

EXPLORE, PURSUE, REALIZE.



HOOD  
COLLEGE

**The Hood College**

**Pre-health**

[www.hood.edu/public-health](http://www.hood.edu/public-health)

# PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDIES AT HOOD

Employment in healthcare occupations is projected to grow by 14 to 16 percent through 2028, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The healthcare field is expected to add more jobs than any other occupational group. Virtually every type of health professional will be in strong demand – a need for 2.3 million new healthcare workers and dentists by 2025 to adequately care for the nation’s aging population. An undergraduate degree from Hood College with a focus on pre-professional health is a promising investment in your future.

The old adage that, “you can major in anything and still go to medical school” is true only in that you are not required to have a degree in pre-professional studies (e.g. B.A. in pre-medicine) to be accepted to a program. All students applying to professional graduate programs must complete the prerequisite coursework, regardless of major.

As a student interested in a professional health career, you can major in a discipline that interests you most. Commonly chosen majors are biology, biochemistry, chemistry, math or psychology. No matter your choice of major at Hood, we provide the necessary courses to get you on track for a career in most health professions. Hood College has an ever-growing list of alumni who successfully entered and/or completed programs in allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, veterinary medicine, physician’s assistant, physical therapy, dentistry, pharmacy and others.

No matter which health career path you choose, you should review the prerequisite

courses needed for each graduate school/program you intend to apply for, as each has more specific requirements. Hood College offers all of the major pre-requisite coursework needed to prepare students for graduate school in the health professions. In general, you should expect to take the following types of courses by the end of your junior year:

- **Biology** (including Cell Biology, Genetics, and Microbiology)
- **Chemistry** (including Organic Chemistry I and II)

Additional required coursework, depending on the school/program, may include:

- **Biochemistry** (one or two semesters)
- **English** (up to 6 credits of Composition)
- **Math** (including Statistics and Calculus I)
- **Physics** (up to two semesters)
- **Psychology**
- **Sociology**

## Preparing for College: What should I do to hit the ground running once I start at Hood?

Prior to starting your coursework at Hood, we recommend you focus on math, particularly algebra. It is important to score above the MATH 099 level on your math placement test to be eligible to take chemistry in your first semester on campus. Starting chemistry right away is recommended for

students planning to apply for graduate programs in their third year. Nevertheless, it is quite common to apply in the senior year, especially if chemistry is not taken the first semester. Don't worry, once you get here, we will help you navigate your coursework to stay on track!

### Health Professions Advising at Hood College

Faculty in the biology, chemistry and physics, math and psychology departments routinely advise students interested in the health professions. In addition, there is a dedicated health professions advisor (HPA) who works directly with pre-health professions students and their academic advisors to ensure that students are informed of and supported in the process of navigating coursework,

coordinating extracurricular experience, planning and preparing for entrance exams, and completing the application process. As a student planning a career in the health professions, you are encouraged to meet with the HPA in your first semester on campus to kick start your strategy for success.

### Fast Facts in the Health Professions

The table below provides information on some of the many health professions career paths that a degree from Hood College can prepare you for. This is not an exhaustive or exclusive list. The HPA can provide further information on potential career opportunities in the health field, many of which do not require a doctoral degree.

Career Path (Degree)	Years of Schooling*	Average Salary Range**	Website for More Information
Allopathic Medicine (M.D.)	8+	\$197,000 to \$747,000	<a href="http://www.aamc.org">www.aamc.org</a>
Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)	11-17	\$204,000 to \$443,000	<a href="http://www.aacom.org">www.aacom.org</a>
Dentistry (DDS or DMD)	8+	\$214,000	<a href="http://www.ada.org">www.ada.org</a>
Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)	7	\$157,000 to \$214,000	<a href="http://www.aana.com">www.aana.com</a>
Nurse Practitioner (CRNP)	6-8+	\$102,500	<a href="http://www.aanp.org">www.aanp.org</a>
Occupational Therapy (OTD)	6-8	\$80,000	<a href="http://www.aota.org">www.aota.org</a>
Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)	6-8	\$122,000	<a href="http://www.aacp.org">www.aacp.org</a>
Physical Therapist (DPT)	6-7	\$84,000	<a href="http://www.acapt.org">www.acapt.org</a>
Physician Assistant (P.A.)	6-7+	\$94,000	<a href="http://www.aapa.org">www.aapa.org</a>
Podiatry (DPM)	11	\$191,000	<a href="http://www.apma.org">www.apma.org</a>
Veterinary Medicine (DVM)	8+	\$101,000	<a href="http://www.aavmc.org">www.aavmc.org</a>

\*Includes undergraduate (estimated 4 years) plus graduate work. Additional years (+) may be required for specialization after obtaining the graduate degree.

\*\*Depends on cost of living, location, years of experience, etc. This is an estimate only. (Data obtained from [explorehealthcareers.org](http://explorehealthcareers.org))



## About Hood

Founded in 1893 in Frederick, Maryland, Hood College is a coeducational, independent, liberal arts college, which offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees and post-baccalaureate certificates. Home to approximately 1,100 undergraduate students from 25 states and 15 countries, Hood offers 28 majors, 47 minors, and pre-professional preparation in medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, dentistry and law. Hood students experience small class sizes, where they receive individual attention from supportive faculty. With its proximity to Washington, D.C., Baltimore and the I-270 biotech corridor, Hood gives its students access to countless internships and research opportunities.

At Hood, we are challenging students to improve their critical thinking, communication and collaborative skills and preparing them not just for their first jobs, but for their careers. For high-achieving students, we offer a four-year honors program with a living and learning setting expanding the curriculum with an emphasis on interdisciplinary education through discussion-based seminars, collaborative projects and experiential learning opportunities. Eighty-five percent of first-year students live on campus; more than 40 campus clubs and organizations as well as 22 NCAA Division III athletic teams and two club-level athletic teams create an active and vibrant campus environment.

Hood, in addition to its exceptional undergraduate programs, also offers 19 master's degrees, 10 certificate programs and two doctoral programs. Our graduate programs are designed to work in tandem with our bachelor's degrees so that students can take advantage of dual-degree programs. Hood is located in a fantastic college town; students are within walking distance of shops, galleries and restaurants and a vibrant downtown. A tremendous alumni network offers students and graduates mentoring, connections, guidance and advice. The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and many other publications have recognized Hood as an affordable top-tier institution.

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