



THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM (P3) AT FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

The Pre-Professional Program (P3) is a rigorous competitive program for students pursuing admission to health professions schools after obtaining their undergraduate degrees. P3 assists students with academic and career goals to prepare them to be qualified candidates for these professional programs. In this respect, “Pre-Professional” refers to most medically related fields, including but not limited to, medical, dental, veterinary, physician assistant, optometry, podiatry, and physical therapy, but does not apply to nursing or to pre-law studies and other paths that lie outside of the natural sciences and health professions.

In this program, students will participate in specific activities designed to increase awareness of competitiveness and that encourage continued exploration of the health care field. Activities include workshops, classes, one-on-one advising, professional observation and volunteer experiences. Students completing the program are well prepared to submit a holistically competitive application to outstanding professional programs.

Students interested in P3 should declare their intent to their academic advisor and participate in workshops and activities facilitated by the Science and Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator as soon as their first semester at Florida Southern College.

Although any FSC student may pursue a pre-health track, only those students who apply, are accepted, and maintain eligibility, are considered members of the FSC Pre-Professional Program (P3).

Full participation in P3 includes a 2-part application process. Students must gain acceptance into P3 (Part 1) to be eligible to apply for Part 2. Students who successfully complete Part 2 will be recognized as having completed the P3 program.

- **Part 1** - Acceptance into P3 requires completion of specific coursework, a competitive GPA, a personal statement, extracurricular activities, and completion of an application by January 15th of the second or third year*.
- **Part 2** - Completion of P3 requires submission of an extensive application by February 1st of the third or fourth year* and culminates in a formal Committee Interview and Letter of Evaluation.

*P3 is designed to be completed immediately prior to the submission of a student's professional school application. Therefore, completion of both part 1 and part 2 is dictated by a student's intended application date, rather than their year in school. Ideally, students would submit their Part 1 application about 1 ½ years before they plan to submit their professional school application. They would then submit their Part 2 application about 6 months prior to submitting their professional school application. Transfer students, students planning to graduate from Florida Southern in less than 4 years, and students planning to take one or more gap years, should consider this information when determining the appropriate application date.

Meeting the basic eligibility requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Pre-Professional Program (P3). Applicants are reviewed holistically by the FSC Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC) who collectively make recommendations for acceptance following a thorough review of application materials, competencies, and emotional intelligence.

Students with specific questions regarding their individual, recommended Part 1 and Part 2 application dates should contact Ms. Lauren Albaum, the Science and Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator for more information.



PROGRAM BENEFITS:

Students participating in P3 at FSC are provided all of the following benefits:

- Students who complete all program requirements will be awarded a distinctive graduation honor cord and will have a notation added to their transcript.
- Students in P3 may request a letter of evaluation (commonly referred to as a committee letter) from the Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC), to be sent directly to professional schools when applying.
- Students in P3 have the opportunity to attend special advising sessions with HPAC members where they can receive specific feedback and recommendations, based on the available information and the experience of the committee, as to possible courses of action for future career success.
- Students in P3 receive access to special pre-health events and opportunities only available to P3 students.
- Students in the P3 program are provided a timeline of activities and recommendations to ensure they have built competitive profiles by their intended application date.

Not participating in P3 will in no way can prevent a student from applying to any professional school. However, a denial is a clear indication from a committee of professionals who are very familiar with admission criteria that the student may not a good candidate for acceptance into a professional program. This should be viewed as encouragement to reassess their pre-health timeline or to seek other career and professional goals better suited to their talents.

PART 1: PREPARING TO APPLY TO P3

PART 1 - ELIGIBILITY:

Applications for Part 1 of the Pre-Professional Program are due by **January 15th of a student's second (or third) year.** Students interested in participating in P3 must meet all of the following requirements **prior** to submitting a Part 1 application:

- Attend the Pre-Health 101 Workshop (*available in Fall or Spring*)
- Take PHP 1997/1998/1100 Introduction to Health Professions* (*available Fall or Spring*)
- Complete the online HIPPA Training and the online Global Ambassador Training
- Have resume reviewed by a staff member in the Science & Pre-Health Advising Center or Faculty Advisor
- Complete a *minimum* of 50 hours of professional observation and/or clinical exposure (*hours completed prior to graduation from high school will not meet this requirement*)
- Complete a *minimum* of 20 hours of community service (*hours completed prior to graduation from high school will not meet this requirement; these hours are separate from the professional observation and/or clinical exposure requirements- students cannot "double dip"*)
- Participate in at least one of the following extracurricular activities (*cannot include any experiences completed in high school*): Alpha Epsilon Delta (**strongly recommended**), competitive summer REU or internship, leadership experience, intercollegiate athletics, or related paid employment.
- Obtain Sophomore status **and** earn a minimum of 12 credits **at FSC**
- Complete a *minimum* of 3 science courses **at FSC** (at least one course must have a BIO prefix and one course must have a CHE prefix) from the following list: BIO 1500, BIO 1600, CHE 1111, CHE 1112, CHE 2221, CHE 2232, or any 3000 level Biology or Chemistry courses
- Earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and a BCPM GPA of at least 3.0

**Only students who began at FSC in Fall 2017 or later are required to take PHP 1100. Additionally all of the following students are exempt from taking PHP 1100: Exercise Science Majors, Nursing Majors, transfer students, and students with approved extenuating circumstances.*

GPA INFORMATION

Although a GPA of 3.5 or above is preferred, students with an overall GPA between 3.0-3.5, and/or a BCPM GPA between 3.0-3.5, may be provisionally accepted to the program with the stipulation that their GPA shows steady improvement in subsequent semesters. However, students with a GPA below 3.5 may also be denied acceptance to the program, based on the best judgment of the HPAC. **Students with an overall and/or BCPM GPA of less than 3.0 are not eligible to enter the Pre-Professional Program.**

Students who do not meet one or more of the stated criteria may petition for acceptance by including a typed statement, attached to this application, indicating what eligibility requirement(s) they do not meet, a rationale for why they were unable to meet the stated requirement(s), and why they believe they should still be accepted without the stated requirement(s). **Meeting the basic eligibility requirements and/or including petition information does not guarantee acceptance into the Pre-Professional Program (P3).**

THE APPLICATION:

Students will submit a completed application, a petition statement (if needed), unofficial transcripts from Florida Southern College, and a personal statement of no more than 500 words to the committee by January 15th of sophomore or junior year (depending on progress), or, for transfer students, at the conclusion of their first semester at FSC.

RECOMMENDED STEPS TO APPLY FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO P3:

In your **first year:**

1. Attend the Pre-Health 101 Workshop (*available in Fall or Spring*).
2. Take PHP 1100 Introduction to Health Professions, previously PHP 1997/1998, (*available Fall or Spring*).
3. Complete the online HIPPA Training and the online Global Ambassador Training.
4. Take science courses required for the professional program, maintain a high GPA, and take a challenging course load each semester.
5. Begin participating in one or more of the following extracurricular activities: Alpha Epsilon Delta (**strongly recommended**), summer REU, internship, leadership experience, intercollegiate athletics, or paid employment.
6. If schedule/workload allows, begin obtaining professional observation hours and/or community service hours.
7. Have resume reviewed by the Science & Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator.

In the summer and fall semester of your **second year:**

1. If you have not already, begin participating in professional observation and/or clinical exposure (you must complete a *minimum* of 50 hours by the time you apply to Part 1 in the spring of your second year).
2. If you have not already, begin participating in community service (you must complete a *minimum* of 20 hours of community service by the time you apply to Part 1 in the spring of your second year).
3. Take required science courses and maintain required GPA.

BY JANUARY 15TH: SUBMIT PART 1 APPLICATION

FOLLOWING ACCEPTANCE TO PART 1:

If granted acceptance to part 1, students are required to maintain highly competitive standards. To ensure students are maintaining competitiveness, they will be required to submit a Part 2 application in the spring semester preceding their application to professional school.

Students accepted to Part 1 must complete all of the following before submitting their Part 2 application:

- Meet with a member of the HPAC at least once each semester
- Submit an updated unofficial transcript after final grades have been posted for both the spring and fall semesters to the Pre-Medical Studies Coordinator or the Science & Pre-Health Internship Coordinator
- Maintain or demonstrate progress towards a minimum overall and BCPM GPA of at least 3.50
- Attend the Crucial Year Workshop (*available in Fall*)
- Complete a mock interview with a staff member in the Science & Pre-Health Advising Center or with a member of the HPAC
- Attend the Gap Year Workshop
- Complete an *additional* 50 hours of professional observation and/or clinical exposure
- Complete an *additional* 20 hours of community service (*must be separate from the professional observation and/or clinical exposure- cannot “double dip”*)
- Complete a mock interview and personal statement review

FAILURE TO MEET THESE CONDITIONS WILL RESULT IN STUDENTS BEING DROPPED FROM THE PROGRAM.

PART 2: COMPLETION OF P3 (INCLUDES COMMITTEE INTERVIEW/LETTER)

Once a student has been accepted into Part 1 of the P3 program and has completed all of the requirements to satisfy Part 2, they are eligible to apply for completion of the P3 program. When applying for completion of the program, students are also eligible to participate in the HPAC Interview and receive a Committee Letter of Evaluation. Most professional schools require an interview as a part of the admissions process, and many prefer a committee letter of recommendation for evaluation. The interview, held with a committee of faculty, staff and administrators, provides practice for the student and allows members of the committee to gain a holistic perspective of the applicant. After the interview, the HPAC will provide feedback to the student on interview skills and the personal statement. If requested, the HPAC will compose a letter of evaluation, where all members of the committee will contribute to the honest assessment of the qualifications of the student. One committee member will be designated to write the letter. It is the responsibility of the student to report this committee member's name and contact information in the application as the author of the letter when applying to professional school.

PART 2 - ELIGIBILITY:

Students should plan to submit their Part 2 application in the semester preceding their health professions application. Based on the summer that a student plans to apply to professional school, part 2 applications are due by **February 1st of either the third or fourth year.** This will allow the HPAC committee enough time to review the application materials and provide the committee letter for inclusion with the student's health professions application.

Students interested in completing P3 and receiving a letter of evaluation must meet all of the following requirements **prior** to submitting their Part 2 application:

- Be a current member of the Pre-Professional Program (P3) in good standing
- Meet with a member of the HPAC at least once each semester
- Submit an updated unofficial transcript after final grades have been posted for both the spring and fall semesters to the Pre-Medical Studies Coordinator or the Science & Pre-Health Internship Coordinator
- Attend the Crucial Year Workshop (*available in Fall*)
- Attend the Gap Year Workshop (*available in Fall*)
- Participate in a Mock Interview with the Science & Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator or a member of the HPAC
- Have your personal statement reviewed by the Career and Internship Coordinator or your Faculty Advisor
- Complete a *minimum* of 100 hours of professional observation and/or clinical exposure (*since start of first year*)
- Complete a *minimum* of 40 hours of community service (*since start of first year; must be separate from the professional observation and/or clinical exposure- cannot "double dip"*)
- Maintain an overall and BCPM GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale*

**students applying to professional school programs with an average matriculant GPA below 3.5 may be accepted with an overall or BCPM GPA below 3.5, but typically no lower than 3.0.*

Students who do not meet one or more of the stated criteria may petition for acceptance by including a typed statement, attached to this application, indicating what eligibility requirement(s) they do not meet, a rationale for why they were unable to meet the stated requirement(s), and why they believe they should still be accepted without the stated requirement(s). Meeting the basic eligibility requirements and/or including petition information does not guarantee acceptance into the Pre-Professional Program (P3).

THE APPLICATION:

Students will submit unofficial transcripts from Florida Southern College, a completed application, a current resume, and a copy of their reviewed personal statement no later than **February 1st** before applying to professional school. Students graduating in Fall who wish to have their application approved prior to graduation must submit their application by **December 1st** before graduation.

When submitting the Part 2 application, students will be asked to indicate their preferred dates and times for their committee interview and the individuals they request to serve on their committee.

THE INTERVIEW:

The interview provides practice for the student and allows members of the committee to gain a holistic perspective of the applicant. After the interview, the PPAC will provide feedback to the student on interview skills and the personal statement. The PPAC will use the interview – and other materials provided by the student – to compose the letter of evaluation.

For the interview:

1. Show up on time.
2. Dress in professional business attire.
3. Be prepared to discuss a variety of issues including but not limited to: 1) Your decision to pursue this career path; 2) The qualifications and experiences that make you a good applicant for this profession; 3) Current events affecting your chosen career; and 4) Ethical scenarios in the health professions.

RECOMMENDED STEPS TO APPLY:

In the **spring semester of second year and the summer and fall semesters of your third year:**

1. Schedule a Mock interview with the Science & Pre-Health Career & Internship Coordinator
2. Attend the Crucial Year Workshop (*available in Fall*)
3. Attend the Gap Year Workshop (*available in Fall*)
4. Begin working on the personal statement for the application
5. Continue gaining professional observation hours and community service hours (*need a minimum of 100 total hours of professional observation and/or clinical exposure and a minimum of 40 hours of community service*)

In the **spring semester of your third year**, prior to February 1st:

1. Begin completing the self-assessment portion of the application
2. Work with the Science and Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator on editing your personal statement
3. Continue gaining professional observation hours and community service hours (*need a minimum of 100 total hours of professional observation and/or clinical exposure and a minimum of 40 hours of community service*)

BY FEBRUARY 1ST: SUBMIT PART 2 APPLICATION

FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY GAIN ACCEPTANCE TO PART 2 WILL RESULT IN STUDENTS BEING DROPPED FROM THE PROGRAM.