HEALTH SCIENCE | PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The health science program leading to the Bachelor of Health Science (BHS) degree includes didactic and experiential activities for students to learn the foundation skills necessary for success in the dynamic health environment.

About this Program

- **College:** Public Health and Health Professions
- **Degree:** Bachelor of Health Science
- **Credits for Degree:** 120
- **Specializations:** General Health Science | Pre-Occupational Therapy | Pre-Physical Therapy | Preprofessional
- **Additional Information**
- **Related Health Science Programs**

To graduate with this major, students must complete all university, college, and major requirements.

The program has two major goals: to teach foundational skills to students whose career goal is to work in health care, particularly for those who want to become health care providers, and to teach foundational skills to students who want to work with individuals, groups or communities who face social, economic or health challenges. In addition, interested students have the opportunity to explore a combined-degree program in public health.

The college offers four specializations in the freshman and sophomore years: health science general, preprofessional, pre-occupational therapy, and pre-physical therapy.

- The health science general specialization is designed for students who want to work in a health care field not mentioned in the other specializations below. The number of electives allowed in this specialization affords the student the opportunity to incorporate a range of prerequisites for different career paths.
- The health science preprofessional specialization is designed for students pursuing careers in fields such as medicine, physician assistant and dentistry, all of which require significant basic science prerequisites. This specialization is set up to integrate commonly required preprofessional courses with requirements for the health science major.
- The pre-occupational therapy specialization offers the core health science curriculum plus OT prerequisites necessary for the Master of Occupational Therapy program at UF.
- The pre-physical therapy specialization offers a suggested prerequisite course sequence for students interested in pursuing entry-level physical therapy education at the graduate/professional level.

The health science general, preprofessional and pre-PT specializations collapse into one track beginning in the junior year and follow the same core curriculum, focusing on the health care system, different diseases and disabilities, the role of the health care provider in prevention and treatment, research methods and understanding core public health concepts. The senior year focuses on patient provider communication, effective leadership and critical-thinking skills important to clinical problem solving and the bioethical and legal issues impacting health care.

Regardless of specialization selected, students complement core courses with electives to round out their academic skills and interests.

Upon successful completion of the health science program, students receive the Bachelor of Health Science degree. While the majority of students pursue graduate or professional training in a health field (e.g. occupational therapy, physical therapy, medicine, physician assistant, health administration, dentistry, public health), some students seek employment in hospital or related community organizations after completing the B.H.S.

Course Sequence

While all specializations are designed for students interested in health care, students should select the specialization that most closely approximates their career plans and overall academic performance. Included in specific tracks are typical prerequisites for UF graduate and professional programs.

All course specializations in the health science program require a minimum 3.0 overall and prerequisite GPA for admission at the junior level.

Each specialization incorporates general education math and writing requirements and health science prerequisites. All specializations accept AP or IB credit for one prerequisite course. All other prerequisite courses must be completed with minimum grades of C at the university level. Students should consult a college advisor if they need assistance or have questions about a specific course schedule.

Students must apply by February 1 for Summer B or Fall admission. All prerequisites must be completed by the end of Summer A. However, for admission consideration at the junior level, all students must have completed the following or equivalents before the application deadline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSC 2005</td>
<td>Integrated Principles of Biology 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BSC 2100</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 2012</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STA 2023</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLP 3144</td>
<td>Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or DEP 3053</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Other remaining prerequisites should be in progress at the time of application or completed by the end of the Summer A term.

Related Health Science Programs

- Bachelor of Public Health
- Health Science minor

Pre-Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is a graduate-level program. The preprofessional OT track within the health science program gives students the opportunity to learn core health science content while simultaneously completing 3000/4000-level prerequisite coursework required for the graduate-level occupational therapy program at UF.

To be admitted to the pre-OT track, students must have completed all 2000-level prerequisites required for the master’s program in occupational therapy and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students who...
make satisfactory academic progress in their health science and pre-OT coursework receive the Bachelor of Health Science and, while admission to the OT program is not guaranteed, students in the pre-OT track have priority for admission to the graduate-level OT program.

### Critical Tracking

Critical Tracking records each student’s progress in courses that are required for entry to each major. Please note the critical-tracking requirements below on a per-semester basis.

Equivalent critical-tracking courses as determined by the State of Florida Common Course Prerequisites may be used for transfer students.

#### Semester 1
- Complete BSC 2005 and BSC 2005L with minimum grades of C
- Complete ENC 1101 or ENC 1102 with a minimum grade of C
- Complete sociology or anthropology with a minimum grade of C
- Complete 9 credits of general education courses, including ENC 1101 or higher, with minimum grades of C
- 2.3 cumulative GPA on work from all institutions

#### Semester 2
- Complete ENC 1102 with a minimum grade of C
- Complete HSC 2000 with a minimum grade of C (recommended)
- Complete PSY 2012 and HSC 3537 with minimum grades of C
- Complete 9 additional credits of general education courses for a total of 18
- Complete 28 cumulative credits
- 2.7 cumulative GPA on work from all institutions

#### Semester 3
- Complete 3 additional critical-tracking courses: APK 2100C or APK 2105C, CLP 3144 and STA 2023 with minimum grades of C
- Complete 9 additional credits of general education courses for a total of 27
- Complete ENC 3453 or a substitution approved by a PHHP advisor
- Complete 42 cumulative credits
- 3.0 GPA required for all critical-tracking courses, based on all attempts
- 3.0 cumulative GPA on work from all institutions

#### Semester 4
- Complete all laboratories
- Complete all general education courses, including IUF 1000 and all state core courses
- Complete the university writing requirement
- Complete 60 cumulative credits
- Complete all critical-tracking courses with no grade below C and with a 3.7 critical-tracking GPA
- 3.0 cumulative GPA on work from all institutions

### Model Semester Plan

To remain on track, students must complete the appropriate critical-tracking courses, which appear in bold. These courses must be completed by the terms as listed above in the Critical Tracking criteria.

This semester plan represents an example progression through the major. Actual courses and course order may be different depending on the student’s academic record and scheduling availability of courses. Prerequisites still apply.
Semester Five
HSA 3111  U.S. Health Care System  3
HSC 3502  Survey of Diseases and Disability  3
OTH 3200C  Applied Human Development  3
STA 3024  Introduction to Statistics  3
Elective (3000/4000 level)  3
Credits  15

Semester Six
HSC 3057  Research Methods and Issues in Health Science  3
HSC 4558  Survey of Diseases and Disabilities  3
OTH 3201  Applied Human Development  2
OTH 3416  Pathophysiology  3
PHC 4101  Public Health Concepts  3
Credits  14

Semester Seven
HSC 3661  Therapeutic Communication Skills with Patients, Families and the Health Care Team  2
HSC 4184  Health Care Leadership: Skills and Styles  3
OTH 4418 & 4418L  The Nervous System and Disorders and The Nervous System and Disorders Laboratory  5
RCS 4415L  Therapeutic Communication Skills Laboratory  1
Electives (3000/4000 level)  3
Credits  14

Semester Eight
HSC 4608L  Critical Thinking in Health Care  4
HSC 4652L  Ethical and Legal Issues in the Health Professions  3
OTH 3413C  Applied Kinesiology  3
OTH 4412 & 4412L  Musculoskeletal Anatomy and Musculoskeletal Anatomy Laboratory  5
Credits  15

Total Credits  120

1 Minimum grade of C required.

Students can complete missing coursework in the summer, but all first-year tracking criteria must be completed by the end of the summer term.

For semesters 5-8, students must enroll in all semesters and take all core courses in the term/order indicated, with the exception of Introduction to Statistics, which must be completed by the end of spring term of the junior year.

Academic Learning Compact
The Bachelor of Health Science prepares students for a career in health care systems or organizations that provide health or general human services to individuals/communities with health concerns. Students will learn the foundational interprofessional skills necessary to succeed in the dynamic healthcare environment and/or enter postbaccalaureate academic programs such as medicine, physical therapy and public health.

Before Graduating Students Must
- Receive a satisfactory grade (S) in the BHS capstone portfolio.
- Complete requirements for the baccalaureate degree, as determined by faculty.

Students in the Major Will Learn to

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Content
1. Describe key elements of the U.S. healthcare system.
2. Comprehensively describe major chronic illnesses and disabilities.
3. Describe the core functions of public health.
4. Apply knowledge and application of core bioethical principles to contemporary health issues.
5. Develop appropriate professional behaviors for health careers.

Critical Thinking
6. Develop and apply critical analysis skills to contemporary health issues.

Communication
7. Apply effective basic communication skills for health professionals.

Curriculum Map
I = Introduced; R = Reinforced; A = Assessed

Courses SLO 1  SLO 2  SLO 3  SLO 4  SLO 5  SLO 6  SLO 7
HSA 3111, R
HSC 305  I  R  I
HSC 3502  I, R  I
HSC 366  I, R, A
HSC 4184  R
HSC 4555  I, R  I
HSC 4608L  R  I, R, A  R
HSC 4655  I, R  R
OTH 3416  I, R
PHC 410  I, R  I, R  I
RCS 4415L  I  I
Capstone Exam  A  A  A  A  A  A  A

Assessment Types
- Assignment
- The Bachelor of Health Science (BHS) capstone exam in the final semester
- The degree candidate’s exit survey