



Pre-Health

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 healthcare. 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 pathway in their academic plan. Health professions graduate programs each determine their own admissions requirements, but most include a strong foundation in the basic sciences. Gonzaga pre-health students have access to all of their pre-requisite courses for graduate studies at a health professions school. Students work with their faculty advisor, the Office of Academic Advising & Assistance, and the Health Professions Pathways Program (H3P) to put together a schedule throughout their time 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.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS PATHWAYS PROGRAM (H3P)

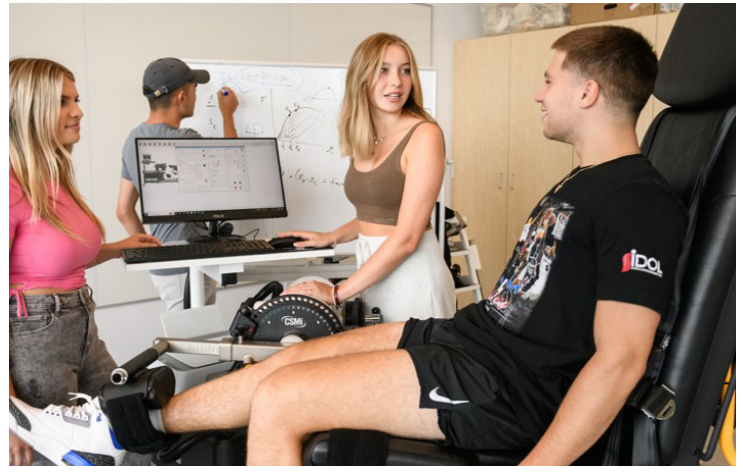
The Health Professions Pathways Program (H3P) supports students and alumni from all majors interested in pursuing graduate study and future careers in the health professions. Housed within Career & Professional Development, it serves as the centralized hub for programs and services relevant to the pre-health 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-on-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



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** with 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 75,000 service hours each year. Graduates often choose to work or volunteer with service programs, including Jesuit Volunteer Corps, the Peace Corps, and Teach for America, before pursuing an advanced degree. Along with being active with the Spokane community, Gonzaga students experience **leadership** through 140+ 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 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 also 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 the 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 OPPORTUNITIES

Hands-on experience in healthcare settings is vital to both the preparation and admission processes. 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 6 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 paid employment opportunities during gap or growth years. 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. Example student opportunities include:

- Research with Washington State University Sleep & Performance Research Center
- Volunteer clinical experience with COPE Health Scholars, local hospitals, and neighboring clinics
- Internships with U-District Physical Therapy
- Paid clinical positions including medical scribe, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), phlebotomist, behavioral technician, and Physical Therapist (PT) aide
- Service opportunities in the local community with hospice, homeless shelters, needle clinics, crisis hotlines, inclusive camps for diverse health needs, and other community health initiatives

UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE-GONZAGA HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

In 2016, the University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) and Gonzaga University came together to expand and enhance medical education in Spokane with an eye towards advancing health sciences research and improving health outcomes in the region. Gonzaga shares its campus, services, and facilities with UWSOM faculty and staff, 120 first- and second-year medical students, and more than 30 UW Physician Assistant students. The partnership's mission to educate and train future leaders in healthcare provides many opportunities for Gonzaga's pre-health undergraduate students, including:

- UWSOM faculty and medical students share learning space with Gonzaga University Human Physiology students and faculty in the Health Partnership Building
- Several Gonzaga faculty members teach in the partnership and bring that expertise into their undergraduate courses
- Undergraduate research opportunities with the McKinistry Fellows Research Program, focusing on rural and community-based health, and the UW-Gonzaga summer research initiative at UW Medicine in Seattle
- Opportunities to learn and observe through the UWSOM's Anatomy Lab and UW's Willed Body Program
- Next Generation Medicine community lecture series, featuring leaders in the field of medicine and public health
- Workshop and panel discussions with medical and PA students, offering career advice, hands-on skills demonstrations, and insights into the life of a professional school student
- Community building experiences with medical and PA students through shared activities and organizations including UW/GU Running Club, Underrepresented in Medicine, and Health Equity Circle



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OUTCOMES

Both state-supported and private professional schools nationwide recognize the excellence of Gonzaga students' preparation for healthcare careers. Over the past 5 years, 67% of Gonzaga applicants have been accepted to medical (MD and DO) schools. Gonzaga graduates are also very competitive in the application process to dental, physician assistant, physical therapy, and other health professions graduate programs. Some recent destinations for Gonzaga graduates include:

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
- Emory University
- Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences
- Northwestern University
- Regis University
- Tufts University
- University of Southern California
- University of Utah
- University of Washington

MEDICAL SCHOOLS

- Creighton University
- Georgetown University
- Loyola University Chicago
- Oregon Health & Science University
- Saint Louis University
- Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
- University of Colorado
- University of Washington
- Washington State University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences of Osteopathic Medicine
- Rocky Vista College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Northwest

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCHOOLS

- Duke University
- Idaho State University
- Midwestern University
- Northwestern University
- Oregon Health & Science University
- Pacific University
- Stanford University
- University of Colorado
- University of Saint Francis
- University of Washington

OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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

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