



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL | MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Health Professions Advising

## DEGREES OFFERED

- Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate
- MS in Health Science



*Placing composite filling*

Graduate Program Office Contact Information:  
 308/309 Leon Johnson Hall  
 PO Box 173075  
 (P) 406.994.1670  
 (F) 406.994.6400  
 Email [HPA@montana.edu](mailto:HPA@montana.edu)  
 Web: <http://www.montana.edu/hpa/>

The fundamental goal of the Health Professions Advising (HPA) office is to facilitate the process by which students identify personal interests and skills and take ownership in pursuing career aspirations, particularly in the health professions. The HPA office strongly recommends that students utilize an informed decision-making process to identify the most appropriate and individualized career choice. Structurally, the HPA office assists students in exploring career options, understanding the academic requirements of professional schools, and preparing the most competitive professional school application possible.

## POST BACCALAUREATE PRE-MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

### PROGRAM

The Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Certificate Program (Certificate) is a career-changing opportunity afforded to students by Montana State University through the Health Professions Advising office. As a 'career-changing' program, students accepted into this program have earned a non-science bachelor's degree and have often been employed prior to deciding to pursue medicine or health care. The Certificate program was approved in 2005 as a 'career-changing' program and the first students matriculated in May 2006. The program is 12-15 months (or up to 4 semesters) in length and the class size is capped at 20 students. It is highly recommended that students begin the program during the summer academic sessions in order to complete the main program requirements within the year.

### PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL PREPARATION

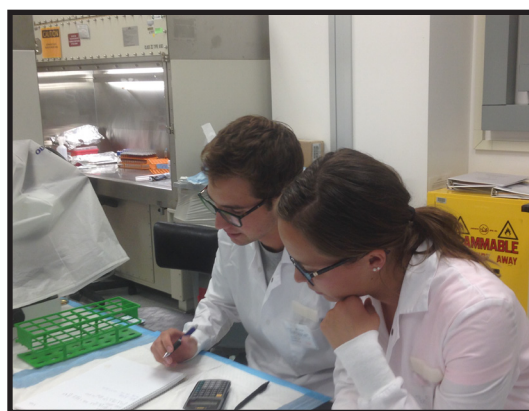
While at MSU students complete the professional school pre-requisites (1 year each of biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry and physics, and a semester of biochemistry, behavioral sciences and math, as needed) and prepare for the professional school entrance exam. The didactic portion of the Certificate program prepares students to apply to a broad range of professional schools, including medical, dental, physician assistant and pharmacy. Students apply to professional school at the end of the Certificate program and; therefore, experience an application glide year. We encourage students to consider the 1-year MS in Health Science program during the glide year to further enhance their academic foundation prior to professional school matriculation.



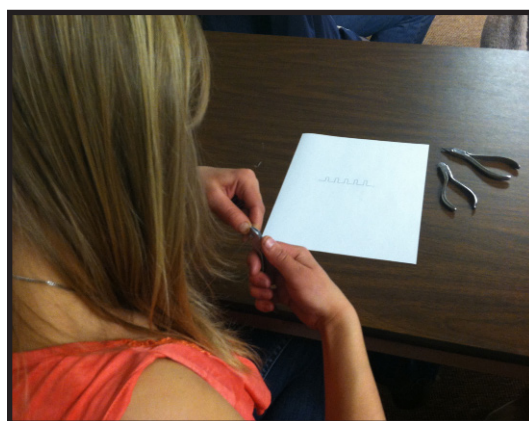
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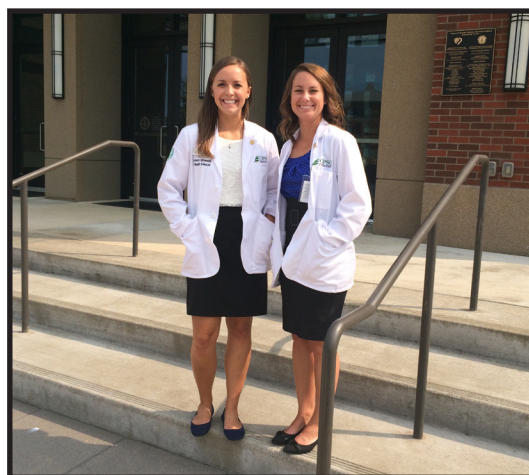




Preparing for NASA flight experiment



Bending orthodontic wires



Next step, Medical School!



A supportive community

## REQUIREMENTS

- Career changing status (limited science background)
- GPA  $\geq 3.0$
- Demonstrated math proficiency within past 5 years (math level 4 or completed College Algebra, M121Q or equivalent)
- MSU Post-Bacc Certificate online Graduate application and the following (accepted October 1-February 28):
  - o Official transcripts
  - o Letter of recommendation
  - o Statement of Purpose (1 page)

## MS IN HEALTH SCIENCES

### PROGRAM

The MS in Health Sciences degree is a 1-year program at Montana State University that serves to increase the academic breadth and/or depth for students interested in health professions. This program serves those students who have already completed the basic pre-requisites for admission to health professional schools. The MS in Health Sciences program was approved in 2009 with the first students matriculating August 2009. Students are encouraged to begin the program fall semester and complete it within two semesters.

### PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL PREPARATION

Many students complete the MS in Health Sciences program during the 'glide' year of their health professional school application process. The program provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate a continued commitment to their education and better prepare them for the rigors of professional school. The flexibility of the program enables the student, in conjunction with the program director, to develop a curriculum that best suits their individual needs and goals. Students will declare an emphasis (Molecular Medicine, Community Health, International Medicine, or Health and Medicine) and complete 24 credits of approved coursework and 6 credits of a scholarly project. The Health Professions Advising office is also available to support students during the health professional school application process.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Hold a Baccalaureate degree by the time of matriculation into MSU program
- Course pre-requisites include:
  - o 1 year of Introductory biology
  - o 1 year of Introductory physics
  - o 1 year of General chemistry
  - o 1 year of Organic chemistry
  - o 1 semester of statistics
  - o 1 semester of calculus
- GPA  $\geq 3.0$  (grade of C or better in each pre-requisite course)
- MSU online Graduate application and the following (accepted October 1-February 28):
  - o Official transcripts
  - o Two Letters of recommendation
  - o Statement of Purpose (1 page)