Bowdoin College offers an excellent academic preparation for a career in the health professions, and each student receives assistance in selecting an appropriate path through the curriculum. The Office of Health Professions Advising helps undergraduates and alumni investigate their options in health care, and guides and supports candidates through the application process to graduate professional programs.

**Selection of Major**

There is no specific pre-health major at Bowdoin; it is possible to concentrate in any academic discipline at the College and gain admission to a health professions program. We hope that the intellectual curiosity of our students will lead them to explore diverse fields and to develop backgrounds and abilities in areas of interest. We encourage each student to select as a major the discipline they are most passionate about studying.

**Advising**

Students may seek advice at any time regarding the preparation and academic planning for the health sciences from the Director of Health Professions Advising and from faculty members in the sciences. At a group meeting during Orientation, first-year students are introduced to the expectations of the various health professions programs, and are advised of the opportunities available to them for academic and career guidance. Other programs are scheduled during the academic year for sophomores, juniors and seniors. In addition, all interested students are invited to attend panel presentations on campus and to participate in discussions with health care providers, medical students, and professional school admissions representatives. Students are able to explore their interests in greater depth by engaging in related internships and community service. The College has volunteer programs with two hospitals in Brunswick, and a network of local health professionals makes it possible for undergraduates to participate in "informational interviewing" and "job shadowing."

It is the policy of Bowdoin to assist any student or graduate of the College who is seeking admission to a program in the health professions. Most years, 30-40 individuals request committee letters and credential packets from the Office of Health Professions Advising, and work closely with the advisor throughout the application process.

**Applying to Health Professions Programs**

Admission to health professions programs, particularly in allopathic and veterinary medicine, continues to be very competitive. In keeping with the national trend, in recent years many Bowdoin pre-meds have elected to gain additional experience between college and medical school. Their interim pursuits have been many and varied, including, for example, research, international community service, additional academic work, teaching and investment banking. Of those who have matriculated in medical school in recent years, typically 30-35% have chosen to do so either in the fall after graduating from Bowdoin or the following year. 45% have enrolled 2-3 years out of college, and 20-25% have entered medical school 4-8 years after receiving their undergraduate degree. In addition to those whose commitment to a career in health care is longstanding, each year the applicant group includes a few individuals whose interest in medicine was sparked after they graduated.

**Admission to Health Professions Programs**

We urge prospective students who are trying to choose between undergraduate schools to look beyond the statistics of each institution to the quality of the curriculum, the pre-health advising, the opportunities in and beyond the classrooms and laboratories, and the support that is offered applicants to health professions programs. We are extremely proud of the success of our graduates, but in reviewing our favorable numbers, kindly keep in mind that we encourage individuals to apply to programs in health care fields when, and not before, they are in a position to be realistic candidates. The annual acceptance rate of those who applied through Bowdoin to enter medical school in 2001-2009 has averaged 87%. All but two candidates who applied to enter programs in veterinary medicine, dental medicine, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, public health, sports nutrition and veterinary medicine during the same time frame gained admission.

Please see the reverse side for a list of the health professions programs in which Bowdoin graduates are currently enrolled.
BOWDOIN COLLEGE
HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING

PROGRAMS IN WHICH BOWDOIN GRADUATES ARE ENROLLED

**Allopathic Medicine**
- Albany
- Albert Einstein
- Ben Gurion
- Boston University
- California-Irvine
- California-San Francisco
- Colorado
- Columbia
- Connecticut
- Weill (Cornell)
- Dalhousie
- Dartmouth
- Drexel
- Emory
- George Washington
- Georgetown
- Harvard
- Jefferson
- Johns Hopkins
- Kansas
- Loyola-Stritch
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Mount Sinai
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- New York Medical
- SUNY Upstate
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- Pittsburgh
- Rochester
- St. George’s
- Stony Brook
- Tennessee
- Texas-Houston
- Texas Tech
- Tufts
- Tufts/Maine Medical
- Tulane
- Utah
- Vanderbilt
- Vermont
- Eastern Virginia
- Virginia
- Wake Forest
- Wright State
- Medical College of Wisconsin
- Yale

**Osteopathic Medicine**
- New England
- Touro

**Dentistry**
- Arizona
- Boston U
- Connecticut
- Harvard
- Howard
- Pennsylvania
- Tufts
- Washington

**Nursing**
- Massachusetts
- Pennsylvania
- Yale

**Nutrition**
- Columbia

**Optometry**
- New England

**Pharmacy**
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy

**Physician Assistant**
- Midwestern
- Philadelphia

**Veterinary Medicine**
- Cornell
- Pennsylvania
- Tufts

Please see the reverse side for an overview of the health professions advising.