

Health Professions

Preparing for a career helping others

Is helping others a central motivation in your life? Do you have a strong desire and the enthusiasm to make a difference in your chosen profession? Do you have what it takes to become a physician, dentist, physical therapist or veterinarian? Qualities like maturity, stability, integrity, responsibility and trustworthiness are necessary to succeed in these highly competitive fields.

Elon's Health Professions program is designed to prepare students for entry into a wide variety of health professions, such as medicine, dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, podiatry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician's assistant and medical technology.

FLEXIBLE CURRICULUM

Health Professions students may choose any major, but should meet with a Health Professions advisor and start planning a course of study as soon as possible. If you are interested in a medically related career, you should anticipate taking introductory biology or physics as well as chemistry courses your first semester. Elon's Health Professions advisors can assist you in selecting the course of study that can help make you a strong candidate for professional school and can prepare you for the rigors of study once you are accepted.

Students should select a major and obtain a baccalaureate degree in an area that is of greatest interest to them, keeping in mind that the minimum requirements for individual professional schools must be met. Health Professions students

should obtain the specific requirements of the schools to which they anticipate applying. Although a science major may not be required for most health professions, the requirements listed below are typical for many programs and generally fulfill the minimum entrance requirements of medical, dental and related schools. Two semesters each (8 semester hours) of the following:

- *General Biology*
- *General Chemistry*
- *Organic Chemistry*
- *Physics*
- *Mathematics (may require calculus)*

In addition to the excellent preparation for admission to professional schools of all kinds, Elon offers a bachelor of science in Medical Technology. It requires three years at Elon (40–44 semester

hours of coursework) and a 12-month clinical experience at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center (competitive admission).

A SUPPORTIVE FACULTY

At Elon, classes are small and the low student–faculty ratio means that students enjoy significant individual attention and build close working relationships with their professors. Health Professions faculty are closely involved with student research as well as their own research. They provide close supervision and advice for students interested in health professions.

Dr. Herbert House, professor of biology and Official Health Professions Advisor (as designated by the American Association of Medical Colleges), and Dr. Robert Vick, associate professor of biology, are members of the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP) and regularly attend national and state meetings of this group where they communicate with educational leaders from medical and other health profession schools across the nation.

Elon's Health Professions Committee is designed to guide and advise students who have an interest in pursuing a wide variety of health professions. The committee is composed of faculty members from Elon with a background or interest in one or more of the health professions as well as local health providers. In addition, the committee has two alumni associated with medical schools. Dr. William Herbert (William Norman

“Without a doubt, Elon's Health Professions program has more than prepared me for the workload and atmosphere of medical school. Despite the fact that I was a History major, the Health Professions advisors encouraged me to pursue medical school, and it ultimately paid off. I know that without their assistance and encouragement I would not be in medical school today.”

DONNIE WICKLINE, '02
Marshall University School of Medicine

Health Professions

Thornton Professor and Chair of Obstetrics at the University of Virginia) and Dr. Jesse H. Meredith (Professor Emeritus of Surgery at Wake Forest University School of Medicine) are available along with local health professionals to assist with committee interviews and evaluations of those students requiring a committee letter.

GET REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Health Professions students have many opportunities to gain valuable experience through service learning, internships and study abroad. Contacts are made on campus, locally or through hometown health professionals. Opportunities include:

- *Volunteering/working at local clinics*
- *Assisting in an emergency room*
- *Serving as a pharmacy technician*
- *Habitat for Humanity*
- *Kernodle Center for Service Learning*

Health Professions students are encouraged to pursue research projects and present their findings at institutional, regional and national conferences such as Elon's Student Undergraduate Research Forum and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

Students can join the Lincoln Health Professions Society (named for a pathologist benefactor) in order to meet other students interested in a variety of health professions and participate in programs such as:

- *Visits by representatives of various health profession programs*
- *Trips to local medical schools*
- *Practice Medical College Admissions Tests (MCAT) and assistance preparing for professional tests*
- *Current information about the application processes*
- *Assistance with internships*
- *Interview and essay writing skills.*

FIRST-RATE FACILITIES

As a Health Professions student, you will spend plenty of time in the \$18 million McMichael Science Center, which provides access to a stunning array of the latest technologies and equipment. Elon is one of the few undergraduate programs with a fully equipped cadaver lab. You will also be able to take advantage of computerized data acquisition in Physiology labs.

In addition, you will have access to books, brochures, catalogs, videotapes and CD-ROM information on a wide variety of health profession programs to help you choose your next step.

HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Exceptional high school students could qualify for Elon College Fellows, a challenging program in the College of Arts and Sciences. Thirty of the sixty Elon College Fellows chosen receive scholarships valued at \$3,000 annually. All Elon College Fellows receive a \$750 travel grant to support a study abroad experience, and Fellows may apply for grants to support their research experience. A special application is required; visit www.elon.edu/fellows.

In addition, pre-med and other Health Professions students may apply for the Lincoln Pre-Medical Scholarships each year.

ADVANCED STUDY

Admission to programs in the health professions is highly competitive. Success involves being committed to your career goals and:

- *A high grade point average (overall and in science and math)*
- *A high score on the appropriate professional exam (e.g., MCAT, DAT, OAT, GRE, etc.)*
- *Faculty recommendations*

- *Outside activities that demonstrate altruism and knowledge of the health profession (campus, work and internship experiences)*
- *An interview with the professional school admissions personnel*
- *Excellent communication skills.*

Recent Elon graduates have gained admission to medical programs at the following schools:

- *Yale University*
- *SUNY (Syracuse)*
- *Marshall University*
- *Philadelphia College of Optometry*
- *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*
- *East Carolina University*
- *Johns Hopkins University*
- *Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine*
- *Medical College of Virginia*
- *Wake Forest University School of Medicine*
- *Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine*
- *Temple University*
- *West Virginia University*
- *William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine*
- *University of Miami*
- *University of Kentucky*

For more information on Elon's Health Professions program, contact Dr. Herbert W. House, 2625 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244; 336-278-6187; househ@elon.edu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Elon, NC 27244

800-334-8448 or 336-278-ELON
admissions@elon.edu

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