

So You Want to Be a Doctor?

USCDornsife

Applying to Health Professional Schools

The USC Dornsife Office of Pre-Health Advisement is available to help you with all aspects of the process of applying to health professional schools. Need some tips on asking for letters of recommendation? Want to speak with admission representatives from allied health schools, allopathic medical schools, and osteopathic medical schools? Hoping to get some feedback on your personal statement? Whether you're building a class schedule, seeking academic assistance, or preparing for graduate school interviews, our advisors and faculty are here to support and guide you from day one.

Crafting Your Own Path

Medicine is a dynamic and evolving profession. If you plan to pursue a health professional program, you are encouraged to think beyond the natural sciences to gain a wider perspective of the world by complementing your pre-health curriculum with a solid understanding of subjects like literature, history, and the social sciences. At the same time, our pre-health advisors provide guidance and support to ensure you're completing the necessary prerequisite science courses as you prepare for the application process to graduate-level programs in fields such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, or physical therapy.

Gaining Experience

At USC Dornsife, we encourage you to apply what you learn in class to real-world problems or situations through research, study abroad, shadowing, and internships. As a pre-health student, you have access to numerous clinical, lab-based, and community-based involvement opportunities. Trojan Health Volunteers allows you to develop first-hand understanding of various health professions by engaging with local K-12 students and the Los Angeles community. Problems Without Passports combines a short-term study abroad experience with research on a global issue. For example, Health, Disease, Language, and Culture in Guatemala explores multiple facets of health, illness, and disease that affect the region.

Sample Health-Related USC Dornsife Majors

- Biochemistry
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computational Neuroscience
- Environmental Science and Health
- Health and Human Sciences
- Human Biology
- Neuroscience
- Psychology

Want to Know More?

Reach out to us at
admission@dornsife.usc.edu
We're happy to help!

**Office of Admission and
Student Success**
3709 Trousdale Parkway
Mudd Hall of Philosophy (MHP) 106
Los Angeles, CA 90089

dornsife.usc.edu/admission

Sample Health-Related Minors

Biology and Business

This minor brings essential knowledge in the basic sciences together with the corporate skills needed in a rapidly growing industry. It is especially well suited for the business, biological sciences, chemistry, or engineering student seeking a career in business and/or the biomedical/biotechnical sciences.

Biology of Human Movement

This minor provides students with an interdisciplinary perspective that integrates elements of anatomy, biomechanics, motor control, and evolution and applies them to the assessment and improvement of human performance during the activities of daily living. This minor is ideal for students interested in fields such as bioengineering, biokinesiology, health promotion, athletics, and dance.

Chemistry

This minor is available to students pursuing other majors who wish to strengthen their background in chemistry. It is a particularly good supplement to major programs of study in biology, biomedical engineering, and chemical engineering.

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

This minor provides essential training in using quantitative skills to solve fundamental biological problems, as well as problems related to public health, neuroscience, and the environment.

Cultural Competence in Medicine

This minor is suited for students who plan to enter careers in medicine after graduation and are interested in using cultural knowledge to provide more effective health care. It focuses on cultural differences in the understanding of health, disease, health care, and risk factors unique to specific populations.

Global Health

This minor develops a basic understanding of the factors that determine the health of populations around the world. Curriculum focuses on the cultural, environmental, and clinical aspects of various health topics such as maternal and child health, aging, obesity, infectious disease, and other issues.

Health Care Studies

This minor is targeted to those undergraduates who wish to pursue a postgraduate career in health care or health care-related fields. It brings together a background in fundamental science necessary to understand the biological basis of medicine with coursework that explores health care both in classroom and clinical settings.

Health Communication

This minor is for students interested in promoting healthy lifestyle practices through effective communication. Students will be prepared for jobs in areas including the managed-care industry, hospitals, wellness programs, broadcast and cable companies, and private and governmental agencies, as well as other organizations looking for experts in health-related fields.

Health Policy

This minor provides students with a background in the global, national, and local policy issues and challenges related to quality, cost, and access to health care.

Human Disease

This interdisciplinary minor focuses on the biological and psychological factors that determine wellness and disease. It is an ideal minor for students interested in various disciplines such as medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, public health, global health, health policy, and health promotion.

International Health, Development and Social Justice

This minor is intended for students who wish to understand the challenges associated with health care as an ethical issue in the international context. It prepares students for careers and leadership roles in the arenas of international health, medical ethics, overpopulation, economic development, human welfare, and principles of social justice.

Medical Anthropology

This minor examines the body, illness, and healing from a cultural perspective, including comparative studies of folk healing systems, curing rituals, and Western biomedical practices.

Natural Science

This minor provides students with a foundation in physics, chemistry, and biology and allows them to build on this by selecting a variety of electives to meet individual scientific interests and academic goals.

Neuroscience

This minor acquaints students with the broad range of problems and opportunities available in the study of the human brain.