



SHENANDOAH[®]
UNIVERSITY

FIRST-YEAR PATHWAYS TO THE GRADUATE HEALTH PROFESSIONS



2022 Undergraduate Programs



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

A career in health care is often sought by students with the desire to help others and to apply the skills needed to care for the health of individuals, families, and communities. The pursuit of a health care profession at the graduate level is challenging; the field is highly competitive, ever-changing, and requires a strong foundation in science and critical-thinking skills.

Here at Shenandoah, we strive to help our students prepare for the challenges of working in health care from the very beginning of their undergraduate education through our Pre-Health Program. From courses cohorted with other pre-health students to individual advising and graduate school application preparation, this program provides students with the skills needed to succeed in their pursuits. The pathways detailed in this booklet emphasize Shenandoah's commitment to pre-health students and the options we offer to support students as they pursue their passions as future members of the health care community.



Jeffrey Coker, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Arts & Sciences



SHENANDOAH'S PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM

In our program, students develop as competitive applicants to graduate schools that match their desired profession as well as their academic and pre-professional profile.

Pre-health students at Shenandoah University can pursue one of many careers in the health professions such as athletic training, dentistry, medicine, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, public health and veterinary medicine.

The Shenandoah Pre-Health Program:

- **Provides guidance**
within an environment that supports diversity and inclusion to students interested in a career within the health professions
- **Coordinates and provides academic experiences**
focused on building knowledge and skills necessary for a successful transition into graduate education in the health professions
- **Provides advising tailored to a student's individual**
progress toward developing a strong application for entry into their chosen professional schools

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the **Pathways to Graduate Health Professions** webpage to learn more at: su.edu/academics/pre-health-program





Health & Life Sciences
Building on main campus.

FIRST-YEAR PATHWAYS TO THE GRADUATE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Fall 2022 first-year undergraduate applicants interested in **Shenandoah University Graduate Health Profession programs** in **Athletic Training, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant Studies and Public Health** have various academic options:

- Traditional Pathway
- Articulation Agreement Pathway
- Early Assurance Pathway

Traditional Pathway

An undergraduate student at Shenandoah completes a bachelor's degree and applies to the graduate program(s) of their choice, typically during the third or fourth year of the undergraduate program. They follow the published graduate program admissions guidelines and procedures.

Shenandoah Articulation Agreement Pathway

Shenandoah University's graduate Health Professions and Pharmacy schools have established articulation agreements with our undergraduate College of Arts & Sciences. **These agreements provide a pathway into the graduate admission process by reserving a set number of seats in the graduate programs for students applying from within Shenandoah University.**

Articulation Agreement Pathway Programs:

- Doctor of Occupational Therapy
- Doctor of Pharmacy
- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Master of Science in Athletic Training
- Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
- Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies
- Master of Public Health

Students Eligible: The articulation agreement is designed for applicants who have completed graduate prerequisites and will be obtaining a bachelor's degree from Shenandoah University.

Process: Any student currently enrolled at SU can apply to the graduate program. The graduate program will evaluate the applications from Shenandoah students individually, and as long as they meet graduate admission requirements, **students will be invited to interview for the graduate program.**

Each graduate program has a certain number of seats reserved only for qualified Shenandoah graduates.





EARLY ASSURANCE PATHWAY

The **Early Assurance (EA) Pathway** is available to incoming first-year undergraduate applicants who meet rigorous high school GPA and course grade requirements, and it is highly competitive. This pathway **guarantees an admission interview with a Shenandoah graduate program** as long as undergraduate criteria are maintained at Shenandoah. The graduate schools reserve placements within their programs for all EA students meeting the program requirements and passing the graduate school interview. For most programs, this is an **accelerated** pathway that structures a student's transition into the graduate program by overlapping the first year of graduate school with the fourth year of undergraduate study.

The Office of Admissions works with and processes first-year undergraduate applicants who have **qualified to be considered** for the Early Assurance Pathway.

COVID-19 Impacts: We understand that the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years were impacted greatly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Early Assurance programs have some criteria that may have been impossible to meet due to these restrictions and alterations. Each applicant to an Early Assurance program will have an opportunity to explain barriers to achieving the criteria due to COVID-19, on a case-by-case basis, as part of the application to be reviewed for admission.

Students Eligible: Incoming First-Year Undergraduate Applicants Only. Transfer students are not eligible for the Early Assurance Pathway.

Students who do not qualify for the Early Assurance Pathway are encouraged to pursue the Articulation Agreement Pathway.

All information regarding EA consideration will be provided via the email address provided on the admission application.

FINAL FIRM DEADLINE of January 17, 2022, for ALL application materials.

Process for Consideration for the Early Assurance Pathway:

1. An incoming first-year applicant submits a first-year application for admission to Shenandoah.
2. The Office of Admissions reviews the applicant's eligibility for each program based on GPA, courses taken and grades received.

Early Assurance Pathway programs at Shenandoah:

- 3+2 Early Assurance, Master of Science in **Athletic Training** (EA-MSAT)
- 3+2.5 Early Assurance, Master of **Occupational Therapy** (EA-MSOT) or 3+3 Early Assurance, Doctor of **Occupational Therapy** (EA-OTD)
- 3+3 Early Assurance, Doctor of **Physical Therapy** (EA-DPT)
- 4+2.5 Early Assurance, Master of Science in **Physician Assistant Studies** (EA-MSPAS)
- 3+2 Early Assurance, Master of **Public Health** (EA-MPH)

If a student qualifies to be considered for the Early Assurance Pathway, they will be notified VIA EMAIL how to:

1. Upload/submit the required observation hours.
2. Register for the required shadow/interview day with the graduate program on select dates listed below.

<p>Application Materials DEADLINE <i>Interview Registration & Supplemental Materials must be submitted within the next week.</i></p>	<p>Accompanying On-Campus or Virtual Interview Date</p>
<p>Monday, November 1, 2021 Monday, November 29, 2021 Monday, December 20, 2021 Monday, January 17, 2022</p>	<p>Friday, November 12, 2021 Friday, December 3, 2021 Friday, January 7, 2022 (<i>virtual only</i>) Friday, January 28, 2022</p>

After successful submission and completion of all required supplemental materials, and graduate faculty consideration, applicants **may** be offered a reserved seat – the Early Assurance Pathway – into the graduate program.

Undergraduate academic criteria: The criteria each student must maintain during their undergraduate years of study for each EA Pathway are provided to the student in the form of an EA contract. If a student fails to maintain the criteria for their EA Pathway during their undergraduate studies, they are removed from the EA Pathway and they are eligible for the Articulation Agreement Pathway or the Traditional Pathway.

EARLY ASSURANCE PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR CONSIDERATION



ATHLETIC TRAINING

3+2 Early Assurance, Accelerated Pathway: Master of Science in Athletic Training

First-year application minimum requirements:

- High School GPA: minimum 3.2
- High School Courses: minimum grade of B- in both biology and chemistry

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with Division of Athletic Training faculty
- Optional: Brief explanation of any COVID-19-related barriers to achieving admission criteria

EA Pathway Students:

- 10 seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Public Health, Exercise Science, Biology; Pre-Health Certificate recommended

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- By the conclusion of the second semester of their first year, achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 with a 3.0 or higher in all science/math courses
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 3+2 Early Assurance Master of Science in Athletic Training contract



PUBLIC HEALTH

3+2 Early Assurance, Accelerated Pathway: Master of Public Health

First-year application minimum requirements:

- High School GPA: minimum 3.3
- High School Courses: minimum grade of B- in both biology and chemistry

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with Public Health faculty
- Optional: Brief explanation of any COVID-19-related barriers to achieving admission criteria

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- By the conclusion of the second semester of their first year, achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 with a 3.0 or higher in all science/math courses
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 3+2 Early Assurance Master of Public Health contract

EA Pathway Students:

- 10 seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Public Health, Exercise Science, Biology; Pre-Health Certificate recommended

EARLY ASSURANCE PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR CONSIDERATION



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY – 2 OPTIONS

3+2.5 Early Assurance, Accelerated Pathway: Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

First-year application minimum requirements:

- High School GPA: minimum 3.3
- High School Courses: minimum grade of B- in both biology and chemistry

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with Division of Occupational Therapy faculty
- Required Observation Hours - Students must **complete a minimum of 10 hours** of observation of a licensed occupational therapist in practice prior to the on-campus interview
- Optional: Brief explanation of any COVID-19-related barriers to achieving admission criteria

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- By the conclusion of the second semester of their first year, achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 3+2.5 Early Assurance Master of Science in Occupational Therapy contract

EA Pathway Students:

- 10 seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree path: Psychology, Exercise Science; Pre-Health Certificate recommended



3+3 Early Assurance, Accelerated Pathway: Doctor of Occupational Therapy

First-year application minimum requirements:

- High School GPA: minimum 3.3
- High School Courses: minimum grade of B- in both biology and chemistry

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with Division of Occupational Therapy faculty
- Required Observation Hours - Students must **complete a minimum of 10 hours** of observation of a licensed occupational therapist in practice prior to the on-campus interview
- Optional: Brief explanation of any COVID-19-related barriers to achieving admission criteria

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- By the conclusion of the second semester of their first year, achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 3+3 Early Assurance Doctor of Occupational Therapy contract

EA Pathway Students:

- 10 seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree path: Psychology, Exercise Science; Pre-Health Certificate recommended

EARLY ASSURANCE PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR CONSIDERATION



PHARMACY – 2 OPTIONS

3+4 Early Assurance, Accelerated Pathway: Doctor of Pharmacy (*Option 1*)

First-year application minimum requirements:

- High School GPA: minimum 3.5
- High School Courses: minimum grade of B- in both biology and chemistry

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with School of Pharmacy faculty
- Optional: Brief explanation of any COVID-19-related barriers to achieving admission criteria

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- By the conclusion of the second semester of their first year, achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 3+4 Early Assurance Doctor of Pharmacy contract

EA Pathway Students:

- 15 seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Chemistry, Biology; Pre-Health Certificate recommended
- Students choosing this pathway will be asked to identify the 3+4 Pathway during Shenandoah Summer Orientation or Welcome Week



2+4 Early Assurance, Accelerated Pathway: Doctor of Pharmacy (Option 2)

- **Students will not earn a bachelor's degree;** they progress through coursework designed to satisfy prerequisite requirements for pharmacy school.
- This pathway is recommended for first-year students bringing with them a significant number of dual-enrollment and/or Advanced Placement (AP) credits that allow them to focus mainly on pharmacy school prerequisites.

First-year application minimum requirements:

- High School GPA: minimum 3.5
- High School Courses: minimum grade of B- in both biology and chemistry

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with School of Pharmacy faculty
- Optional: Brief explanation of any COVID-19-related barriers to achieving admission criteria

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- By the conclusion of the second semester of their first year, achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 2+4 Early Assurance Doctor of Pharmacy contract

EA Pathway Students:

- 15 seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Core Studies Track; consider Pre-Health Certificate
- Students choosing this pathway will be asked to identify the 2+4 Pathway during Shenandoah Summer Orientation or Welcome Week

EARLY ASSURANCE PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR CONSIDERATION



PHYSICAL THERAPY

3+3 Early Assurance, Accelerated Pathway: Doctor of Physical Therapy

First-year application minimum requirements:

- High School GPA: minimum 3.5
- High School Courses: minimum grade of B- in both biology and chemistry

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with Division of Physical Therapy faculty
- Required Observation Hours - Students must complete a **minimum of 20 hours** of observation of a licensed physical therapist in practice prior to the on-campus interview
- Optional: Brief explanation of any COVID-19-related barriers to achieving admission criteria

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- By the conclusion of the second semester of their first year, achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4; by the end of the spring semester of the junior year, achieve a 3.4 GPA for prerequisite courses
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 3+3 Early Assurance for the Doctor of Physical Therapy contract

EA Pathway Students:

- 10 seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Biology, Exercise Science; Pre-Health Certificate recommended



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

4+2.5 Early Assurance Pathway: Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies

First-year application minimum requirements:

- High School GPA: minimum 3.5
- High School Courses: minimum grade of B- in both biology and chemistry

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with Division of Physician Assistant Studies faculty
- Required Observation Hours - Students must **complete a minimum of 50 hours** of observation of a licensed physician assistant in practice prior to the on-campus interview
- Two letters of recommendation required:
 1. One from a science or math teacher familiar with the student's work
 2. One from a medical professional
- Optional: Brief explanation of any COVID-19-related barriers to achieving admission criteria

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- By the conclusion of the second semester of their first year, achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 4+2.5 Early Assurance Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies contract

EA Pathway Students:

- 5 seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree path: Biology, Chemistry, Exercise Science, Public Health; Pre-Health Certificate recommended

SHENANDOAH FACTS

- Established 1875
- Located in Winchester, Virginia
- 2,244 undergraduate students
- Student-to-faculty ratio: 11 to 1
- Students study on main campus in the Health & Life Sciences Building

UNIQUE PRE-HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES

• **Pre-Health Professional Certificate**

This certificate aims to promote the foundational knowledge and skills needed to transition to graduate-level health-professions training.

• **Exploring the Health Professions (EHP) Seminar Courses**

The EHP is a sequence of three 1-credit courses designed for any student in the pre-health program. The courses concentrate on building knowledge of health care careers,

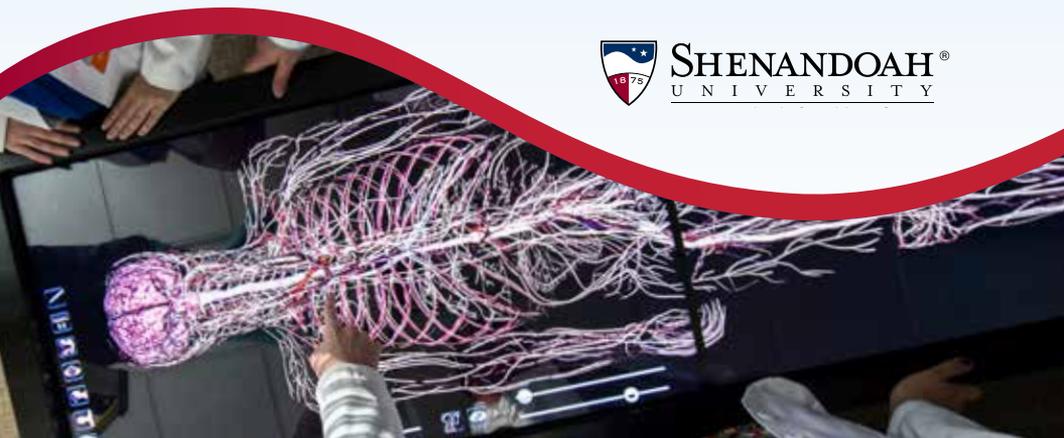
introducing students to issues of practice in today's health care climate, and more.

• **Health Humanities Certificate**

Health Humanities refers to the development of the knowledge and skills necessary for excellence in the health professions. Health Humanities is particularly directed toward the interpersonal skills necessary to the "art" of health care delivery in a diverse, multicultural society.



SHENANDOAH®
UNIVERSITY



Contact the Office of Admissions

Call: 540-665-4581 | Text: 540-592-4518 | Email: admit@su.edu



su.edu/admissions • su.edu/academics/pre-health-program
1460 University Drive • Winchester, VA 22601

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