

Information for Pre-Med/Pre-Health Mid-Year Students

First of all, **congratulations on your offer of admission to Brandeis University's Midyear class!** As Director of Pre-Health Advising within the Office of Academic Services, I work closely with all students who plan to pursue careers in the health professions (medicine, dentistry, physician assistant, etc.). Being a mid-year pre-health student requires some careful planning. Because some of the required pre-health prerequisites are two semester sequences, and begin *only in the Fall term*, you will be on a different schedule than some of your peers. Thus, I'm writing to help you understand the sequence of classes.

There are four prerequisite science course sequences required by all medical and other health professions schools. These pre-health prerequisites are:

- One year of General Chemistry with lab
- One year of Organic Chemistry with lab
- One year of Biology with lab
- One year of Physics with lab

You are required to take General Chemistry before you begin the pre-health Biology and Organic Chemistry courses. General Chemistry at Brandeis is a two-semester sequence that begins in the Fall semester; thus, as a mid-year student, you will not be able to start taking General Chemistry during your first semester at Brandeis (Spring 2009).

If you would like to begin your science coursework before your midyear entrance, incoming midyear students also have the option to enroll in first semester general chemistry during our five-week session of the Brandeis Summer School from July 6 to August 7. You'll be taught by a top-rated instructor using the same textbook, protocols and experiments as Brandeis's Fall Term general chemistry class. You can check out the summer school option at: <http://www.brandeis.edu/summer>

In order to complete your science prerequisite work prior to applying to health professions schools, there are several options. A few of them are outlined here:

Option 1 – General Biology in Spring, General Chemistry in 2009-2010			
	Fall	Spring	Summer
2008-2009	-----	General Biology	
2009-2010	General Chemistry	General Chemistry	
2010-2011	Organic Chemistry Pre-Health Biology	Organic Chemistry Pre-Health Biology	
2011-2012	Physics	Physics	Apply to schools
2012-2013	Interviews at schools		

General Biology is not a pre-health pre-requisite, but it is a great introductory course to get you acclimated to the sciences at Brandeis. You would begin your pre-health courses in your second year, and finish in your senior year. The earliest you'd be able to begin medical (or other health professions) school without taking any summer science courses would be Fall 2013. While some students see this as a drawback, it's actually the trend among pre-health students these days! About 70% of Brandeis pre-medical students take time off between graduating from Brandeis and beginning med school, and the average age of a student starting medical school is 24.

Option 2 – No Science in Spring, General Chemistry in 2009-2010			
	Fall	Spring	Summer
2008-2009	-----	-----	
2009-2010	General Chemistry	General Chemistry	
2010-2011	Organic Chemistry Pre-Health Biology	Organic Chemistry Pre-Health Biology	
2011-2012	Physics	Physics	Apply to schools
2012-2013	Interviews at schools		

Option 2 gives you a semester without science to fulfill other university requirements. If you had a strong Biology preparation, use this semester to explore new areas of interest. This option also has you finishing up your sciences in your senior year, to start med school in Fall 2013.

Option 3 – General Biology in Spring, General Chemistry in Summer			
	Fall	Spring	Summer
2008-2009	-----	General Biology	General Chemistry
2009-2010	Organic Chemistry Pre-Health Biology	Organic Chemistry Pre-Health Biology	
2010-2011	Physics	Physics	Apply to schools
2011-2012	Interviews at schools		

Option 4 – No science in Spring, General Chemistry in Summer			
	Fall	Spring	Summer
2008-2009	-----	-----	General Chemistry
2009-2010	Organic Chemistry Pre-Health Biology	Organic Chemistry Pre-Health Biology	
2010-2011	Physics	Physics	Apply to schools
2011-2012	Interviews at schools		

Options 3 and 4 require you to take a summer science sequence, but allow you to begin medical (or other health professions) school as early as Fall 2012. Generally speaking, medical schools prefer that you take courses during the academic years, though, and spend your summers doing internships, research, and clinical work. Both Options 3 and 4 will allow you to be eligible to apply for the Early Assurance Program with Tufts University School of Medicine, an opportunity available to pre-med students at five area schools in which you are accepted to medical school in your sophomore year.

Option 5 – General Chemistry in 2009-2010, Organic Chemistry in Summer			
	Fall	Spring	Summer
2008-2009	-----	General Biology	
2009-2010	General Chemistry	General Chemistry	Organic Chemistry
2010-2011	Pre -Health Biology Physics	Pre-Health Biology Physics	Apply to schools
2011-2012	Interviews at schools		

Rather than take General Chemistry in the Summer after your first year, Organic Chemistry (or Physics) may also be taken in the summer term after your second year. This option also allows you to begin medical (or other health professions) school as early as Fall 2012, but you would not be eligible for the Early Assurance Program with Tufts University School of Medicine.

There are many different timelines that students choose to complete their pre-health prerequisite courses, and I'm happy to meet with you, or talk with you by phone or email, if you'd like to discuss your particular situation. I hope that this information will help you make an informed decision in your choice of colleges. Needless to say, *I do hope you will choose to attend Brandeis*. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me at hudsonj@brandeis.edu, or (781) 736-3470. Congratulations again, and I hope to see you next spring!

Sincerely,
Judith Hudson
Director of Pre-Health Advising