways Program (H3P) aims to prepare students for a variety of health professions graduate programs and realize their passion to pursue a career in which they dedicate their lives to leadership and service.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

At Gonzaga, students are encouraged to choose a major they are genuinely interested in studying. This increases the likelihood of academic success, which is a big factor in graduate and professional school admissions. With whichever major students choose, aspiring healthcare professionals also need to include the necessary pre-requisite courses for their chosen health professions graduate program in their academic plan. Health professions programs each determine their own admissions requirements, but most include a strong foundation in the basic sciences. Gonzaga pre-health students have available to them all of their pre-requisite courses for graduate studies at a health professions school. Students work with their faculty advisor and the Office of Academic Advising & Assistance to put together a schedule from their very first semester at Gonzaga. When students start identifying prospective graduate and professional schools, they should explore each school's list of required and recommended courses and collaborate with advisors to fulfill the coursework that will make for competitive candidacy.

PRE-HEALTH CORE COMPETENCIES

As part of Gonzaga University's mission, we are a community that models and expects excellence in academic and professional pursuits and intentionally develops the whole person – intellectually, spiritually, culturally, physically, and emotionally. This development of the whole person, ***cura personalis***, is realized in students through a commitment to a rigorous liberal arts core grounded in the Jesuit, Catholic, and humanistic tradition. Pre-health students are encouraged to focus their interests and activities toward proficiency in six core competencies that will assist them in becoming leaders of conscience in their chosen profession:

- Application and integration of science, healthcare, and behavior
- Critical thought and creative inquiry
- Cultivation of collaborative networks
- Effective and professional communication
- Inclusive and ethical service to others
- Reflective commitment to growth

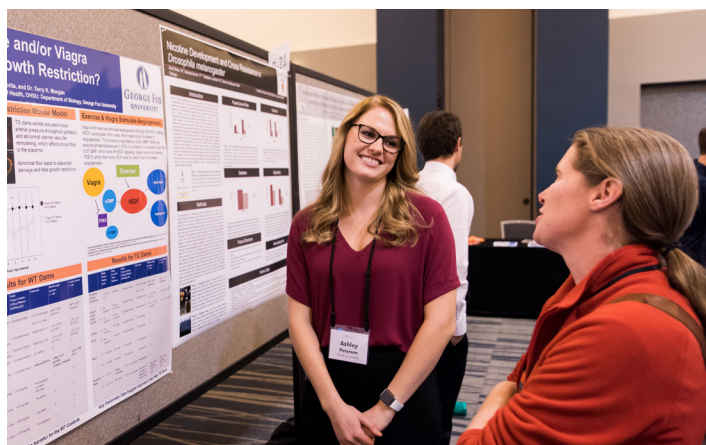


CO-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT

Taking advantage of its humanistic and Jesuit mission, Gonzaga looks to provide students a chance to develop outside of the classroom as well. The University has a long tradition of preparing students for a life in service to others and developing future healthcare professionals that care deeply for underserved populations. The Center for Community Engagement is a great resource for helping Gonzaga students develop a strong record of participation in meaningful service experiences through programs such as Zag Study Buddies, Campus Kitchens, and Mission: Possible. A new partnership, Opportunity Northeast, presents an avenue for pre-health students to interact with and serve the surrounding community, something we hope they take forward in their careers in healthcare and the communities they will be a part of in the future. Gonzaga students engage deeply in social justice, demonstrating solidarity with the poor and vulnerable through many avenues, and routinely engage in more than 80,000 service hours each year. Graduates often choose to work or volunteer with programs, including the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, the Peace Corps, and Teach for America, before pursuing an advanced degree. Along with being active with the Spokane community, Gonzaga offers many ways to experience leadership through 130+ student clubs and organizations. Pre-health students can engage and find support with one of the many pre-health or science-related groups on campus, including the Health Sciences Club, Human Physiology Club, Pre-Dental Club, Gonzaga Science Scholars, Gonzaga Women in Medicine, Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science, and Health Equity Circle. These leadership experiences help students develop interpersonal skills such as teamwork, communication, reliability, and respect for others – all attributes that are essential to the healthcare profession.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Professional and graduate schools also recognize the value of meaningful research experiences, which provide students with an opportunity to gain critical thinking and problem-solving skills, demonstrate an ability to integrate scholarly literature, work independently or on a team, and engage in reflective growth. Students at Gonzaga have excellent opportunities to participate with faculty both on- and off-campus in fascinating research on a broad range of topics, including those with direct connections to human health and medicine (e.g. viral transmission, diagnostic agents for neurodegenerative diseases, transcription factor proteins and Parkinson's disease, and the relationship between climate change and disease). For many majors, research is an important part of the academic experience. The Center for Undergraduate Research & Creative Inquiry offers transformative educational experiences through student-faculty collaborations in natural science, social science, and humanities-focused research. Many students work with Gonzaga faculty and others are able to secure competitive research positions through our partnership with UW-Medicine in Seattle, programs at WSU-Spokane, and summer undergraduate research programs across the country. These research projects often culminate in published results and presentations at regional or national meetings.



CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Hands-on experience in healthcare settings is vital to both the preparation and admission processes. This clinical experience exposes students to the complex duties expected of today's healthcare professionals and enables them to make informed career decisions. **Spokane is the major hub for healthcare in the Inland Northwest**, boasting six major hospitals and a high density of clinical practices that offer pre-health students numerous volunteer, employment, internship, and shadowing opportunities. Many pre-health students choose to stay in Spokane following graduation to take advantage of these experiences in their gap years. Graduates often seek employment as EMTs, CNAs, medical assistants, medical technicians, PT aides, and phlebotomists. Gonzaga students also benefit from the growth of health professions graduate programs in the Spokane area at the University of Washington, Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, and Whitworth University.



HEALTH PROFESSIONS PATHWAYS PROGRAM (H3P)

The Health Professions Pathways Program (H3P) supports students interested in pursuing a career in the health professions. Housed within Career & Professional Development, it serves as the centralized hub for programs and services relevant to the pre-health community at Gonzaga. The program is designed to foster connections between faculty members, academic departments, student clubs, and health professions graduate schools as well as engage with key University and community partners. Resources available through the Health Professions Pathways Program include:

- Individualized support through 1:1 appointments
- Workshops and other events to help students gain knowledge about health professions
- Resources and connections for gaining experience in the healthcare field
- Tips for preparing for admission to graduate school programs in the health professions
- Engagement with the pre-health community at Gonzaga
- Mentorship opportunities within the Gonzaga alumni network
- Committee letters of recommendation for graduate and professional school



Department Contacts

Kevin Measor, Ph.D.
Faculty Pre-Health Advisor

Katherine Brackmann
Assistant Director, Graduate & Professional
School Engagement

For more information:

h3p@gonzaga.edu
gonzaga.edu/h3p

OUTCOMES

Both state-supported professional schools and private schools nationwide recognize the excellence of Gonzaga students' preparation for healthcare careers. Of all applicants to MD and DO schools with a Gonzaga undergraduate degree, 54% of students have been admitted to these programs over the past 5 years, a rate that is higher than the national average. Gonzaga graduates are also very competitive in the application process to dental, physician assistant, physical therapy, and other health professions graduate programs. Gonzaga students have been admitted to the following graduate programs:



DENTAL SCHOOLS

- Creighton University
- Loma Linda University
- Midwestern University
- Oregon Health & Science University
- University of Colorado
- University of Maryland
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Utah
- University of Washington
- Western University of Health Sciences

PHYSICAL THERAPY SCHOOLS

- Creighton University
- Eastern Washington University
- Regis University
- University of Southern California

MEDICAL SCHOOLS

- Creighton University
- Loyola University Chicago
- Oregon Health & Science University
- St. Louis University
- University of Washington
- Washington State University
- Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine at New Mexico State University
- Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences of Osteopathic Medicine
- Rocky Vista College of Osteopathic Medicine
- University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine
- Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Northwest

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCHOOLS

- Idaho State University
- Midwestern University - Glendale
- Oregon Health & Science University
- University of St. Francis - New Mexico
- University of Washington

OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Gonzaga graduates have also gained acceptance to graduate health professions programs such as Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Veterinary Medicine.