



William & Mary Arts & Sciences

A Premed's Guide to the COLL Curriculum

Updated March 2023 by Dr. Beverly Sher

The COLL curriculum overlaps extensively with the premed requirements! Here are some suggestions for making the most of these overlaps.

COLL 100: Take one. No, it won't count towards your premed requirements. :)

COLL 150: All COLL 150 courses fulfill half of the medical school English requirement for the medical schools that have English requirements (generally phrased as two courses/ six credits of English).

COLL 200 ALV: Any English literature course with a COLL 200 attribute can be used to complete the second half of the medical school English requirement. Note that linguistics courses such as The Study of Language will not be accepted by the medical schools in fulfillment of the English requirement, though.

COLL 200 CSI: PSYC 202 fulfills this requirement, and it is a required premed course that covers material that is tested on the MCAT. Introduction to Public Health and Introduction to Global Health, taught in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences, would also be good COLL 200 CSI choices for premeds.

COLL 200 NQR: BIOL 203 and BIOL 204 are both COLL 200 courses, and many medical schools require two semesters of introductory biology with lab. For premedical students with a 4 or 5 on the AP Chemistry exam, CHEM 205: Advanced Freshman Chemistry, offered in the fall, is a great first chemistry course, and it's also a COLL 200 NQR.

COLL 300: Many premedical students study abroad. Summer is an excellent time to do this, but particularly given the increasing popularity of taking gap years ("opportunity years"!) between college and medical school, it is perfectly possible for premeds to spend a semester abroad. Because all of the premedical physics and chemistry courses are offered at William & Mary in the summer, a little bit of advance planning will ensure that a student who has spent a semester abroad stays on track with the premedical science courses. There are also on-campus COLL 300 courses.

COLL 400: Capstone courses, such as the BIOL 460 senior seminars that fulfill the capstone requirement for Biology majors, often carry the COLL 400 attribute. Check the requirements of the majors that interest you for more details: it may be that you will be able to use a single course to fulfill both the COLL 400 requirement and the major capstone requirement.

Mathematics Proficiency: The premed calculus and statistics courses fulfill the math proficiency requirement.

Creative and Performing Arts Proficiency: Many premeds use the creative and performing arts for stress relief, so

completing this requirement can be easy and pleasant. Taking a speech course would also be a good choice, as some health professions schools recommend taking such courses, and getting better at public speaking is good for everyone.

Language Proficiency: Even if you have already fulfilled the language proficiency requirement, you might want to consider learning some basic Spanish before you graduate, as it is a very useful language for future physicians. The medical translation course offered by Hispanic Studies has been of particular interest to our students, and some students who have taken the course have gone on to volunteer as translators at free clinics, both here in Williamsburg and elsewhere.