

Dear incoming student,

I am writing to introduce myself to you, and to share some information that may be helpful as you prepare for your first semester at Oberlin. During your Oberlin experience, you will develop in many ways and there are many different people who can help you!

I am both the director of the pre-medical/health program and a professor within the department of Biology. My role is to help you learn more about health/medical careers, and to support you in pursuit of a career in this area. I want to stress that this is a journey, and each person should take a slightly different path, one that is best suited to their overall goals, needs and preferences. Nevertheless, there is some general guidance that fits almost all of you as you begin the journey that I'd like to share.

And here is a **very abbreviated summary** of what you should know starting off exploring a pre-medical/health path. First and foremost, recognize that your first semester is primarily an adjustment period, and you should not take on too much in terms of pre-med. prep. Trying to do too many classes and other activities, will likely result in you not being happy personally and you could also earn grades that you are not happy with. For pre-medical preparation it is important to deeply learn certain course material, particularly in the STEM classes, so taking too many STEM classes at once can negatively impact your long-term goals.

For course selection, I recommend taking a First Year Seminar, and Chemistry 101 to *almost* all pre-med/health students in your first semester. Chemistry is the longest and most vertical subject you need to complete for pre-med/health preparation, and **you can only begin Chemistry in the Fall, not the Spring**. In your other course “slots”, you should explore any non-STEM major you might be considering, or just take classes that seem cool to you! You can add on more STEM classes in the spring, like Biol. 100, if you feel ready to do so.

I have developed a brief slide show that provides more extensive information on course planning and other aspects of health career preparation. Also, I keep lists of students interested in pre-health career exploration so let me know if you'd like to join my lists, just send me an email that lists your career of interest.

Enjoy your summer and I look forward on working with you in the years to come.

Best,
Professor Peters

Maureen A. Peters
Professor of Biology
Pre-Medical / Pre-Health Program Director
mpeters@oberlin.edu