Health care continues to be one of the most rapidly expanding areas of
our society. Careers in the health professions have expanded, both in
numbers and in the variety of opportunities. The rewards of a career in
health care include excellent salaries, stability of employment, geographic
mobility, and the opportunity to help other people. The Pre-Medical
Sciences Program is an advising program that helps students become
well-informed, well-prepared applicants to programs in allopathic
medicine, osteopathic medicine, chiropractic medicine, dentistry,
naturopathic medicine, optometry, physician assistant studies, podiatry
and veterinary medicine.

Pre-Medical Sciences is not a major at the University of Montana.
The Pre-Medical coursework will help students to gain admission to a
professional school or program while completing a degree in a field of
study. Students may select any major as a field of study, but specific
pre-professional courses must be completed. When selecting a major,
remember that a science major is not required for admissions into
professional schools. It is more important to perform well in your chosen
major. Professional schools are most concerned with the overall quality,
scope and difficulty of undergraduate work rather than the major.

Pre-professional courses are designed to provide a strong foundation
in the sciences, highly developed communication skills, and a solid
background in the social sciences and humanities. Curriculum guides
outlining minimal course requirements established by professional
schools are available from the Pre-medical Sciences office and from
the Pre-Medical Sciences website (http://umt.edu/premed). Because
many majors within the sciences, social sciences and humanities can
provide strong preparation for medical school, the Pre-Medical Sciences
Advising Program gives students the opportunity to interact with advisors
from diverse disciplines in addition to their advisor for their major.

The minimal requirements for professional school should be completed
by the end of the third year of study or prior to taking the admission test
required by professional schools. Since specific subject requirements
vary among institutions, students should discuss their academic plans
with their Pre-Medical Sciences advisor.

Admission to a professional school is very competitive. Students must
maintain a high grade-point average in college if they expect to be
admitted. All required courses must be taken for letter grades. In addition,
the applicant must score well on the appropriate professional admissions
test. These tests are designed to measure basic academic ability in
the natural sciences, reading ability and problem solving skills. These
examinations are usually taken during the third year of study.

Besides academic accomplishments and admission exam scores,
acceptance by a professional school is also dependent upon letters of
recommendation, volunteer experience, job shadowing, and personal
interviews conducted by the professional school. It is important that
students consult with a Pre-Medical Sciences advisor and with an
academic advisor in their major each year to make sure that they
can satisfy the necessary requirements for graduation within the
time available. The Pre-Medical Sciences Director will also discuss
procedures, advise and assist the student during the process of applying
to a professional school.