Academic Advising

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Academic advising is an integral part of undergraduate education at the University of Kentucky. The goal of all academic advising is to assist students in taking responsibility for developing meaningful educational plans compatible with their potential and their career and life goals. Advising is more than the imparting of specialized information; it includes helping students formulate important questions about the nature and direction of their education and helping them find answers to those questions. Advisors will confer with students about course schedules and educational experiences, but students themselves are responsible for their academic program and for making progress toward an academic degree.

As students progress through their academic programs, their advising needs change. At the University of Kentucky, academic advisors help students meet these changing needs. Faculty advisors are key to understanding the nature of the academic program and how it can address student interests and goals. Professional advisors maintain up-to-date information on university requirements, academic policies, procedures, and deadlines; they also provide guidance for the exploratory student. Support offices such as the Counseling Center, Student Support Services, the Stuckert Career Center, and the Office for Institutional Diversity can help students refine their academic interests and goals. Students should refer to specific college, school, and departmental advising materials for details on specific advising programs.

Academic Advising Mission Statement

The mission of academic advisors, both faculty and professional, is to:

- assist students in taking responsibility for developing meaningful education plans compatible with their potential and their career and life goals;
- help students formulate important questions about the nature and direction of their education and assist them in finding answers to those questions;
- assist students in acquiring accurate and timely information regarding academic policies, procedures, and requirements;
- facilitate the successful transition of prospective, continuing and non-traditional students to the academic and campus environment.

Exploratory Studies

Students can explore majors within many colleges at the University of Kentucky. Professional academic advisors within the colleges work individually with students to help them explore interests, abilities and values; clarify and articulate academic and professional goals; develop and implement appropriate degree plans; and connect with campus resources. Academic advisors also make referrals to student support services on campus for career interest assessments, personal counseling, academic tutoring and coaching, and financial literacy.

Students may declare an Exploratory Studies Option because there are many areas that interest them, they are considering a pre-professional field and have not selected an undergraduate major, or they wish to explore their options. Time as an exploratory student provides an opportunity to investigate UK’s majors while fulfilling the UK Core requirements. Students can remain an exploratory student until they have earned 60 credit hours.

Colleges that offer an exploratory studies option are:

- College of Agriculture, Food & Environment
- College of Arts & Sciences
- College of Business & Economics
- College of Communication & Information
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Fine Arts
- College of Health Sciences
- College of Social Work

Each has specific admission and entrance requirements. Students should contact the college for more information regarding the exploratory option.

Transfer Students

Students interested in transferring to the University of Kentucky can utilize the services of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions – Transfer, which serves as a focal point for information concerning programs, resources, and services available to aid the transfer student’s entry and continued success at the University of Kentucky. Transfer staff are available to answer questions about

Within the advising system at the University of Kentucky, both students and advisors have responsibilities.

Students are responsible for:

a. knowing the requirements of their particular academic program; selecting courses that meet those requirements in an appropriate timeframe; and monitoring their progress toward graduation;

b. consulting with appropriate advisors designated to handle the kind of questions or concerns they have;

c. scheduling and keeping academic advising appointments in a timely manner throughout their academic career, so as to avoid seeking advising only during busy registration periods; and

d. being prepared for advising sessions.

Advisors are responsible for:

a. helping students clarify their options, goals and potential, and understand themselves better;

b. helping students understand the nature and purpose of a college education;

c. providing accurate information about educational options, requirements, policies and procedures;

d. helping students plan educational programs and monitor and evaluate their educational progress; and

e. referring students to appropriate campus resources.
the transfer process, discuss course equivalencies, and provide both pre-admission and general academic advising. UK’s transfer advisors are housed in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, 100 Funkhouser Building, and divide their time between the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Contact UKTransfer@uky.edu or (859) 257-2000.

National Student Exchange
The University of Kentucky provides opportunities for full-time undergraduate students to attend one of over 200 colleges and universities in the United States and its territories while paying UK tuition and fees through the National Student Exchange (NSE). Students can visit for an academic year or a semester. Likewise, students attending other participating colleges and universities may visit UK. For more information about NSE and academic requirements, including GPA, visit www.uky.edu/international/NSE

Major Advising
Students who have declared a major are advised by either a faculty member or professional advisor in their college. These advisors, with their in-depth knowledge of a particular field, can provide guidance toward completing degree requirements as well as information regarding careers and long-term educational goals. It is important for students, as soon as they declare a major, to contact their college and request assignment to an advisor.

Pre-Professional Advising
Pre-professional tracks are not majors at the University of Kentucky, and pre-professional students may choose any undergraduate major based on their interests and strengths. There are many campus resources available to support students considering careers in law and healthcare. The Stuckert Career Center provides campus-wide advising for both prospective and current students considering professional programs in law, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, podiatry, and optometry. Students are encouraged to contact the Stuckert Career Center to inquire about pre-professional advising by emailing ukcareercenter@uky.edu or by visiting www.uky.edu/careercenter. Students should consult the preprofessional information found below and the specific college sections of the Bulletin for more information.

Pre-Law Study
While a broad, liberal arts education is generally considered to be an excellent preparation for law school, no fixed, comprehensive Pre-Law curriculum is prescribed by any American law school. In general, Pre-Law students should develop rigorous study habits; become skilled in clear and logical communication; and select courses that enhance critical reading, writing, and analytical skills.

Law schools do not require or expect a particular undergraduate degree program. Students are advised to consider majors aligned with their interests, strengths, and potential career choices.

Students also are encouraged to explore the websites of law schools in which they are interested and to familiarize themselves with admissions standards at those schools. Almost all law schools require students to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Additional information is available from the Law School Admission Council, www.lsac.org. Another valuable resource is the current ABA-LSAC Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools, published and prepared by the Law School Admission Council and the American Bar Association. This yearly publication and information on the law and lawyers, pre-Law preparation, applying to law schools, the study of law, and most American law schools is available at: www.lsac.org.

Students interested in law school should meet with a Pre-Law advisor at least once a year while pursuing their undergraduate curriculum, attend Pre-Law information sessions, and subscribe to the Pre-Law listserv. For additional information, contact a prelaw advisor at ukcareercenter@uky.edu. Students with a major in the College of Arts & Sciences are encouraged to visit www.as.uky.edu/pre-law and to contact an advisor by emailing ASPreLaw@uky.edu.

Pre-Medical Study
Students are free to choose any major while pursuing their undergraduate degree and fulfilling Pre-Medical requirements. When selecting a major, students should consider subjects they find interesting and challenging, and those in which they perform best. Medical schools do not require a specific major to enter the professional program, but they do have minimum entrance requirements. Most students accepted to medical school earn a bachelor’s degree while satisfying Pre-Med requirements.

Currently the minimum requirements for medical school are:
- 2 semesters of college English or intensive writing courses
- 2 semesters of biology with labs
- 2 semesters of general chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of organic chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of physics with labs

Some medical schools have additional requirements beyond the minimum. Check specific medical schools for admissions requirements.

In addition, students are encouraged to take course work in areas such as anatomy, biochemistry, cell biology, calculus, genetics, histology, immunology, microbiology, physiology, psychology, sociology, and statistics.

Students interested in medical school should meet with a Pre-Med advisor at least once a year while pursuing their undergraduate curriculum, attend Pre-Medical information sessions, visit the Pre-Medical Web site at www.uky.edu/careercenter/pre-medicine, and subscribe to the Pre-Health listserv. For additional information, contact a Pre-Med advisor at ukcareercenter@uky.edu.

Students in the College of Arts & Sciences are encouraged to visit www.as.uky.edu/pre-medicine and to contact an advisor by emailing ASAdvisingCenter@uky.edu.

Pre-Dental Study
Students are free to choose any major while pursuing their undergraduate degree and fulfilling predental requirements. When selecting a major, students should consider subjects they find interesting and challenging, and those in which they perform best. Dental schools do not require a specific major to enter the professional program, but they do have minimum entrance requirements. Most students accepted to dental school earn a bachelor’s degree while satisfying predental requirements.

Currently the minimum requirements for entering dental school in the state of Kentucky are:
- 2 semesters of college English or intensive writing courses
- 2 semesters of biology with labs*
- 2 semesters of general chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of organic chemistry with labs
- 1 semester of physics with labs
- 1 semester of microbiology (required by the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry and recommended by the University of Louisville School of Dentistry)
- 1 semester of biochemistry (required by the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry and highly recommended by the University of Louisville School of Dentistry)

*The University of Louisville School of Dentistry has additional biology requirements.

Other dental schools in the country may have different prerequisite courses. Check specific dental schools for admissions requirements.

In addition, students are encouraged to take course work in areas such as anatomy, biochemistry, cell biology, calculus, genetics, histology, immunology, physiology, psychology, and statistics.
Students interested in dental school should meet with a Pre-Dental advisor at least once a year while pursuing their undergraduate curriculum, attend Pre-Dental information sessions, visit the Pre-Dental Web site at dentistry.uky.edu/students, and to contact an advisor by emailing chioma.brown@uky.edu. Students can also subscribe to the Pre-Health listserv by contacting ukcareercenter@uky.edu.

Pre-Optometry Study
Students are free to choose any major while pursuing their undergraduate degree and fulfilling Pre-Optometry requirements. When selecting a major, students should consider subjects they find interesting and challenging, and those in which they perform best. Optometry schools do not require a specific major to enter the professional program, but they do have minimum requirement for admission. Most students accepted to optometry school earn a bachelor’s degree while satisfying Pre-Optometry requirements.

Although the Commonwealth of Kentucky does not have an optometry school, contract seats are available to legal Kentucky residents at the University of Alabama, Indiana University, and Southern College of Optometry through the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). Students accepted for the SREB contract program are exempt from the out-of-state tuition. Students are competitively selected by the optometry school to receive a contract seat. Kentucky residency and acceptance into the Doctor of Optometry program does not guarantee a contract seat. Contract availability is subject to change as state legislatures annually review budget expenditures. For the number of contract seats available and more information, contact the specific optometry school.

Pre-Optometry requirements differ but generally include:
- 2 semesters of general chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of English
- 1 or 2 semesters of mathematics
- 1 or 2 semesters of general biology or zoology with labs
- 1 semester of microbiology with lab
- 2 semesters of general physics with labs
- 1 or 2 semesters of organic chemistry
- 2 semesters of statistics
- 1 or 2 semesters of psychology

Some schools may also require biochemistry, anatomy, and physiology. Check individual optometry schools for specific course requirements.

Students interested in optometry school should meet with a Pre-Optometry advisor at least once a year while pursuing their undergraduate curriculum and subscribe to the Pre-Health listserv by contacting ukcareercenter@uky.edu, and visit the Pre-Optometry Web site at www.uky.edu/careercenter/pre-optometry for more information. Students in the College of Arts & Sciences are encouraged to contact an advisor by emailing ASAdvisingCenter@uky.edu.

Prepharmacy Study

In spring 2014 the UK College of Pharmacy revised its prerequisite courses for first-time freshmen entering college in fall 2014 or after. The equivalent of two years (70 semester credit hours) of college-level liberal arts and basic sciences is the minimum requirement for admission to the professional program. The minimum course requirements for admission to UK’s College of Pharmacy are:

2 semesters of English*
  1 semester of introductory biology (with laboratory) (BIO 148) and (BIO 155)
  1 semester of microbiology (with laboratory) (BIO 208 or BIO 308) and (BIO 209)
  1 semester of mathematics (Calculus I or the combination of 1 semester of college algebra and 1 semester of elementary calculus (MA 113 or MA 137) or (MA 109 and MA 123)

Students interested in pharmacy: University of Kentucky students must take courses which satisfy the Composition and Communications I & II requirements. Non-UK students: two semesters of English writing/composition and one semester of basic public speaking will suffice. For questions about this requirement, contact the Prepharmacy Advisor at pharmacyinfo@lsv.uky.edu.

Prepharmacy courses should be completed by the end of the spring semester prior to the desired fall enrollment, with at least one semester completed in a lecture and lab in organic chemistry, and either anatomy or microbiology by the end of the fall semester prior to the application deadline.

Students are encouraged to take elective courses that satisfy their major requirements. Highly recommended electives include biochemistry, genetics, and physics. Other electives to consider: courses required by major; UK Core courses; PharmD Dual Degree prerequisites (if needed); medical terminology; healthcare-related courses; undergraduate courses in Human Health Sciences (HHS), Public Health (CPH), Clinical Leadership and Management (CLM).

Admission to the college is competitive, based on a holistic review of the application, grade-point average, PCAT scores and interview.

For more information, contact the College of Pharmacy at:

University of Kentucky
College of Pharmacy
Academic and Student Affairs
114 BioPharm Complex
Lexington, KY 40536-0596
(859) 323-2755
http://pharmacy.uky.edu/
pharmacyinfo@lsv.uky.edu

Pre-Podiatry Study

Students are free to choose any major while pursuing their undergraduate degree and fulfilling Pre-Podiatry requirements. When selecting a major, students should consider subjects they find interesting and challenging, and those in which they perform best. Podiatry schools do not require a specific major to enter the professional program, but they do have minimum entrance requirements. Most students accepted to podiatry school earn a bachelor’s degree while satisfying Pre-Podiatry requirements.

Currently the minimum requirements for Pre-Podiatry school are:

2 semesters of college English or intensive writing courses
2 semesters of biology with labs
2 semesters of general chemistry with labs
2 semesters of organic chemistry with labs
2 semesters of physics with labs

In addition, students are encouraged to take course work in areas such as anatomy, biochemistry, cell biology, calculus, genetics, histology, immunology, microbiology, physiology, psychology, and statistics.
Students interested in podiatry school should meet with a Pre-Podiatry advisor at least once a year while pursuing their undergraduate curriculum and subscribe to the Pre-Health listserv by emailing ukcareercenter@uky.edu.

**Pre-Physical Therapy and Pre-Physician Assistant Studies**

Students interested in pursuing pre-physical therapy should consult [www.uky.edu/chs/pt](http://www.uky.edu/chs/pt) and are encouraged to contact an advisor in the College of Health Sciences by emailing CHS-Admissions@uky.edu. Students who wish to pursue pre-physician assistant studies should visit [www.uky.edu/chs/academic-programs/physician-assistant-studies](http://www.uky.edu/chs/academic-programs/physician-assistant-studies) for more information. To meet with an advisor in the College of Health Sciences, students should email CHS-Admissions@uky.edu.

**Pre-Veterinary Studies**

Students who are interested in attending veterinary school should contact the Department of Animal and Food Science in the College of Agriculture by visiting afs.ca.uky.edu/students/pre-vet and by emailing colette.tebeau@uky.edu. Students are encouraged to view the pre-veterinary information in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment section of this Bulletin.