



## MEDICAL PROFESSIONS GENERAL INFORMATION



<http://www.ithaca.edu/hs/programs/premed>

### Premedical Sciences Program

Students who wish to prepare for any of the medical science professions (medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, podiatry, optometry, veterinary medicine) may do so at Ithaca College in a variety of ways. No specific major is required to prepare for the above professions, but the following minimum requirements normally apply to each of these:

Biology	1 year
Chemistry	
General or Inorganic	1 year
Organic	1 year
Physics	1 year
English	1 year

Courses recommended but not required by the professional schools vary but include advanced courses in biology, chemistry, physics and math. Some schools **have additional requirements so it is very important to determine the precise requirements of the schools** in which you are interested. In any event, all such course work is available at the college. *Students interested in any of the medical sciences should contact a member of the Premedical Sciences Advisory Committee during their freshman year.* This will assure that the entire academic program is planned in such a way as to meet all requirements for professional school by the end of their junior year. For those deciding late to enter one of the professions, applications (with completion of the required courses) must be made one year before planning to enter.

Graduates of Ithaca College have entered into the various medical professional schools and are now in practice. Criteria for entrance into any of these fields are constantly changes. The chances of a student being accepted in any of the medical professions varies with the year. The Chairperson of the Premedical Sciences Advisory Committee may be consulted for the current criteria and acceptance rates.

Nationwide, the **entering medical school class of 2005** had a mean science GPA of 3.56 and a mean overall GPA of 3.63. In the other professions, due to a smaller number of applicants for the positions open, 3.5 average or better is usually necessary. There are specific admissions tests required for entrance to most of these professional school, and the scores on these tests are also very important. Finally, a letter of recommendation from the Premedical Sciences Advisory Committee is required. Since the number of applicants to professional schools is large, many of the medical science professional schools are now looking first at the cumulative GPA for the initial screening and also at the overall science GPA. Therefore, one's achievement during the first three years of college is most important, along with evidence of proficiency in science.

The success of students from Ithaca College gaining admission to professional schools has been excellent. This means, however, that the student must first meet the above criteria. Some students choose to apply with less than the suggested GPA and admission test scores, but the outlook for their acceptance is bleak. In 2005, there were almost 37,000 applicants for around 17,000 seats in entering medical school classes. This situation exists no matter which undergraduate school the student attends.

The Premedical Sciences Advisory Committee advises each student to have an alternative career or course of study in mind, since there are many more **qualified** applicants to these professional schools than can be accepted. Rejection does not necessarily mean one is not qualified, and highly motivated and qualified students may reapply and may be accepted upon reapplication.

The Premedical Sciences Advisory Committee brings occasional speakers during the academic year and provides program to acquaint the students with the various fields within the health professions and with information about the application process. Students should actively seek to become aware of all the medical professions, para-medical professions, and allied health fields.

Premedical Sciences Advisory Committee  
Jean Hardwick, Chairperson  
168 Center for Natural Sciences

### **Members of the Committee**

John Bradac, Office of Career Plans  
Jean Hardwick, Biology  
Karen Edwards, HSHP  
Hilary Greenberger, Physical Therapy  
Michael Haaf, Chemistry  
Vivian Lorenzo, MD, Ithaca College Health Center  
Jack Peck, Psychology  
Marc Servetnick, Biology  
Andy Smith, Biology  
Thomas Swensen, Exercise Science  
Scott Ulrich, Chemistry