

Pre-Dentistry

As is the case at most universities, students cannot major in pre-dentistry at Illinois Wesleyan. Instead, students will major in their primary field of interest, while also working to complete the courses required by the pre-dentistry program. Though many majors may be selected if the basic science requirements for admission to a dental school are met, most dental schools strongly advise students to major in biology or chemistry. To pursue graduate study in dental school, or in any of the health professions, students must have a strong undergraduate background in science. At Illinois Wesleyan, students receive premier preparation in the sciences, along with challenging coursework in the liberal arts, highly personal instruction from a well-qualified faculty and hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment. In addition, the Pre-Dental Advisory Committee provides the help and support students need to enter a variety of competitive dentistry programs.

Why Pre-Dentistry at Illinois Wesleyan?

- The Center for Natural Sciences Learning and Research features top-quality scientific equipment in the labs, including dedicated space for student research.
- Students can pursue independent research projects under the supervision of Ph.D. professors.
- Students are exposed to courses in liberal arts disciplines outside their major, including ethics, literature, foreign language and fine arts, which enables them to grasp the different ethical and moral perspectives a dentist needs.
- The Dental Extern Program pairs pre-dental students with a local dentist, orthodontist, oral surgeon, or other specialist, which provides the opportunity to observe everything from patient examinations to surgery.
- Students benefit from the assistance and expertise of the Pre-Dental Advisory Committee, which is comprised of professors in the sciences as well as the liberal arts who assist students with the pre-dentistry curriculum and the dental school admissions process.
- The Hart Career Center houses materials describing a range of programs and careers in the dental sciences, as well as information on preparation and registration for the DAT.



Courses Required for Pre-Dentistry

General Biology
General Chemistry
Organic Chemistry
General Physics

Courses Recommended for Pre-Dentistry

Anatomy
Physiology
Histology
Microbiology
Cell Biology
Biochemistry
Microbiology
Biostatistics and Experimental Design
Molecular Biology/Genetics
Neurophysiology



“The Illinois Wesleyan science programs offer several advantages. Our courses, which are taught by professors, emphasize

problem-solving and critical thinking skills. We also provide many opportunities for laboratory and field experiences. The close interaction among students and among students and faculty is critical for the development of strong candidates for admission into dental schools. Our Advisory Committee will assist you in all aspects of applying to professional programs, including advising, in-depth interviews and the writing of thoughtful, thorough letters of evaluation. As a result, we have had great success in placing many of our students into the dental school of their choice.”

Dr. Loni Walker and Dr. Given Harper
Co-chairs, Pre-Dental Advisory Committee

Learning from a Quality Faculty

The following faculty serve on the Pre-Dental Advisory Committee. Not only do they assist all pre-dental students in preparing for the dental school application and selection process, but most of them also teach courses related to pre-dental preparation.

- **Dr. Loni Walker (Co-chair), Assistant Professor of Biology**
Ph.D. — The Ohio State University
- **Dr. Given Harper (Co-chair), Professor of Biology**
Ph.D. — Illinois State University
- **Dr. William Jaeckle, Assistant Professor of Biology**
Ph.D. — University of Southern California
- **Dr. Rebecca Roesner, Associate Professor of Chemistry**
Ph.D. — University of Kansas
- **Dr. Joe Williams, Associate Professor of Psychology**
Ph.D. — The Ohio State University

Putting Your Learning into Practice

- The Center for Natural Science Learning and Research (CNS) houses state-of-the-art facilities, including eight biology teaching labs and eight faculty/student research labs.
- Lab equipment includes molecular-techniques instrumentation, a scanning electron microscope, a Nikon interference phase contrast and fluorescence microscope, and a video data collection system.
- Students considering dentistry as a career may participate in a May Term externship, experiencing the dentistry field firsthand by working with alumni and other professionals.
- Students have recently been accepted by institutions such as the University of Michigan, Indiana University, Southern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.



For Further Information, Write or Call:

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