The MCAT is currently being revised and a new version is scheduled for 2015. It will be approximately 2 hours longer than the current test and cost more. While it remains a work in progress, the revised test will no longer include the Writing Sample. It will require some knowledge of statistics and biochemistry. The current Verbal Reasoning section will be replaced by a section entitled “Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills.” In addition, a new section on the “social, psychological and biological foundations of behavior” is slated for inclusion, but the depth, type, and scope of knowledge that will be tested on this latter section is not yet clear.

At this point in time, very few medical schools have made changes to the list of courses required for admission and there are no specific courses that must be taken to prepare for this new section. We do recommend taking a course or two of particular interest to you in psychology, sociology, or anthropology to become familiar with disciplinary perspectives in the social sciences. When you are actually preparing for the 2015 MCAT, it may be helpful to utilize a psychology or sociology textbook or a free online course that addresses the content particular to the MCAT. As it becomes clearer what will actually be on the test, it will be easier for us to make specific recommendations. Stay tuned. The most up-to-date, provisional information about the 2015 MCAT may be found on the following AAMC Web page, which includes a downloadable PDF of the Preview Guide to the 2015 MCAT:

https://www.aamc.org/students/services/343550/mcat2015.html

At the Career Center, you can find lots of information about different health professions, internships, volunteer opportunities, and summer jobs.

Most importantly, you will find people who will be happy to help you find what you need, and the Health Professions Advisor who will be glad to meet you, put your name on the list of students and graduates who receive the electronic Health Professions InfoNews, and talk with you about your courses, your plans, your worries, and your options.

You are welcome to come in and browse our resource library or call x2180 for an appointment.

Information about the health professions is also available on the CC Web site:
http://www.wesleyan.edu/careercenter/grad_school/health/index.html

Questions?
- Call x3726 or x2180
- Send an e-mail to pcbest@wesleyan.edu
- Visit the CC Web site

Brought to you by the

WESLEYAN
Career Center
**BUT I want to be a Religion (Econ, French, etc.) Major.**

That’s fine. It is not necessary to major in one of the sciences in order to gain admission to a health professions graduate school; most schools are interested in well-rounded applicants. It is important that you do well in your major, whatever it is, and demonstrate that you can be successful in those science courses that you do take.

**BUT I want to study abroad.**

That’s fine. Go to Germany, to China, to Spain. There is no reason to limit yourself just because you want to go to a health professions graduate school. Knowing a second language well is a real asset, and the experience of living in another culture is invaluable.

**BUT I want to take some time between graduation and professional school.**

That’s fine. Most Wesleyan graduates do NOT go directly from Wesleyan into medical, dental or veterinary school. They take one, two, three, or more years to engage in different kinds of learning and to strengthen their candidacy. (Note: the average age of the entering medical student is 25.) We encourage you to take some time to work in the field, do some research, get some clinical experience, live on your own, and take a deep breath between graduation and the next step on the formal education ladder. We can help you to find challenging jobs and internships after Wesleyan that will allow you to pay your rent AND get valuable experience. We also offer a credential service, and provide dental, vet and medical school candidates with a letter of institutional support at the time of application.

**BUT I can’t finish all the admission requirements before I graduate and study the other subjects I’m interested in.**

That’s fine. You can take courses required for admission one or two at a time at a college or university near where you will be living and working or in a formal post-baccalaureate program. You can also take some of them over the summer.

**BUT I am doing terribly in Bio 181 and Chem 141/143.**

That’s not fine, but there is help available.

*Rule #1: ASK FOR HELP PRONTO!*

- Join a mentored study group for one or both of these courses by going to the following Web page: http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/connecting/having-trouble.html
- Attend the TA help sessions that are offered as part of each of these courses and “4th hour” offerings.
- Go to see the course instructor during her/his office hours and ask for help.
- Contact your class dean to ask for suggestions, including 1:1 tutoring.
- At any time, feel free to get in touch with and/or make an appointment to see Peggy Carey Best, Health Professions Advisor, to go over your options and priorities.

*If you do not have a strong background in biology, consider not taking chemistry and biology simultaneously, but completing introductory chemistry first.*

**FYI – REQUIRED for admission to most health professions graduate schools:**

- one year of biology and lab
- 4 – 5 semesters of chemistry (depending on your level of preparation) 1 or 2 semesters of introductory or principles of chemistry, 2 semesters of organic chemistry, and biochemistry (MB&B 228 or Chem 383)
- Chemistry labs 152, 257 (general) & 258 (organic)
- one year of physics and lab
- one year of English
- one year of college math

**RECOMMENDED for medical school applicants:** 1 semester of calculus & 1 semester of statistics/applied data analysis. Or, if you took AP calculus, and you take an upper-level (200+) math course, such as “Vectors and Matrices,” the AP credit will appear on your transcript.

**Useful to know:**

- Some health professions schools require a psychology course, or statistics, or biochemistry.
- Vet schools usually require some courses not available at Wesleyan. These courses can be taken over the summer or after graduation.
- Dental schools often require psychology or comparative anatomy courses.
- Nursing schools do not usually require physics.

The Web sites of national professional organizations and their educational partners – such as ADEA, AAMC, APTA, etc. -- are the best resources for checking common admission requirements, as well as those for specific schools. *As you plan your coming semesters, you will be able to make the most of your time at Wes if you PACE YOURSELF CAREFULLY.*