**DEGREE INFORMATION:**

**MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

Students who plan to attend medical or dental school may pursue any degree offered by the University. Admission to medical or dental school is on a competitive basis and each professional school has control of its own admission procedures and policies. The specific course requirements for admission differ among professional schools; however, the general requirements are given below.

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| Biology | 8 semester hours in introductory biology with laboratory. The following courses are recommended:  cell biology, comparative vertebrate anatomy, genetics, histology, microbiology, molecular biology, and physiology. |
| Chemistry | 19 semester hours, including 8 hours of inorganic chemistry with laboratory, 8 hours of organic chemistry with laboratory, and 3 hours of biochemistry (laboratory not required) |
| Physics | 8 semester hours of general physics with laboratory |
| English | 6 semester hours of English or demonstration of proficiency in spoken and written English (varies by school) |

Students should consult the catalog of the Medical/Dental School of their choice to determine if the school’s minimum requirements exceed those listed. Selection factors considered by most medical/dental schools include grade point average, upper-level science courses beyond minimum requirements, MCAT/DAT scores, personal interview at the medical/dental school (by invitation only), and either an evaluation letter provided by a committee composed of faculty members from the students’ undergraduate institution or three letters of recommendation from individual faculty members.

The Health Professions Committee is responsible for providing committee evaluation letters for students at McNeese State University who are applying to medical or dental schools.

Students interested in a committee evaluation must fill out and sign a Committee Interview Request form in the Department of Biology office during the spring semester of their junior year. These students must also complete an evaluation file, which will include:

* At least five and no more than ten faculty evaluation forms (available in the Department of Biology office);
* At least three and no more than five off-campus letters of recommendation (from persons not related to the student);
* Unofficial transcripts of all college work, showing an overall grade point average of 3.3;
* A copy of the personal statement which the student intends to include as part of their application; and
* A resumé, limited to two pages.

These materials must be sent to the chairperson of the committee by the deadline established for that semester.

Most professional schools require that a student obtain a bachelor’s degree before admission; however, some will admit students with three years of college provided they have completed the basic requirements. Those students who are admitted to an accredited medical, dental, or pharmacy school after three years of college may be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from McNeese State University after successfully completing the first year of work at that professional school. Under this option, all course work listed in the first three years of the McNeese curriculum must be completed before a degree can be granted.