

Pre-med and Health Careers

At Lehigh, being pre-med or pre-health is not an official academic major, minor or concentration. You can choose to major in any discipline and our specialized pre-health advisor and pre-med student mentors will help you craft a customized academic journey to meet your career goals.

What is Pre-health?

Pre-health students are any students interested in pursuing graduate-level study in a health field such as allopathic (M.D.) or osteopathic (D.O.) medicine, physician assistant, dentistry, optometry, podiatry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and more.

Advising

Lehigh provides advising and support for pre-health students through a specialized pre-health advisor who will help you craft a customized academic journey regardless of whether your goal is to become a practitioner or to work as a leader in the healthcare industry. In addition to our dedicated pre-health advisor, students have access to Med Mentors, specially trained pre-health juniors and seniors who provide peer mentoring and referrals to first year students.

Academic Pathways

Because health professional schools are looking for students who have well-rounded educational backgrounds, there are no pre-health majors at Lehigh. Instead, fields of study across all four of our undergraduate colleges can lend themselves to a career in health. Some of the most beneficial majors for students going on to medical school or professional work in the healthcare industry include:

- Biochemistry
- Bioengineering
- Biology
- Biostatistics & Health Data Science
- Chemistry
- Community & Global Health
- Health, Medicine and Society
- Integrated Business and Health (IBH)
- Molecular Biology
- Neuroscience
- Population Health
- 4+1 Master of Public Health (MPH)

BY THE NUMBERS

700+

Pre-health students
at Lehigh

15

Med Mentors paired with
our incoming first-year
pre-med students

10+

clubs and organizations
with a health/medical
focus

2

major healthcare systems
within 15 minutes of
campus, including a
medical school

1,000+

alumni in health
professions

Real-world Experience

As a pre-med or pre-health student, experiential learning will be part of your curriculum. You'll have opportunities for real-world experiences both in your classes and in hospital and lab settings. We understand that these experiences are crucial for health careers and provide many options to fit your interests.

▶ **Research with faculty and graduate students at Lehigh research institutes including:**

- Children's Environmental Precision Health Institute
- Institute for Indigenous Studies
- Institute of Health Policy & Politics

▶ **Specialized Lehigh research programs such as:**

- Biosystems Dynamics Summer Institute
- Global Social Impact Fellows
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Lehigh University (HHMI)

▶ **Internships and externships:**

- Biomedical Externship/St. Luke's Hospital Shadow Program
- Co-op Program with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)
- Lehigh University Emergency Medical Services (LUEMS)

▶ **Lehigh's Early Assurance Program with the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University**

▶ **Lehigh's 3+4 program with the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine**

Outcomes

Lehigh students have found success in healthcare both as practitioners and leaders in the industry for decades as both. Lehigh's **Health Professions Advisory Committee** supports medical, dental, optometry and podiatry candidates who wish to go through the committee process for an institutional letter of support. There is no GPA or MCAT minimum to obtain a letter.



Medical School

- About 45 students and alumni from Lehigh apply each year
- Acceptance rate regularly double the national average
- Students matriculated to Georgetown University, Tufts University, the Ohio State University, Temple University and more



Dental School

- About 10 students from Lehigh apply each year
- Students matriculated to Columbia University, Harvard University, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, Boston University, University of Pittsburgh, University of Southern California and more



Physician Assistant School

- About 15 students from Lehigh apply each year
- Students matriculated to Weill Cornell Medicine, Wake Forest University, Rutgers University and more

CONNECT WITH US

Questions?

Email us at inlumm@lehigh.edu to hear from the Lehigh University Med Mentors!

Address

27 Memorial Drive West
Bethlehem, PA 18015
(610) 758-3100

More Info



Scan to learn more about pre-health at Lehigh



Scan for an in-depth pre-health career guide

Alumni Spotlights



Frank L. Douglas '66

An award-winning industry veteran with decades of experience in healthcare, pharmaceuticals and entrepreneurship, Dr. Frank L. Douglas has improved the health of millions by leading the teams that were responsible for numerous drugs, including Allegra, Lantus, Taxotere and Actonel. Dr. Douglas has come back to campus as a speaker to discuss his experiences at Lehigh and in his career.



Giana Jarrah '22

Biomedical engineer Giana Jarrah '22, who founded a startup and developed a woman's urinary and vaginal probiotic, won top prize in StartUp Lehigh Valley's fourth annual entrepreneurial pitch competition. Jarrah started her venture project during her senior year at Lehigh as part of the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering & Applied Science capstone project program.