

FACTS in Brief

Pre-Professional Preparation

Medicine, Dentistry, Chiropractic, Optometry, and Podiatry Undergraduate Programs

The College of Staten Island is proud to serve as a springboard for students interested in professional graduate training. Many of our graduates go on to rewarding careers in health professions such as medicine and dentistry after having received thorough preparation during their undergraduate years.

Pre-Medicine Preparation

To become a medical doctor, students most often complete their undergraduate bachelor's degree, followed by graduate study at an accredited medical school, and then several years of a residency in a medical facility under the guidance of an experienced physician.

Most medical schools in the United States do not require that their applicants have a specific undergraduate major. All medical schools will require that students have a strong foundation in the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics.) Many medical schools will place great emphasis on courses which teach effective communication skills to students in addition to a background in the humanities, which focus on the human condition; and a background in the social sciences which focus on human society and relationships. Students should become familiar with the specific requirements and recommendations of the medical schools to which they plan to apply.

The minimum requirements for admission to medical schools in the United States are:

- one year of English,
- general chemistry with laboratories,
- general biology with laboratories,
- general physics with laboratories,
- organic chemistry with laboratories

Also recommended are:

- at least one year of advanced mathematics, including calculus
- one or more advanced courses in science, sociology, and psychology

All applicants to medical schools in the United States must take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The three areas tested are: verbal reasoning, physical sciences and biological sciences. Most medical schools use the MCAT scores, evaluated in conjunction with college grades, as predictors of performance in medical school.

MCAT scores and college transcripts are the most important determinants of admission to medical school. Also strongly considered are a letter of recommendation from the College's pre-medical advisory committee, research experience, extra-curricular activities, work-related experience, required essay, and a personal interview.

Pre-Medical Advisory Committee

Students interested in pursuing a career in medicine or dentistry should consult with the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee as soon as possible, as the Committee is there to assist students in planning a route for success. The Committee's mission is to help students achieve the dream of becoming doctors, and it is happy to advise students about course selection as early as the freshman year.

Grozdena Yilmaz chair of the Pre-Med/Pre-Health Advising Committee. Professor Yilmaz oversees the advising of all students across campus exploring career in medicine, dentistry, physician assist and other health fields. Professor Yilmaz is a long-term advocate for effective student mentoring. She is a full time faculty at the department of Biology, a licensed physician assistant, and a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

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Stephen G. Morris is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at CSI/CUNY. In 2008 Dr. Morris received a Distinguished Professor Award with distinction in the area of Scholarship/Creative Activity and the James V. Mehl Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award in 2009 from Missouri Western State University. Stephen G. Morris Stephen.Morris@csi.cuny.edu 718-982-2895 Office Hours

Greg R. Phillips, PhD is Associate Professor Deputy Chair in the Department of Biology. Dr. Phillips' laboratory is interested in the molecular mechanisms underlying the development of synaptic connectivity.

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Ellenge Denton is a New York State licensed psychologist with postdoctoral training in pediatric psychiatry and clinical research methods at Columbia University Medical Center.

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Probal Banerjee is a Neuro- scientist and Cancer Biologist with postdoctoral training in Neurochemistry at the Department of Pediatrics, University of Chicago Medical Center.

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Barbara DiCicco-Bloom is Associate Professor in the Department of Nursing at CSI/CUNY and in the Nursing PhD program at the Graduate Center. Dr. DiCicco-Bloom is a Registered Professional Nurse and holds PhD, MA and BS degrees from New York University. She joined the committee in 2015.

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Dan McCloskey is Associate Professor of Psychology at the College of Staten Island/CUNY. He has been a member of the CSI Pre-Health Advisory Committee since 2008.

Dan McCloskey Dan.McCloskey@csi.cuny.edu (on sabbatical)

Shiryan Sukhram is Assistant Professor of Biology at CSI/CUNY. Dr. Sukhram holds both MPH and PhD degrees from Florida International University.

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[Instructions to obtain pre-medical committee letter](#)

Pre-Professional Clubs

All students are encouraged to participate in pre-professional society clubs at CSI. Professor Yilmaz is attends all the club meetings.

Pre-med /pre- PA club <https://orgsync.com/125845/chapter>

Pre-dental club. <https://orgsync.com/125844/chapter>

Pre-Dentistry and Pre-Chiropractic Program CSI is proud to have served as the undergraduate training ground for many alumni who have gone on to practice dentistry or chiropractic medicine.

Dentistry or chiropractic schools in the United States do not require or recommend any specific field of study as an undergraduate major for applicants. Most schools suggest that the in-depth study of any of the liberal arts and sciences is valuable preparation. Some dentistry or chiropractic schools have established admissions criteria and additional recommendations. It is important for pre-dentistry and pre-chiropractic students to choose appropriate courses to prepare for admission. Students should become familiar with the recommendations of the schools to which they intend to apply.

The minimum requirements for admission to dentistry or chiropractic schools in the United States are:

- 1 year of English
- 2 semesters of general chemistry with laboratories
- 2 semesters biology with laboratories
- 2 semesters of physics with laboratories
- 2 semesters organic chemistry with laboratories

Also recommended are:

- at least one year of advanced mathematics
- one or more advanced courses in science, sociology, and psychology.

Make sure to contact the school you are applying for complete list

Applying to Dentistry Schools

All applicants to dentistry schools in the United States must participate in the Dental College Admission Testing Program and take the Dental College Admissions Test (DAT). The four examinations that comprise the testing program cover: principles of biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry; perceptual ability; reading comprehension; and quantitative reasoning. DAT scores and college transcripts are the most important determinants of admission to dentistry school and are used as predictors of performance in dentistry school. Also considered are letters of recommendation, extracurricular activities, work-related experience, required essay, and a personal interview.

In addition to our affiliate graduate schools, in recent years, graduates of CSI have been admitted to medical schools throughout the region, including: SUNY Downstate, Upstate and Buffalo, NYU, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, as well as New England Colleges of Optometry and Osteopathy and the New York Colleges of Osteopathy and Podiatry. Graduates have been accepted to dentistry school at SUNY Buffalo, NYU, Columbia University and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). Graduates have been accepted to veterinary school at Cornell and Tufts Universities.*

Program Coordinator

The Program Coordinator for Pre-Professional Preparation in Medicine is Professor Grozdena Yilmaz. Professor Yilmaz is available at (718)982-3831, Building 6S, Room 137. Prospective students who would like further details about any of the Pre-Professional Programs may also contact assistants Debbie Britton or Susan Been at (718)982-2430, Building 1A, Room 313.