

Information for Parents

Website

The Health Professions Office has an extensive website with lots of information. We recommend and encourage each student to check it often, but no less than on a weekly basis. Announcements, open house invitations, events, volunteer activities, internship details and more can be found at this site: http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/academics/health_professions/

Quick Questions

Each day, Monday through Thursday, for one hour, the Health Professions Office is open to students who have a "quick question". This service is meant to be for a question/conversation less than five minutes long. The purpose of QQ hour is to give a student a brief face-to-face with Lori Provost, but is not meant to solve difficult problems, or be a typical advising session. If the student would like to discuss something at length, it is recommended an appointment be made.

Meetings

Freshman Year: Fall semester is the perfect time for your student to schedule an introductory meeting with the Health Professions Advisor. Lori Provost, Director of Health Professions will meet with all first year pre-health students in September. (Alert your student to check the HPO website and/or Facebook for the time and place.) During this meeting, Lori will inform students of what the HPO offers throughout their time here. All freshmen are also encouraged to make an appointment with the Pre-Health to meet with her during October – 'Get to Know Your Pre-Health Advisor Month'.

Sophomore Year: All pre-health students are encouraged to attend 'Sophomore Self-Assessment' in September, a workshop wherein they can assess their first year here, determine goals for the future, and consider a Plan B. (Alert your student to check the HPO website and/or Facebook for the time and place of this workshop.)

Junior Year: One of two important meetings this year occurs at the end of the semester, post-Thanksgiving break. 'Application Advantage, Part I' will deliver essential information for students planning to apply to graduate professional school in the health sciences. Many/most application cycles begin during the summer of 2012 for 2013 matriculation. There are certain procedures and processes that all students must complete if they are planning to apply and use the services of the HPO. (Alert your student to check the HPO website and/or Facebook for the time and place.) Topics such as choosing the schools to which you will apply, soliciting evaluation letters, standardized tests, personal statements etc. will all be covered.

Junior Year: The second meeting for all junior students intending to apply during the summer of 2012 will be held in early May and is entitled, 'Application Advantage, Part II'. During this meeting students will learn what the HPO does to facilitate their application, is Early Decision an option, what about retaking the standardized test etc.

Senior Year: During the first week of classes, all seniors are encouraged to attend the 'Interview Workshop', wherein they learn about the process, tips and etiquette surrounding this important event. Additionally, all senior students are strongly encouraged to schedule a mock interview with the Career Center and ask to have that session videotaped for feedback. This should be done ASAP in the fall semester, and students are cautioned not to wait until they have an actual interview offer before making this appointment.

Internships

An internship means different things to different people. There are paid and unpaid experiences; those done for academic credit and those done just for the volunteer experience. The HPO offers an array of internships, but all of them are unpaid. Additionally, we encourage pre-health students to seek internships they can roster for academic credit so that the time expended yields academic credit. Internships can be completed for .5 unit of credit or for a whole unit, depending upon the number of hours one logs during this experience. Our website lists the internships as well as a description for each. If an internship is not listed, our office will work with the student to try to find one in their interested field.

Choosing a Major

One need not be a science major to go to graduate professional school in the health sciences. Having said that, each student needs to understand that there are a handful of prerequisite science courses which must be taken at the undergraduate level and that students should strive for academic success in the sciences. When one applies to medical, dental or other school, the admissions' committees will zero in on the BCPM (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math-for medical school), or BCP (Biology, Chemistry, Physics-for dental school) grades and attempt to see if the applicant has the aptitude needed to succeed in graduate school. Graduate programs in the health sciences will be science-heavy in the first two years. Students must prove academic success in undergraduate science classes in order for admissions' committees to have confidence in them as potential scientists in graduate school.

What does your student enjoy studying? What excites him/her when he/she gets up in the morning and looks forward to a day's worth of classes? The answers can help determine what the major may be.

On-Campus Resources

The Academic Resource Center offers a multitude of services for all students. Study skills, tutoring etc. are all available. Visit the ARC website for additional information.

<http://www.muhs.edu/main/aboutus/arc/>