The UCI Ayala School Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program, developed in partnership with UCI Division of Continuing Education, is specifically designed for students who have successfully completed an undergraduate degree in a non-science discipline and are now seeking a cultivating postbaccalaureate program that will help them complete the required basic core courses for pre-medical and other allied health professions admission. Students in the program will not only receive the necessary academic preparation to excel in a health professional curriculum, but will also be guided through the extensive application process and entrance examinations. Our goal is to equip our students with the competitive advantage that will result in acceptance into medical school or desired allied health program.

As a leading research institution, UCI offers our postbaccalaureate students the opportunity to pursue lab research opportunities with notable faculty, fostering professional growth and hands-on experience.
Who Should Apply

We are seeking highly motivated, academically consistent students who can show evidence of compassion as well as a commitment to medicine and the community. It is our goal to support empathetic pre-health students who possess a genuine passion for medicine and have a desire to aid underrepresented communities and become competent future healthcare professionals. Our application for admission opens October 15, and we encourage prospective students to apply early. Visit our website for important deadlines. We have a rolling admissions policy. Competitive applicants will be invited for interviews on an ongoing basis. Students can expect to be notified of their admission status within eight weeks from their interview date.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants are required to meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for consideration:

- Completed a bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. institution.

Applicants currently in the process of completing undergraduate work must complete their degree requirements by no later than the end of their spring quarter/semester. Applicants earning their undergraduate degree in the summer will need to wait until their degrees are certified, thus requiring that they apply during the next application cycle.

- 3.0 minimum cumulative grade point average (Recommended G.P.A. ≥ 3.20. Applicants need to demonstrate on their academic record the ability to handle a rigorous academic curriculum).

- One year of English Composition with a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

- Science requirement: must complete one of the following courses listed below within the past three years with a minimum grade point average of 3.0:
  - Single Variable Calculus equivalent to UCI’s Math 2A, Math 2B, Math 5A, or Math 5B
  - Preparatory/Introductory Chemistry or General Chemistry

- Provide SAT or ACT test scores.

- Completed less than 25 % of the pre-med/health coursework.

- Have not taken standardized health entrance tests (MCAT, DAT, OAT, PCAT) prior to applying to the program. Students who have taken these exams are not eligible.

- Must be a U.S. permanent resident or citizen.

Program Benefits for Eligible Students

- Guaranteed enrollment
- Personalized advising
- Pre-health counseling services
- Small cohort design
- Health Professional Development Seminar (exclusive to postbaccalaureate students)
- Unique, one-unit pre-health seminars/electives (Career Decision Making, Disparities in Health Care, and Compassion in Health Care) designed to enhance students’ cultural sensitivity particular within the health care community, while enhancing application readiness
- Free accessible tutoring (for all basic science courses)
- Over 230 research opportunities under the guidance of the distinguished faculty of the Ayala School of Biological Sciences and the UCI School of Medicine
- Letter of Recommendation for eligible students
- $1,000 scholarship stipend applied to test prep company of choice if students meet the following criteria at the end of their first year:
  - Cumulative grade point average of 3.50
  - Cumulative science grade point average of 3.50

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Curriculum & Guaranteed Enrollment
This is a rigorous two year program, equivalent to eight quarters, which will include enrollment in two summers. Our intensive, fulltime enrollment curriculum is designed to equip students for a smooth transition into future health professions programs. Basic core courses are taught using problem-based learning to encourage analytical scientific thinking—skills necessary to be successful in any health professions program. Students will enroll in a minimum of three to four courses per quarter, plus a Health Professions Development Seminar designed especially for our postbaccalaureate cohort. Students in the program will be immersed in the same classrooms with UCI undergraduate science majors, which will attest to the strength and competency of the students who complete the postbaccalaureate program. Our students will be able to partake in the same competitive learning experience at UCI as other science majors in similar four year institutions, clearly demonstrating to future medical programs their readiness.

Students accepted into the program have guaranteed enrollment in the basic science core courses and several upper division level courses applicable to admissions requirements such as Human Physiology, Microbiology, Developmental, and Cellular Biology. Upon completion of their basic science courses, students will have the option to enroll in other upper division biology electives that can be beneficial to their career goals. The curriculum is personalized to meet each student’s pre-health admission requirements.

Upon the completion of the program students will have satisfied the following: one year of General Chemistry with lab (in an accelerated summer course), one year of Organic Chemistry with lab, one year of Physics with lab and other upper division biological sciences electives courses.

Certificate Requirements
Applicants are required to meet all of the following criteria to be awarded a certificate from UCI Continuing Education:
1) Cumulative grade point average of 3.30
2) Completion of at least 55 units* taken from the following list of UCI courses:
   - General Chemistry 1A-B-C-LD-LE
   - Organic Chemistry 51A-B-C-LB-LC
   - Physics 3A-B-C-LB-LC
   - Biological Sciences:
     - 97 – Genetics
     - 98 – Biochemistry
     - 99 – Molecular Biology
     - 100 – Scientific Writing
     - 194S – Safety and Ethics for Research
     - E109 – Human Physiology
     - E112L – Human Physiology Lab
     - D103 – Cell Biology
     - D111L – Cell Biology Lab
     - M116L – Molecular Biology Lab
     - Statistics 7 or 8

*Units applied towards certificate program requirements must be courses completed at the University of California, Irvine.
Supportive Resources

ADVISING
You will have personalized guidance from your program advisor. Your advisor will get to know you, your academic needs, and career goals. You will work together to develop your academic planner personalized to meet your career goals and receive advice on how to strengthen your profile. Your program advisor will walk you through the process from beginning to end. In addition to your postbaccalaureate program advisor, students will have access to the Biological Sciences Student Affairs Office (BSSA)—the largest counseling advising office on campus. The Biological Sciences Student Affairs Office is staffed with 11 biological sciences academic and pre-health professions advisors all equipped to provide health professions advising and course planning. These counselors are experts in the core curriculum you will be enrolled in and they have a solid foundation to provide advice for competitive candidacy for health professions programs. Prior to the creation of this program, the BSSA office has provided advising to UCI’s postbaccalaureate population for many years.

FREE ACCESSIBLE WEEKLY TUTORING
Free peer tutoring is available for basic science courses, biological sciences core classes, some upper division biological sciences electives, as well as general and organic chemistry. All tutors are academically strong students who have taken and excelled in these courses. Tutoring sessions include practice worksheets that are based on the lectures you are enrolled in. Peer tutors attend all the same sessions as their students and create study material based on the information presented while also providing additional support.

ENTRANCE EXAMS
The postbaccalaureate curriculum is designed to help students meet admission requirements while simultaneously preparing them for entrance exams such as the MCAT, which is required for admission into allopathic or osteopathic medical programs. High achieving students are eligible to receive a $1,000 scholarship to use towards any test prep company of their choice.

RESEARCH
UC Irvine is a proud, innovative research leading institution. Students have access to over 230 research opportunities with faculty from the Ayala School of Biological Sciences and UCI School of Medicine. Every quarter, we have about 1,000 students engaged in research. Our students work with distinguished faculty on cutting edge scientific projects in state of the art facilities. Though research is not part of the program’s curriculum structure, high achieving postbaccalaureate students are encouraged to take advantage of the unique research opportunities on campus during their second year or post completion of the program.

Tuition and Financial Assistance
Application Fee (non-refundable) $100
Average Tuition Cost Per Unit & Program Fees $399
*Average annual tuition cost $21,500
Students offered admissions will be required to pay a $300 non-refundable deposit to reserve their place in the program. The deposit will be applied towards the first quarter tuition fees, once the student has officially matriculated. Should the student withdraw their acceptance, the deposit fee is non-refundable. In-State and out-state tuition fees are the same.

Please note: Fees do not include books, parking, housing, and standard cost of living expenses. UCI tuition fees are subject to change annually.

Student Loans
Students looking for options to finance their studies can apply for private alternative student loans. UCI Continuing Education has made arrangements with lenders to offer competitive loans to students in continuing education programs. To assist students in reviewing student loan options the UC Preferred Private Lender List provides additional information about each lender. Students should consider all educational funding options prior to securing a private alternative loan. For more information please visit: http://ce.uci.edu/resources/financial/loans/

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“My advisor was an excellent resource to turn to for advice on how to approach the medical school application process. She was extremely knowledgeable, caring, devoted, and supportive of my decision and was able to provide sage advice about how to tailor and improve my application, personal statement, and letters of recommendation.”

Andrew Truong, SUNY Downstate Medical Center Internal Medicine Resident I/UCI 2010 Alumni

“Simply put, I can confidently say that I would not be where I am today and I would not have been as successful in my endeavors if it wasn’t for my advisor. She was able to effectively guide me through every step of the application procedure and was able to instill a sense of confidence in my younger self that I truly believe that I could do it.”

Dexter Nguyen UCSF Dentistry Class of 2017/UCI 2012 Alumni

Advisory Committee

Jenna Bague-Sampson, Interim Director, Biological Sciences Student Affairs Office, University of California, Irvine, Francisco J. Ayala School of Biological Sciences
Hetty Ha, Program Administrator/Premedical Advisor, Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program, University of California, Irvine, Francisco J. Ayala School of Biological Sciences
Michael Leon, Ph.D., Professor of Neurobiology, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, University of California, Irvine, Francisco J. Ayala School of Biological Sciences
Ellena Peterson, Ph.D., Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Associate Dean of Admissions and Outreach, University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine
Julianne Toohey, M.D., Professor Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine
David van Vranken, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, University of California, Irvine, School of Physical Sciences

Academic Management

Dave Dimas, Ph.D., Director, Engineering, Sciences and Information Technologies, UCI Division of Continuing Education

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Hetty Ha | premedpb@uci.edu

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