

Summer 2025 Pre-Health Group Advising Session

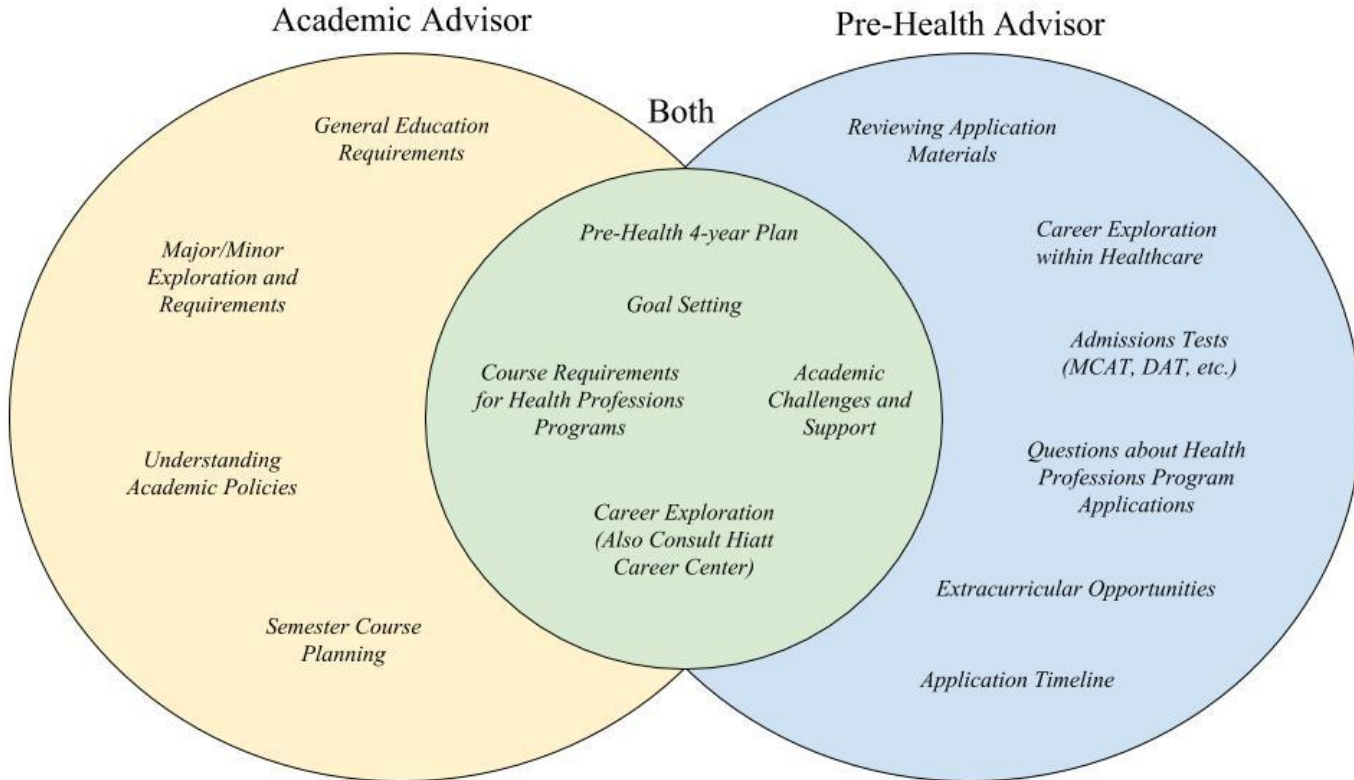
Shelby Richards, Assistant Director, Pre-Health Advising

Katie Dunn, Associate Director, Academic Advising

Ellen Chiang, Roosevelt Fellow

Summer 2025

Who should I talk to about...?



Taking with Roosevelt Fellows

Roosevelt Fellows

Peer academic advisors

What might you talk about?

Course selection

Academic planning and policies

Transition to Brandeis

Balancing school and extracurriculars

Academic support

Getting involved in research

Available via email or [by appointment!](#)



Campus Resources

- Academic Advisors (general and pre-health)
- Roosevelt Fellows
- Professors
- Undergraduate Department Representatives (peer advisors for a department)
- Hiatt Career Center
- Department of Community Service
- Fellowships Office
- Study Abroad Office
- Undergraduate Research and Creative Collaborations (URCC)

Careers to Consider

Allopathic Medicine (MD)
Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
Physician Assistant
Dental Medicine
Optometry
Chiropractic
Genetic Counseling
Advanced Nursing
Pharmacy
Physical Therapy
Podiatry Medicine
Veterinary Medicine
Public Health

Pre-Health Majors

- Anthropology
- Art History
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Health: Science, Society, and Policy
- History
- International & Global Studies
- Music
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy
- Psychology

You should choose a major that suits your interests and academic goals!

Visit Our Webpage for Course Planning Guides!

Academic Services

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Health Professions

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Chiropractic



Dentistry



Genetic Counseling



Medicine



Nursing/Advanced Practice Nursing



Occupational Therapy



Optometry



Pharmacy



Physical Therapy



AP Credits

Medical and dental schools vary in whether or not they will accept AP courses for prerequisites.

- Some health programs view AP credits as college prep and is not viewed as replaceable for college coursework.
- Some health programs may accept AP credits, but may want you to take additional upper level coursework in the same field.
- Some health programs will accept AP credits, but you need to claim credit on your undergraduate transcript.
- AP Credits for Psych 10a and Math 10a are sufficient for medical school. (Scores 4 or 5)

External Credit (AP/IB, college courses, etc.)

- Have your AP/IB/A-level scores sent electronically to Brandeis (college code 3092)
- Earn up to **16 credits in external credit** from qualifying scores and/or approved college courses (applied toward the 128 credits needed for graduation).
- Have more? All qualifying scores and/or college courses may count for **purpose credit** (used to satisfy major/minor/Brandeis Core requirements, no numeric credit).
 - Example: 4 or 5 in AP Microeconomics
 - External credit: earns 4 numeric credits
 - Purpose credit: equivalent to Econ 10a (Intro to Microeconomics), satisfies QR (quantitative reasoning) requirement

Advanced Placement Chart

Beginning Fall 2019

Examination	Accepted Scores	Requirement Met	Numeric Credit	Equivalent Brandeis Courses
Art History	5	None	4	None
Biology	5	None	4	BIOL 15b
Chemistry*	4, 5	Quantitative Reasoning	8	CHEM 11a,b,18a,b
Chinese Language	4, 5	World Languages and Cultures	4	CHIN 30-level
Comparative Government and Politics	5	None	4	None
Computer Science A	5	None	4	COSI 10a
Economics: Macro	4, 5	None	4	ECON 20a
Economics: Micro	4, 5	Quantitative Reasoning	4	ECON 10a
Environmental Science	4, 5	None	4	None

Claim External Credit

- For AP/IB/A-level, once your scores have been received by Brandeis, email transfer@brandeis.edu in the Office of the Registrar to claim your scores and have them posted to your Transfer Credit tab on Workday.
- For college courses earned while in high school with a grade of B- or better and not needed for HS graduation, send official transcripts to transfer@brandeis.edu and complete [petition for evaluation](#).



Want to use external credits to place into a higher level class?

Request permission to enroll by completing [prerequisite override form](#) on Workday.

Planning & Registration

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Find Course Sections Brandeis

View My Courses

Find Courses Brandeis

View My Saved Schedules

Request Permission/Prerequisite Override

< Request Course Section Pre-requisite Override

Confirmation 1 Item

Start Date within	Course Section	Pre-requisite Override Item
Spring Semester 2021 (01/19/2021-05/03/2021)	FREN 32A-2 - Intermediate French: Conversation	SR PREQ CR - FREN 20a



I have take the introductory classes in a summer program at Boston University

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Submit

Save for Later

Cancel

Placement Tests and Sequencing for Pre-Health Students

Math Assessment (Strongly Recommended)

- Take the assessment online through Brandeis Moodle Communities.
- Based on your score, the test will recommend you start with:
 - **MATH 5a** (Pre-Calc)
 - **MATH 10a** (Calc I)
 - **MATH 10b** (Calc II)
- You don't necessarily have to take Math in your first semester, but if you place into Math 5a we recommend taking it in the fall.
- **Math 2F Intro to STEM Skills** is a new 6 week 2 credit module course to reinforce math skills applied to science classes. Can be taken before Math 5a, or with Math 5a or 10a.



Chemistry placement test (Optional)

- Score from online test recommends you for **CHEM 11a** (General Chemistry) or **CHEM 15a** (Honors General Chemistry).
 - Most students take General Chemistry.
 - A smaller group of students who excelled in AP chemistry may opt for Honors General Chemistry and can confirm with the placement test.
 - *Students placing into Math 5a should delay general chemistry until summer after first year or sophomore year until they successfully complete Math 5a.*

Example First Semester Schedule

Composition or First Year Seminar	4 credits
World language (or CORE)	4 credits
BIOL 14a/15b/General Chemistry with lab	4-6 credits
Exploratory course	4 credits
HWL 1-PRE	0 credits
HWL 1	0 credits

Recommended

- 16-18 credits (4-4.5 four-credit courses)
- Complete First Year Seminar in Fall 2025 or Spring 2026
- Try out a course in an area of interest
- Leave room to explore
- Try to create a balanced schedule (i.e not all STEM courses)

Making adjustments once the semester starts

- Utilizing the add/drop period
- Electing a course pass/fail (*not for pre-health prerequisites*)

Beyond Coursework

AAMC Core Competencies

What do health professions programs look for?

- Commitment to Learning and Growth
- Cultural Awareness
- Cultural Humility
- Empathy and Compassion
- Ethical Responsibility to Self and Others
- Interpersonal Skills
- Oral Communication
- Reliability and Dependability
- Resilience and Adaptability
- Service Orientation
- Teamwork and Collaboration

Science Competencies:

- Human Behavior
- Living Systems

Thinking and Reasoning Competencies:

- Critical Thinking
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Scientific Inquiry
- Written Communication

Clinical Experience

What is Clinical Experience?

- Any paid or volunteer experience in a healthcare environment.
- Includes patient interaction, or supporting a population with specific healthcare needs.
- Examples of direct-patient care: EMT, CNA, Medical Assistant, Medical Scribe, Medical Translator, etc.

Pre-Health Clubs

- BEMco
- Minority Association of Pre-Medical Schools at Brandeis (MAPS)
- Pre-Dental Society
- Pre-Medical Club (hoping to start this coming year)
- Pre-Veterinary/Animal Appreciation Society
- Student Sexuality Information Service (SSIS)
- STAR Peer Support
- Brandeis 6Talk (Peer Support Hotline)
- Waltham Group
- Brandeis Science Research Connection Club
- Active Minds
- ...and more!

Goals for First Year Students

- Get involved with one campus organization or club
 - Volunteer
 - Student Clubs
- Go to faculty “office hours”
 - Talk about more than assignments and grades!
 - Get advice on topic of interest
 - It's a strength to ask for help
- Engage with Pre-Health Advising!
 - Sign-up for newsletter
 - Attend pre-health events (we will be at Orientation!)
 - Create a 4-Year Plan

Common Pre-Health Myths

Myth # 1

I need to have a science major OR I need to have a BS

Answer: No! Successful applicants to health programs have a variety of majors. This includes humanities, social sciences, and sciences. As long as you complete the prerequisites, you can choose any major. It also doesn't matter whether you have a BS or a BA.

Myth # 2

Most applicants don't take a glide year

Answer: 90% of Brandeis students take one or more glide years before starting a health profession programs. 60% take two or more glide years. This matches the national trend of applicants taking glide year(s).

Myth # 3

It's not possible to study abroad as pre-health

Answer: No! It's absolutely possible to study abroad as a pre-health student. We host a Pre-Health Study Abroad workshop every year, and you can meet with us to arrange your schedule. Popular options include Denmark, Sydney, and Spain!

Myth # 4

I need to have scientific/bench research experience

Answer: No! Health professions expect you to demonstrate critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, written communication, and scientific inquiry. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways, including research in the social sciences or humanities.

Myth # 5

I need “X” number of experience hours

Answer: For most health professions, there are no expected numbers of experiences like shadowing, volunteering, or research. The **quality** of your experiences are more important than **quantity**!

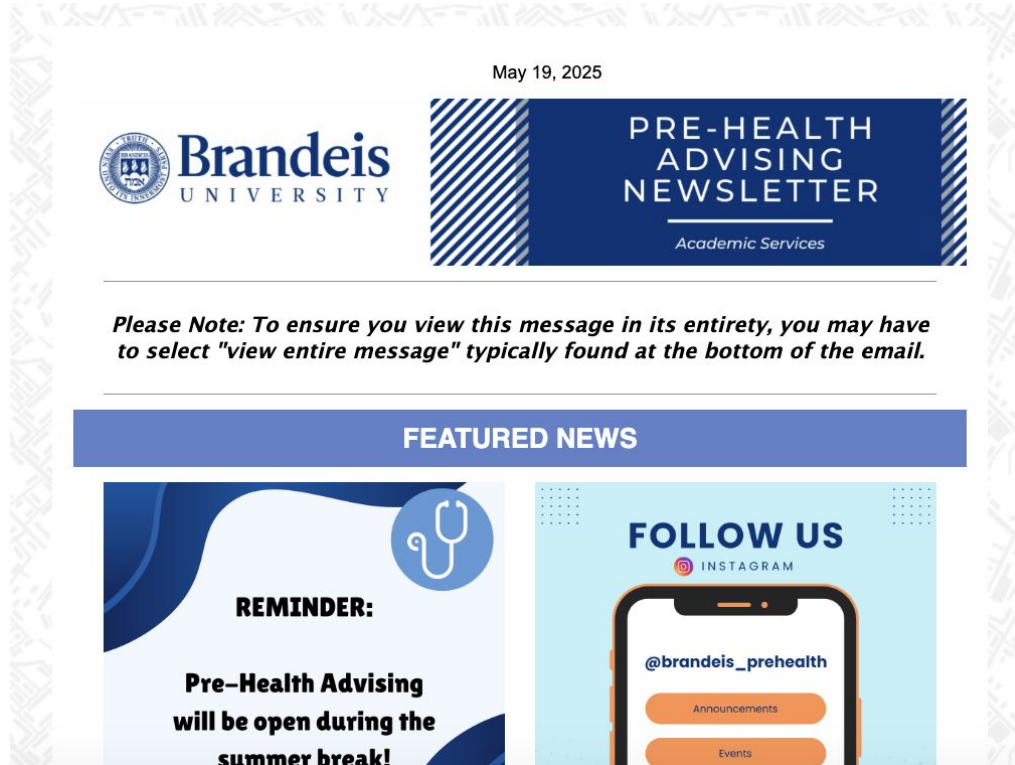
Note: For allied health professions like PA, there may be required hands-on hours.

Myth # 6

I should never question why I want to be a doctor

Answer: It's normal to have doubts about your future career. It's okay to ask questions from yourself and mentors. The more you explore all your career options, the more confident you will be of your pathway. It's also okay to change your mind later! *It's a strength to ask questions.*

Newsletter



- **Sign-up for weekly newsletter!**
 - **Important Announcements**
 - **Events**
 - **Opportunities**
 - **Resources**
 - **Sent every Monday**



Connect with Pre-Health Advising

Register with our
Office!



Follow us on
Instagram!



Questions?

Email pha@brandeis.edu or richardss@brandeis.edu



**New Student
Meeting for
Pre-Health**

**Wednesday,
September 3rd**



5:00pm