ADVISING STUDENTS INTERESTED IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The Health Career Committee works with students interested in any of the health professions: medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, occupational therapy, nursing, anesthesiology assistant, public health, podiatry, etc. **The majority of students will have questions about medical school. Fortunately, most of the prerequisites for medical school are also needed for other health professions.** This is also helpful for students who begin on the “pre-med track” but later realize they would prefer another health career.

Students can contact any member of the health career committee for general advice. Each student should meet with Lynne Bianchi at least once during the academic year. However, it is not necessary to see Lynne with general class scheduling questions.

First year students who indicated an interest in a health career in the Oberlin application will be included in a group advising session during student orientation. A second more in depth advising session will be held during the first week of classes, before add/drop. **If you meet a first year advisee who did not sign up for the health careers email list during student orientation, please have them contact lynne.bianchi@oberlin.edu to be included on the list.**

**Basic pre health advising information:**

- Students going into health professions can major in any subject, as long as they have the required coursework (e.g. “Premed courses”.)

- **The premed requirements are:** 1 year of Biology, 1 year of Physics, 2-2.5 years of Chemistry, 1 year of mathematics (including statistics), 1 year of English, and demonstrated knowledge in psychological, social and behavioral sciences.

- The most common premed coursework at Oberlin includes: CHM 101, CHM 102, CHM 205 and CHM 254; BIO 100, BIO 213; PHY 103, 104 or PHY 110, 111; MTH 133 and STAT 113 or 114; introductory coursework in psychology, sociology or a related course.

- **Advising first year students:**

  NO MORE THAN 2 SCIENCE/LAB COURSES IN THE FIRST SEMESTER.

  NO MORE THAN 1 SCIENCE LAB COURSE WITH A MATH COURSE.

  Students may want to take more than two sciences/math classes in the first semester. They often feel such courses are easy for them and that they won’t take much time. Tell them no, tell them to see Lynne Bianchi if they doubt your wisdom.

  It is very important that students do not overcommit in the first semester. Students need time to get used to the level of Oberlin science/math courses, as well college life in general. A bad first semester can severely damage a GPA. It also shatters the confidence of the students.

- If an advisee is well prepared in the sciences, that student should take both introductory chemistry (Chem 101 or 103) and introductory biology, (or physics or a math course) in the first semester.
NOTE: Beginning in fall 2013 introductory biology is offered both semesters. If the fall sections are filled, the well-prepared students should plan on taking a math or physics course instead.

• If an advisee is less well prepared or wants to take other courses besides sciences the first semester, encourage them to take introductory chemistry first because students need more chemistry classes than any other subject.

• Students can begin taking pre med courses at any point, but those starting after the second year should see one of the members of the health career committee to work out the most effective plan.

Important information to share with advisees:

Encourage students to attend faculty office hours, open tutoring sessions, individual peer tutoring, and the student led Oberlin Workshops for Learning Science (OWLS) sessions that accompany most introductory and some 200 level science courses. Also let them know about The Center for Learning, Education and Research in the Sciences (CLEAR), led by Marcelo Vinces. CLEAR offers drop in tutoring for students seeking help with quantitative assignments. There are many resources available to help students succeed in the sciences, encourage your students to take advantage of as many of these as they can.

For those that seem reluctant, you can mention that it is very important that students get to know the professors. These are the faculty who will write letters of recommendation for admission to a professional school. Office hours are a great way to begin to know a professor.

You can also encourage them to attend OWLS and point out that becoming a tutor or OWLS leader is also a great way to enhance one’s resume and get to know a professor. By attending the OWLS sessions now they learn how to serve in such a position later.

If you think one of your advisees is too uncomfortable to contact a professor, try to find a way to help the student connect with the professor. Some students are embarrassed to admit they need help, especially if they have been sailing through high school with little difficulty, or if they feel they came from a school much less rigorous than the ones attended by their classmates. When in doubt contact Lynne Bianchi or one of the other Health Committee members and we will try to help the student become more comfortable in the sciences.

Health Career Committee 2015-2016
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