Pre-professional Programs

CAREERS IN HEALTH CARE

Preparing for a career as a health care professional involves many years of study. In most health care fields students must spend several years at a professional school after they have completed an undergraduate pre-professional curriculum. This undergraduate training plays an essential role in the health care professional’s overall preparation.

Pre-professional students need a solid undergraduate education to improve their chances of being accepted at professional schools and to serve as a good background for the specialized instruction they will receive at those schools.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL COURSES

In addition to completing a full program of introductory courses, pre-professional students at LSU Eunice can take science courses in such areas as organic chemistry, comparative anatomy, cell structure and function, vertebrate zoology, microbiology, physics, and genetics. LSU Eunice also offers a broad range of courses in the liberal arts and social sciences.

Although professional schools of medicine and dentistry do admit students with three or even fewer years of undergraduate study, most students who are admitted have earned a baccalaureate or higher degree. LSU Eunice can offer pre-professional students two or more years of study so that they can earn a baccalaureate degree after transferring to a senior college.

Students who are pursuing the master of physical therapy (MPT) degree or the master of occupational therapy degree (OT) from the LSU Medical Center School of Allied Health can complete two years of undergraduate course work at LSU Eunice before transferring to a four-year institution to obtain a bachelor’s degree.

LSU Eunice also offers a two-year core curriculum to prepare students for entry into professional or clinical years leading to B.S. degrees in various allied health fields. Admission to programs offered by the LSU Medical Center is competitive.

Students can complete two years of undergraduate requirements at LSU in the pre-professional curricula required by the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. They can also complete two years of pre-professional courses required by the University of Louisiana Monroe School of Pharmacy.

For other fields, such as physician’s assistant and optometry, students should contact the school to which they intend to apply for information about appropriate course work. However, students can usually take applicable courses for two years at LSU Eunice.

THE ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE

Pre-professional students who remain at LSU Eunice for two years can earn the associate of science degree while still following the requirements of their pre-professional curricula. The degree program includes a core of general education courses, plus 15 hours of electives chosen by the student and his or her faculty advisor to meet the requirements of the student’s pre-professional program.

The associate of science degree allows students to individually tailor their LSU Eunice degree to parallel the curricular requirements of the college or university where they will transfer. For students applying directly to professional school, the associate of science degree will serve as a credential validating their completion of an undergraduate program. Faculty advisors can provide additional details about the associate of science degree.

INDIVIDUAL HELP AVAILABLE

LSU Eunice faculty advisors know the requirements for entry to the various professional schools, and they assist each student in developing an educational program that will meet those requirements.

Because pre-professional classes at LSU Eunice in subjects like chemistry and physics are usually small, students can get individual help from teachers. In particular, small laboratory classes mean that students can readily receive individual assistance with laboratory procedures.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

LSU Eunice students have the opportunity to work individually with faculty members on research projects. Through the Undergraduate Research Summer Institute, students collaborate with faculty in conducting experiments and doing other research. LSU Eunice also offers other research courses. Pre-professional students have worked with faculty in the Sciences Division on projects in botany, microbiology, and zoology. Student researchers have presented papers that have won awards and have been published in scientific journals.

In addition, pre-professional students with excellent scores on the American College Test can participate in the LSU Eunice Honors Program. Honors students take special honors classes that go into greater depth and expand their knowledge beyond the scope of regular college classes. Honors students become members of a special learning community, working with their peers to experience the best that college has to offer.

Com-STEM

The Community-Based Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Initiative (Com-STEM) was created to increase the number of students graduating with associate and bachelor degrees in the STEM disciplines which include agricultural sciences, biological sciences, chemistry, computer information technology, computer science, engineering, engineering technology, environmental science, family and consumer services, mathematics, medical technology/clinical laboratory science, physics, radiologic technology, and wildlife management. It is a partnership among McNeese State University (MSU), LSU Eunice, and Lamar State College in Orange (LSCO), Texas. Students have the opportunity to receive Com-STEM scholarships that are available to first-time freshman and students transferring from LSU Eunice to MSU or LSCO. Continuing students have the opportunity to receive financial awards based on their portfolio of approved academic engagement activities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (337) 550-1233 • 1-888-FOR-LSUE ext. 233 • http://www.lsue.edu

August 2009