



PHD

PRE-HEALTH DREAMERS

HEALTH CAREER PATHWAY CHART FOR PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

The information below is based on the most updated research done by Pre-Health Dreamers (PHD). Please note that this information is subject to change. We recommend that you use this document as a starting point to begin your journey in researching professional programs. This document was created to help support individuals who have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protective Status (TPS), or who do not have a Social Security Number (SSN).

Applying to Professional Programs							
	Medicine	Nursing	Dentistry	Pharmacy	Physician Assistant	Physical Therapy	Postbac
Application Process	<p>Applicants must submit an online application through AMCAS; for certain institutes in Texas, TMDSAS will be used instead.</p> <p>Applicants who do not hold a valid visa should select “None” on the drop-down list for the Citizenship question on the AMCAS or TMDSAS.</p> <p>The option “DACA” is also available on the AMCAS’s citizenship question.</p>	<p>Nursing programs may provide the option to apply through:</p> <p>A. Direct campus application or</p> <p>B. Centralized application for nursing programs-NursingCAS</p> <p>Online application through Nursing Centralized Application Service (NursingCAS) is only for participating institutions.</p> <p>Applicants who do not hold a valid visa should select “None” for the US Citizenship status question.</p>	<p>Applicants must submit their application through Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (ADEA AADSAS), a centralized online application portal.</p> <p>Applicants who do not hold a valid visa should select “None” on the drop-down list for the Citizenship question on the ADEA AADSAS.</p> <p>An additional question asking if the applicant has DACA will be included in the citizen information section.</p>	<p>Applicants must submit an online application through the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS).</p> <p>Applicants who do not hold a valid visa should select “None” for the US Citizenship status question and “No” for the US Visa question.</p>	<p>Applicants must submit an online application through the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA)</p> <p>Applicants who do not hold a valid visa should select “None” for the US Citizenship status question and “No” for the US Visa question.</p>	<p>Programs may provide the option to apply through:</p> <p>A. Direct campus application or</p> <p>B. Centralized online application-P TCAS</p> <p>The online application through Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS) is only for participating institutions.</p> <p>Applicants who do not hold a valid visa should select “None” for the US Citizenship status question and “No” for the US Visa question.</p>	<p>Programs may provide the option to apply through:</p> <p>A. Direct campus application or</p> <p>B. Centralized online application-PostbacCAS</p> <p>The online application through Post Baccalaureate Centralized Application Service (PostbacCAS) is only for participating institutions.</p> <p>Applicants who do not hold a valid visa should select “None” for the US Citizenship status question.</p>

<p>Fee Waiver</p>	<p>AMCAS Fee Assistance Program (FAP) is available to undocumented students regardless if DACA statuses.</p> <p>Fee waivers for supplemental applications may be available for DACA/TPS and non-SSN applicants.</p> <p>* contact the school directly to see if fee waivers are available.</p>	<p>Fee Waivers are based on income guidelines.</p> <p>Verification of Federal Income Tax Return Forms are required to verify eligibility.</p> <p>Fee waivers are limited and on first come first serve basis</p>	<p>ADEA AADSAS Fee Assistance Program is available to US Citizens, Permanent Residents and DACA recipients.</p> <p>Verification of Federal Income Tax Return Forms are required to verify eligibility.</p> <p>Fee waivers are limited and on first come first serve basis and do not apply to the DAT exam.</p>	<p>Fee Waivers are based on income guidelines.</p> <p>Verification of Federal Income Tax Return Forms are required to verify eligibility.</p> <p>Fee waivers are limited and on first come first serve basis.</p>	<p>Fee Waivers are based on income guidelines.</p> <p>Verification of Federal Income Tax Return Forms are required to verify eligibility.</p> <p>Fee waivers are limited and on first come first serve basis.</p>	<p>Fee Waivers are based on income guidelines.</p> <p>Verification of Federal Income Tax Return Forms are required to verify eligibility.</p> <p>Fee waivers are limited and on first come first serve basis.</p>	<p>No Fee waiver available through PostbacCAS</p> <p>Contact the programs you plan to apply to directly to see if fee waivers are available.</p>
<p>Entrance Exam</p>	<p>MCAT exam scores range from 472-578.</p> <p>Includes questions on Biology/Biochemistry, Chemistry/Physics, Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills, Psych., Social & Biological Foundations.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 6 hours 15 mins</p> <p><u>Cost:</u> \$330 *\$130 with Fee Waiver</p>	<p>Exam required and average score depends on the program's preferences.</p> <p>Includes questions on verbal skills, mathematical skills, and scientific topics.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 1 hour 45 min- 3 hours</p> <p><u>Cost:</u> \$65-100</p>	<p>DAT exam scores range from 1- 30</p> <p>Includes questions on natural sciences, perceptibility ability test, reading comprehension, and quantitative reasoning.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 hours 30 mins</p> <p><u>Cost:</u> \$525 *No Fee Waiver available to undocumented students.</p>	<p>PCAT exam Scores range from 200-600</p> <p>Includes questions on math, verbal, reading comprehension, writing skills and critical thinking skills</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 4 hours</p> <p><u>Cost:</u> \$210 *No Fee Waiver available</p>	<p>GRE (or MCAT) exam Scores range from 200-990</p> <p>Includes Analytical Writing, Verbal Reasoning, and Qualitative Reasoning.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 hours 45 mins+</p> <p><u>Cost:</u> \$220-330</p>	<p>GRE exam Scores range from 200-990</p> <p>Includes Analytical Writing, Verbal Reasoning, and Qualitative Reasoning.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 hours 45 mins</p> <p><u>Cost:</u> \$220</p>	<p>Programs may require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MCAT ● GRE ● No exam requirement <p>*Verify requirements with programs directly.</p> <p><u>Duration:</u> 3 hours 45 mins+</p> <p><u>Cost:</u> \$220-330</p>
<p>Acceptance</p>	<p>U.S. Residency or Citizenship admission requirements and support for undocumented students vary by institution and program. Prospective students should research and contact the school at least one year in advance or more before they apply to start these conversations. We encourage individuals to explore public and private universities options, as well as programs that have previously admitted undocumented students and programs that have not.</p>						

During Graduate/Professional Program

	Medicine	Nursing	Dentistry	Pharmacy	Physician Assistant	Physical Therapy	Postbac
--	----------	---------	-----------	----------	---------------------	------------------	---------

Financial Aid	<p>We advise students to reach out to the programs they are interested in at least a year in advance to research if financial aid is available to undocumented students.</p> <p>Pre-Health Dreamers has created a Financial Resources page for undocumented students seeking educational funds. Students have historically used leading private lending companies. A select number of loans are available for DACA/TPS students without a US citizen co-signer.</p>
----------------------	---

Clinical Requirements	<p>Most schools require at least 2 years of clinical clerkship rotations during 3rd and 4th year of medical school. Clerkships vary from 4- 8 weeks rotations and include internal medicine, general surgery, OB-GYN, pediatrics, family medicine, psychiatry, neurology, etc.</p>	<p>Clinical preceptorships may be integrated with classroom education. Students receive hands-on experience in a variety of healthcare settings and specialties. Preceptors and clinical sites are specific to each program.</p>	<p>Most dental schools have their own dental clinics for student training. Clinical rotations will usually occur during the last two years of the dental programs. Clinical rotations typically have no extensive traveling requirements.</p>	<p>1,500 internship hours are required to graduate. Students apply for licensure as 1st year students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensure requirements vary by state. Verify the states you plan to apply to provide professional licensures to individuals with ITINS. <p>Clinical experiences begin early in the program but can vary.</p>	<p>Clinical rotations for the latter half of the program. Core clinical experiences vary by program but include internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, OB-GYN, general surgery, behavioral medicine, emergency medicine, etc.</p>	<p>Clinical rotations throughout the program. Curriculum and clinical experience vary by program.</p>	<p>Program requirements vary; usually, no clinical hours are required.</p>
------------------------------	--	--	---	---	--	---	--

Verification of ID:
 Passport, state ID, and/or fingerprints may be required for application and potentially background check. Requirements vary by program.
 Employment authorization is not required for **unpaid** experience.

After Program Completion

	Medicine	Nursing	Dentistry	Pharmacy	Physician Assistant	Physical Therapy	Postbacs
Post Graduate Training	2-6 years of residency training required. The length of the residency program is determined by specialty. Residency is available to individuals with SSN and Employment Authorization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Residence is not required to complete your medical education. 	Clinical experience is not required for postgraduation. Experience is met during the program.	Post-graduation residency is not required to practice dentistry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional post-graduation specialties may require residency training. 	Residency is not required but encouraged for professional advancement.	Residency training is optional. Individuals can practice without completing a residency. Residency is required if an individual wants to pursue a specialty, such as pediatrics, geriatrics, neurology, etc.		No post Graduate Training required.
★ Licensure	USMLE examinations do not require SSN. Step 3 of USMLE licensure exams is taken during residency.	NCLEX examination requires SSN, in certain states, ITIN can be used instead.	USDLE examination requires SSN, in certain states, ITIN can be used instead.	NAPLEX examination is available to those who meet state licensure requirements	PANCE examination requires SSN, in certain states, ITIN can be used instead.	NPTE examination requires SSN, in certain states, ITIN can be used instead.	No license awarded at the end of program
Employment	<p>Only available with employment authorization and an SSN.</p> <p>Alternative income-generating options available—including freelance work, independent contracting, and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>*Contact a tax expert when starting your own business to make sure you meet IRS guidelines.</p>						

★ Verify with your state licensing board if licensure can be obtained using ITIN instead of a SSN. Pre-Health Dreamer’s has created a [Professional and Occupational Licensing for Undocumented Students](#) resource to help begin your research. As laws are constantly changing, please verify with your state board for the most up to date information.

★ We encourage students to reach out to the Pre-Health Dreamers team if they have any questions or concerns regarding their career in the medical field.

Please contact the Pre-Health Dreamers team for any questions regarding this document.

Rocio Munante Navarro, Network and Training Manager, rocio@phdreamers.org OR Yadira Ortiz, Executive Director, yadi@phdreamers.org.

Created from conversations with students and CA licensing boards, publicly available information online. [Updated, January 2024]