PRE-PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE

To pursue graduate study in medical, dental, or veterinary school, or in any of the health professions, you must have a strong undergraduate background in science. At Illinois Wesleyan, we'll provide you with this background, along with challenging course work in the liberal arts; close, personal instruction from a well-qualified faculty; and hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment. In addition, our Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Advisory Committee will give you the help and support you need to enter the professional program of your choice. Our students have recently been accepted by such prestigious institutions as Duke, the University of Michigan, Washington University, Vanderbilt, Northwestern, the University of Chicago and Yale.

A COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM

As is the case in most universities, at Illinois Wesleyan you cannot major in pre-medicine, pre-dental, or pre-veterinary medicine. You should major in the field you are most interested in, but be certain to complete the courses required by all pre-professional programs. These include the following laboratory courses: one year of biology, one year of physics, and two years of chemistry. Although most of our pre-professional students major in the sciences, either biology, chemistry, or psychology, any liberal arts major will suffice.

We stress active involvement in every aspect of your education: you will join frequent in-class discussions, work with top-quality scientific equipment in the labs, and may pursue independent research projects under the supervision of Ph.D. professors. Your curriculum will also include courses in liberal arts disciplines outside your major field, such as ethics, literature, foreign language, and the fine arts. These courses will help you develop the broad interests and grasp of different ethical and moral perspectives the scientist needs.

For a practical introduction to the duties and demands of a medical career, you may take part in our Medical Extern Program. During the May short term you’ll be paired with one of our alumni; they include internists, pediatricians, gynecologists, neurosurgeons, and other specialties. You’ll follow your mentor throughout his or her workday and have the opportunity to observe everything from patient examinations to hospital committee meetings to surgery.

THE PRE-MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As a student interested in the health sciences, you’ll benefit from the services provided by Illinois Wesleyan’s Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Advisory Committee and from our Career Center. In the Career Center you’ll find information on the registration dates for the MCAT and DAT; you will also find materials describing a range of programs and careers in the medical sciences, and, for medical schools, their curricula and emphasis—clinical or research. When you are ready to apply to a specific professional school, the Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Advisory Committee, whose members are drawn from professors in the —continues
“The Illinois Wesleyan science programs offer several advantages. Our courses emphasize problem-solving and critical thinking, rather than rote memorization. We provide extensive opportunities for laboratory and field experience. Our Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Advisory Committee will assist you in all aspects of applying to professional programs, interviewing you in-depth and writing a thoughtful, thorough letter of evaluation. As a result, we’ve had phenomenal success in placing our students.

On a more personal level, the constant interaction here between students and faculty, and students and students, is also a big benefit. We’ve had students who were extremely shy as freshman come out of their shells and become very confident and effective people by the time they leave here. At Illinois Wesleyan, we look for the development of the whole person.”

Dr. Bruce Criley  
Department of Biology  
George C. and Ella Beach Lewis  
Professor of Biology

liberal arts as well as the sciences, will prepare for you a comprehensive letter of evaluation to be sent to the admissions committees of the medical schools to which you have decided to apply. You will be interviewed by the committee, and the committee’s letter of evaluation will incorporate interviewer comments and those of three professors who have agreed to contribute letters to your file. Medical school admissions committees know and trust the letters that come from Illinois Wesleyan.

YOUR EDUCATIONAL FUTURE

Graduates of Illinois Wesleyan science programs have gone on to attend such prestigious institutions as Vanderbilt, Northwestern, the University of Chicago, Washington University, Emory, Loyola, Southern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois. The education you receive at Illinois Wesleyan can be your introduction to further successful study and to a fulfilling career in the health sciences.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about the academic program and the faculty visit our website at:
http://www.iwu.edu/academics/depprog.html