



UGS 1020-001: Introduction to Premed/PA
M, W 1:25 – 2:45 PM; IVC-Canvas

Instructor Information: Joseph Witzke (jwitzke@advising.utah.edu), 801-581-5744

Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: Remote

Class Delivery/Format

This class will be conducted entirely online via virtual classroom. The instructor will provide the class with the appropriate Zoom link and passcode for each class. Students will be expected to login to the virtual classroom (Zoom) at the scheduled day(s) and time each week.

Required Materials

Computer (with internet access), premed and prePA information summary sheets, and syllabus

Course Description

Thinking about becoming a physician or a Physician Assistant (PA)? This course is designed for students who are exploring a career as a physician or a PA. The primary focus is to explore these careers through panels and presentations by practicing physicians and PAs as well as a continuous discussion on how to prepare for admission to medical and PA schools. Students will not only learn about resources but also engage in self-reflection focused on “why medicine.”

Course Outcomes

This course is designed for motivated students who are considering admissions to medical and PA schools after graduation. The main objectives are to expand on the traditional education by exploring the lived experience of physicians and PAs, the activities that shape applicants and encouraging students to reflect on who they are as they consider these careers.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain the similarities and differences between the physician and PA profession
- Identify the major components of extracurricular activities that are required to be a competitive applicant for professional school
- Create a four-year academic plan that includes the required prerequisite coursework
- Identify at least three campus resources that will enhance your undergraduate education at the University of Utah. (e.g., advising, campus agencies and volunteer organizations)
- Demonstrate various skills and techniques for successful interviewing
- Begin to identify your purpose and meaning – i.e. “why medicine” and creating a plan that will help you reach your goal

Diversity and Inclusivity

It is my intention to instruct a class that promotes diversity, values different perspectives, and seeks to create an inclusive space where students from all backgrounds can learn and thrive. I invite you all to join me in this effort and I welcome your comments and suggestions on how I can improve the class to meet this goal.

Wellness

It is important to recognize how things like stress, anxiety, depression, etc. can negatively impact our overall health and impede our ability to thrive both in and out of the classroom. If you are looking for resources to help, contact the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

Course Policies

1. Attendance & Punctuality

- a. You are expected to be present for the entire class
- b. You are allowed one absence
- c. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if you are going to be absent
- d. Any missed assignments due to absence will be the responsibility of the student to submit in a timely fashion

2. Speakers

This course will have many speakers from the campus and the community. Please arrive to class on time. Your full attention to each presentation is required. **Cell phones must be off.** No text messaging or side conversations. Engage yourself in each presentation to get the most out of this course and to ensure that these speakers will share their experiences with future students

3. Assignments

Every assignment that you submit in Canvas must be in **Microsoft Word format** (.doc or .docx) **or PDF**. I will not accept any other format, and you will not receive credit if you submit anything else. If you do not have Microsoft Word, you can download it for free since you are a University of Utah student. Have a MAC? Don't worry; the MAC edition is free for students as well. You can download them here: <http://software.utah.edu/news/microsoft-software.php> (Links to an external site.)

4. Grading

This course is graded as credit/no credit (pass or fail) based on your attendance, participation, and submission of your assignments.

5. Zoom Etiquette

Please respect the instructor, speakers, and your fellow classmates by muting your microphone when you are not the active speaker. If possible, share your video when interacting with others. The chat should be utilized for class related conversations only.

University Policies

1. **The Americans with Disabilities Act.** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
2. **Plagiarism.** According to the University of Utah Student Code (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>), "Plagiarism" means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information, or any other mode or content of expression." Plagiarism or academic dishonesty is not expected and will affect the grade negatively and may affect your admissions to medical or PA schools.
3. **University Safety Statement.** The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.
4. **Addressing Sexual Misconduct.** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity

and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

5. Drop

If you drop a course before the drop deadline, there will be no record on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are not assessed. The drop deadline for this course is **Friday, August 28th**.

6. Withdrawal

Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript, and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade of "W" is not used in calculating the student's GPA. Students need to discuss this option with an academic advisor AND the Financial Aid and Scholarship office before they withdraw from a course(s). Withdraw deadline for this course is **Friday, September 18th**.

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements.