

Pre-Chiropractic

2020-2021

What does it mean to be Pre-Chiropractic at WWU?

Students who self-identify as pre-chiropractic may consult with Pre-Healthcare Advising about matters pertaining to their preparation and application to chiropractic schools. Selection committees evaluate candidates across multiple areas through a holistic review process. Important components include GPA (both cumulative and science), exposure to the profession, letters of recommendation (typically from one chiropractor and two professors), extracurricular activities, community service, and an interview, as well as background checks (including legal, conduct, and social records). Although some chiropractic programs don't require a bachelor's degree, keep in mind many states require chiropractors to have a bachelor's in order to practice. Most applicants have earned a four-year degree.

Pre-Chiropractic Education

Chiropractic programs want applicants with a foundation of coursework from across the Life & Physical Sciences as well as the Humanities & Social Sciences. They do **not** recruit students from one specific major or discipline. This allows you to explore many academic fields, to develop basic skills and knowledge, to demonstrate expertise and to experience a field of study (major) of your choice. Choose a major in which you both excel and enjoy. Pre-healthcare students have majored in diverse subjects. Although the sciences are common, other popular disciplines include Anthropology, Kinesiology, languages, Psychology, self-designed programs, and even combined majors.

Core Courses

Regardless of your major, certain prerequisites expected by **most** schools include:

LIFE & PHYSICAL SCIENCES, ½ with labs, 36-48 credits selected from courses in:

CHEMISTRY

(NOTE: It is helpful if students begin general chemistry as early in their program as possible)

- General Chemistry: CHEM 161 or Honors CHEM 125 [complete the series for some majors]
- Organic Chemistry and/or Biochemistry: CHEM 250 and/or CHEM 375
 - Some majors require the Organic Chemistry series: CHEM 351, 352, 353 plus labs

BIOLOGY

- General Biology: BIOL 204, 205 [complete the series for some majors]
- Anatomy & Physiology: BIOL 348, 349
- Microbiology recommended: BIOL 245 or BIOL 345 & 346

PHYSICS

- Physics: PHYS 114, 115 [complete the series for some majors]

MATHEMATICS

- Statistics: MATH 240 [or major equivalent; i.e. BIOL 340 for Biology majors]

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES, 24-36 credits, to include:

- Psychology 101
- English (two courses)
- Communications

This document is for preliminary advising purposes only.

We encourage you to meet with a Health Professions Advisor on a regular basis to determine a plan that is best for you.

Keep informed

- WWU students may join the **Advisor's Pre-chiropractic Listserv**. To join, go to www.wvu.edu/careers, click on *Health Professions Advising* (on the lefthand side of the page), and click *Join Listserv*.
- **Pre-health clubs**: Join WWU Associated Students special interest clubs at www.as.wvu.edu/clubs/.

Contact Information

Pre-Chiropractic Advisor:

Anna Tognazzini, M.Ed.
360-650-3268
prehealth@wwu.edu

To meet with an advisor:
Call 360-650-4240
Old Main 280

Health Professions Advising Website:

[www.wvu.edu/careers/
prehealth.shtml](http://www.wvu.edu/careers/prehealth.shtml)

Notes

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP): Check with individual schools whether they recognize AP as college-earned credit. Not all do. *It is better to view any earned credits as qualifying to enroll in upper-division courses rather than as “testing out” of prerequisites.*

DECLARING A MAJOR: Departments vary in how to declare majors. Behavioral Neuroscience, Biology, Chemistry, and others allow students to declare as a “pre-major” while taking their specified prerequisites. Some majors require a specific GPA in a series of foundational courses. Declare early, even as a “pre-major”, to help shorten your time to degree. *While working on any pre-major content, explore many disciplines to keep your options open.*

ACCESS TO CLASSES: High demand exists for upper-division courses, especially in the sciences. Many departments grant enrollment priority to students declared in specific majors over those seeking enrollment for professional school purposes. Registration access procedures for impacted courses can change, and departments generally provide updates via their websites and email notifications, or by checking with the department’s program coordinator.

REPEATING/DROPPING COURSES: When you repeat a course, only your most recent grade is used when Western calculates your GPA. However, the class still shows up on your transcript. Although some students think that repeating a course will help them get into professional schools, this is almost always untrue. Professional schools will take into account ALL college-level coursework when performing their own calculation of your GPA, and this will include any courses you have repeated at Western. Still, in some circumstances it may be appropriate to repeat a course so talk to an advisor to be sure. Also, dropping a course can have an impact on eligibility for financial aid, scholarships, and athletic participation so consider your options carefully and speak with an advisor before making a decision.

SHADOWING: Students should gain shadowing experience with a chiropractor. Discuss your shadowing options with a Pre-Healthcare advisor.

GRE: The Graduate Record Examination is offered monthly at the WWU Testing Center, and assesses your verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing skills. Information is available at www.ets.org/gre.

Additional Resources

WWU Allied Health Advising: www.wvu.edu/alliedhealth

WWU Health Professions Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/wwuprehealth/

Association of American Chiropractic Colleges (AACC): www.chirocolleges.org

Council on Chiropractic Education: <http://cce-usa.org>

Explore Health Careers: www.explorehealthcareers.org

Health Professions Advising Events

Typical programming events offered by include (but are not limited to):

Fall:

Health Professional & Grad School Info Fair (October)

Winter Registration Drop-in Advising

Winter:

Faculty Research Panel (February)

Spring Registration Drop-in Advising

Spring:

The Healthcare Professional School Application: A session overviewing the process (April)

Fall Registration Drop-in Advising

Health Professions Advising / Career Services Center
Old Main 280 360.650.4240 Careers@wwu.edu

PROGRESS LIST FOR PRE-CHIROPRACTIC STUDENTS

Successful applicants typically exceed these minimal requirements

- Join Pre-chiropractic Listserv go to www.wvu.edu/careers, click on *Health Professions Advising* (on the lefthand side of the page), and click *Join Listserv*.

Academic Foundation (Common to most schools):

- Chemistry 161 or Honors Chemistry 125 (5 credits) *General Chemistry with labs* [complete series for some majors: 162, 163 (5,5) or Honors Chemistry 126, 225 (5,5)]
- Chemistry 251 (5) *Elementary Organic Chemistry with lab*
 - or Chemistry 351, 352, 353 (4,4,3) with 2 labs: 354 (3) & either 355 or 356 (3 or 2) *Organic Chemistry with labs* [some majors require this series]
- Chemistry 375 (4) *Elements of Biochemistry*
 - or Chemistry 471 (4) *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* [required for some majors]
- Biology 204, 205 (5,5) *General Biology with labs* [complete series for some majors: Biology 206 (5)]
- Biology 348, 349 (5,5) *Human Anatomy and Physiology* [see “Access to Classes” note, previous page]
- Physics 114, 115 (5 each) *Principles of Physics with labs* [complete series for some majors: 116 (5)]
 - or Physics 161, 162, 163 (5 each) *Physics with Calculus with labs* [required for some majors]
- Mathematics 240 (4) *Introduction to Statistics*, or major equivalent
- 12 credits HUM GUR [selection guided by Chiropractic school recommendations]
 - Include an ENG course: _____
 - Include a COMM course: _____
- 12 credits SSC GUR [selection guided by Chiropractic school recommendations]
 - Include Psychology 101 (5) *Introduction to Psychology*

WWU Degree Fulfillment:

- Complete academic major
- Fulfill General University Requirements [or satisfy with DTA]
- Writing Proficiency course(s) to total 3 or more points
- Two quarters before graduation, meet with major advisor for evaluation and apply for graduation

Clinical Exposure/Experience:

- “Shadow” chiropractor(s) for exposure to profession and letter of recommendation

Extracurricular Breadth Profile (one or more may apply):

- Clinical Experience
 - Volunteer/community service [does not need to be healthcare-related] _____
 - Undergraduate research [valued but not required]
- Teamwork/Leadership Development [check all that apply]
 - Athletics
 - Clubs
 - Other _____

Application Details:

- Two quarters before application, meet with Health Professions Advisor to discuss procedures and timeline
- Research Chiropractic schools and graduate school options
- Prepare for Graduate Record Exam (GRE), depending upon schools applied to
- Request Letters of Recommendation from professors and professionals [*include one from a chiropractor*]
- Draft personal statement
- Apply directly to each desired chiropractic school
- Interview preparation: www.wvu.edu/careers/mockinterview_home.shtml
- Stay abreast of issues in healthcare as well as current events