

# Undergraduate Catalog of Courses

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Volume 2014 2014-2015

Article 36

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7-1-2014

## Pre-Professional Curricula

Saint Mary's College of California

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### Recommended Citation

Saint Mary's College of California (2014) "Pre-Professional Curricula," *Undergraduate Catalog of Courses*: Vol. 2014 , Article 36.  
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.stmarys-ca.edu/undergraduate-catalog/vol2014/iss1/36>

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## PRE-PROFESSIONAL CURRICULA

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### PRE-LAW

The Association of American Law Schools and the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) do not recommend any specific undergraduate major or program for students planning to study law. While they consider the prescription of particular courses unwise, the LSAC does believe that the Council can call attention to the quality of undergraduate instruction it believes fundamental to the subsequent attainment of legal competence. The three general aspects of education stressed are:

Interpretive and expressive mastery of language: Language is the lawyer's primary tool. Courses (in English or other disciplines) that stress sound writing, or oral discussion, presentation or debate, and courses (for example, in communication, foreign language or linguistics) that illuminate the workings of language are recommended.

Critical understanding of institutions and values: Legal counsel and advocacy are among the most powerful influences shaping institutions and affecting the quality of lives lived within them. Hence, courses (in history, economics, politics, sociology or anthropology, for example) that illuminate institutions' structure, functions and potentials are recommended. Attorneys' professional influence is matched by their moral influence, since legal questions inevitably implicate fundamental notions of equity and fairness. Courses (in theology and religious studies, philosophy or psychology, for example) that examine the sources and meaning of normative values are therefore recommended.

Sound and creative thinking: Above all, attorneys are problem-solvers and advisors in unendingly various, complex circumstances that demand rigorous, comprehensive analysis (grasp the law and the facts), sensitivity and imagination (know the people) and sound practical judgment (match the end desired to the limits imposed by law, facts and people). Courses (in mathematics, logic or natural science, for example) that promote rigorous analytic thinking or creative synthetic thinking are recommended. (For prospective law students, the LSAC recommends, by name, some study of accounting, since accounting shapes the language of business.)

In sum, legal studies demand liberal artistry of the kind Saint Mary's College promotes throughout its curriculum, but perhaps most directly in the Integral program.

The College's pre-law advisor is located in the Career Development Center, Brother Urban Gregory Hall. Information on, and advice about, specific law schools and the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) are available at the center.

### HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Saint Mary's offers an excellent preparation for professional study in a variety of health care fields. Graduates have successfully entered such professions as chiropractic medicine, dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry, physical therapy, physician assistant, pharmacy, podiatry and veterinary medicine. Saint Mary's has a full-time health professions advisor to assist students with preparation for these careers and with the application process.

### NURSING

Saint Mary's College no longer offers the 2+2 Pre-Nursing Program. For information about other 2+2 programs please consult the Samuel Merritt University website. Students are welcome to come to Saint Mary's to complete a 4 year Baccalaureate degree with which they could apply for an Accelerated BSN program or Entry level Masters Program. These programs are offered at many colleges. Students are encouraged to research these programs and consider coming to Saint Mary's to obtain a strong foundation in the sciences and liberal arts as preparation for post baccalaureate study in Nursing. Students with an interest in nursing or related fields should consult the Allied Health Sciences advisor. (See Allied Health Science).

### MEDICINE

Traditionally, Saint Mary's students intending to enter the medical profession have majored in biology, biochemistry or chemistry. However, medical schools give equal consideration to students with any major, as long as students have completed the prerequisite coursework. Thus, a student interested in medicine should not automatically exclude any course of study when entering Saint Mary's. Rather each student should consider such factors as personal interest, aptitude and alternative career goals when choosing a major.

Regardless of choice of major, there are certain courses that are required by virtually all allopathic and osteopathic medical schools. These include one-year sequential courses in general chemistry (**Chemistry 8, 9 (lab), 10, 11 (lab)**), organic chemistry (**Chemistry 104, 105, 106, 107**), general biology (**Biology 1 and 1L, 2 and 2L**), general physics (**Physics 10, 10L, 11, 11L**), two semesters of math (**Math 27 and 28, or Math 27 and 4**), physics, and English. All these courses should be completed before taking the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). If the student wants to enter medical school after graduation, he or she should take the MCAT during his or her junior year. In addition, it is advisable to take at least one upper-division science course as an elective if a science major is not chosen. Some medical schools suggest or require additional courses in biochemistry, microbiology, psychology or foreign language. Thus, the student is advised to check the specific requirements of prospective medical schools. All pre-medical students, regardless of academic major, should seek counseling from the health professions advisor in the School of Science upon entering Saint Mary's and thereafter on a regular basis.

## Curriculum Pre-Professional Curricula

### DENTISTRY

The general course requirements are similar to those for pre-medical students and should be completed prior to taking the Dental Admission Test (DAT). Each pre-dental student should plan his or her curriculum through close consultation with his or her academic advisor and the health professions advisor in the School of Science. Additional work in biochemistry, anatomy, physiology or biological sciences may be recommended or required. Students should check the professional school websites for detailed admission requirements.

### PHYSICAL THERAPY

The allied health science major is designed to include those courses that are required for entrance into most physical therapy doctoral programs. These courses include general chemistry (**Chemistry 8, 9 (lab), 10, 11 (lab)**), general biology (**Biology 1 and 1L, 2 and 2L**), and general physics (**Physics 10, 20, 11, 21**), plus courses in human anatomy (**Biology 15, 16**), human physiology (**Biology 25, 26**), psychology (**139, 152**) and statistics (**Psychology 3 and 4, Math 4, or Biostatistics 119**). Additional courses may be needed, depending upon the entrance requirements of a particular physical therapy program. For further information, contact the allied health advisor.

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The allied health science major is designed to include those courses that are required for entrance into most occupational therapy master's programs. These courses include human anatomy (**Biology 15, 16**), human physiology (**Biology 25, 26**), psychology (**139, 152**), statistics (**Psychology 3, Math 4, or Biostatistics 119**), general chemistry (**Chemistry 8, 9, 10, 11**), general biology (**Biology 1 and 1L, 2 and 2L**) and general physics (**Physics 10, 20, 11, 21**). Additional courses may be needed, depending upon the entrance requirements of a particular occupational therapy program. For further information, contact the allied health advisor.

### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Students interested in pursuing a profession as a physician assistant are encouraged to follow the allied health science major. Additional course work in microbiology is usually required and 100 hours of patient contact is recommended. For further information, contact the allied health advisor.

### PHARMACY

Students planning to enter the field of pharmacy could follow the biology, chemistry, biochemistry, or allied health science major. Students should check the prerequisites with individual pharmacy schools in which they are interested as they do vary. Some schools of pharmacy allow students to enroll after three years of pre-professional education. Pre-pharmacy students should consult closely with the allied health advisor in the School of Science.

### VETERINARY MEDICINE

Students interested in pursuing veterinary medicine as a professional career have traditionally majored in either biology or chemistry (or a split major between these two disciplines). However, schools of veterinary medicine may consider students from any major providing they have completed the prerequisite coursework. Veterinary medicine requires the same courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics as are required in pre-medicine (see under Medicine). Many veterinary schools have other specific core requirements, such as embryology or statistics. In addition, actual experience in the field of veterinary medicine or extensive experience with animals is required, as well as taking the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Students are advised to obtain a copy of the catalog from prospective schools, and should also seek counseling from the health professions advisor in the School of Science upon entering Saint Mary's and throughout their stay at the College.

### OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Saint Mary's College provides pre-professional preparation for a number of other health care fields such as physician assistant, optometry, podiatry, chiropractic medicine and public health. Students should contact the allied health advisor in the School of Science for more information.