



SHENANDOAH  
UNIVERSITY

# ***FIRST-YEAR PATHWAYS TO THE GRADUATE HEALTH PROFESSIONS***



2023 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, interpersonal communication 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

**Pre-health students at Shenandoah** can pursue one of many careers in the health professions such as athletic training, dentistry, medicine, occupational therapy, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, public health and veterinary medicine. Our students develop as competitive applicants to graduate schools that match their desired profession as well as their academic and pre-professional profile.

## Our 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



Learn more: **Pathways to Graduate Health Professions**  
[su.edu/academics/pre-health-program](https://su.edu/academics/pre-health-program)





# ***FIRST-YEAR PATHWAYS TO THE GRADUATE HEALTH PROFESSIONS***

Fall 2023 first-year undergraduate applicants interested in **Shenandoah University Graduate Health Profession programs** in **Athletic Training, Occupational Therapy, Osteopathic Medicine, 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

**Articulation agreements are some of the best pathways for students.** Our 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 each graduate program 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

\*For students interested in a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree, Shenandoah has an articulation agreement with the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine that guarantees an admission interview for Shenandoah students who meet certain requirements.

**Students Eligible:** Articulation agreements are designed for graduate school applicants who have completed graduate prerequisites and will be obtaining a bachelor's degree from Shenandoah University and plan to move directly into respective graduate programs and not planning a gap year.

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





## **EARLY ASSURANCE (EA) PATHWAY**

The EA Pathway, our most competitive option, is available to incoming first-year undergraduate applicants who meet rigorous high school GPA and course grade requirements. 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.

**Applicants must academically qualify to be considered for the Early Assurance Pathway.**

**COVID-19 Impacts:** We understand that the previous academic years were impacted greatly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Early Assurance programs have some requirements 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 requirements 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 can 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 20, 2023, 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.

**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.

### Application Materials DEADLINE

*Interview Registration & Supplemental Materials must be submitted within the next week.*

### Accompanying On-Campus or Virtual Interview Date

Monday, October 31, 2022  
Monday, November 21, 2022  
Monday, December 19, 2022  
Monday, January 16, 2023  
Monday, February 6, 2023

Friday, November 11, 2022  
Friday, December 2, 2022  
Friday, January 6, 2023 (*virtual only*)  
Friday, January 27, 2023  
Friday, February 17, 2023

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



## Master of Science in ATHLETIC TRAINING

### 3+2 Early Assurance Accelerated Pathway

#### First-year application minimum requirements:

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

- 10 EA seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Public Health, Exercise Science, Biology

#### Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with Division of Athletic Training 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 Science in Athletic Training contract



## ***Master of PUBLIC HEALTH***

### **3+2 Early Assurance Accelerated Pathway**

#### **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

- 10 EA seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Public Health, Exercise Science, Biology

# EARLY ASSURANCE PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR CONSIDERATION



## Master of Science in OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

### 3+2.5 Early Assurance Accelerated Pathway

#### 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

- 10 EA seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Psychology, Exercise Science



## ***Doctor of OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY***

### **3+3 Early Assurance Accelerated Pathway**

#### **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

- 10 EA seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Psychology, Exercise Science

# EARLY ASSURANCE PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR CONSIDERATION



## Doctor of PHARMACY (Option 1)

### 3+4 Early Assurance Accelerated Pathway

#### 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 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 3.0
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 3+4 Early Assurance Doctor of Pharmacy contract

- 15 EA seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Chemistry, Biology
- Students will declare the 3+4 or 2+4 option in the first advising meeting with the director of pre-health in the first fall semester.



## **Doctor of PHARMACY (Option 2)**

### **2+4 Early Assurance Accelerated Pathway**

- **Students will not earn a bachelor's degree in the 2+4 pathway;** 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 3.3
- 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*

- 15 EA seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Chemistry, Biology
- Students will declare the 3+4 or 2+4 option in the first advising meeting with the director of pre-health in the first fall semester.

#### **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 3.0
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 2+4 Early Assurance Doctor of Pharmacy contract

# EARLY ASSURANCE PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR CONSIDERATION



## Doctor of PHYSICAL THERAPY

### 3+3 Early Assurance Accelerated Pathway

#### 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

- 10 EA seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Exercise Science, Biology



## ***Master of Science in PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES***

### **4+2.5 Early Assurance Pathway**

#### **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

- 5 EA seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree path: Biology, Chemistry, Exercise Science, Public Health

#### **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

# SHENANDOAH FACTS

- Established 1875
- Located in Winchester, Virginia
- 2,203 undergraduate students
- Student-to-faculty ratio: 10 to 1
- Students study on main campus in the Health & Life Sciences Building

## UNIQUE PRE-HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES

- **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.
- **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.



### Contact the Office of Admissions

Call: 540-665-4581 | Text: 540-592-4518 | Email: [admit@su.edu](mailto:admit@su.edu)



[su.edu/admissions](http://su.edu/admissions) • [su.edu/academics/pre-health-program](http://su.edu/academics/pre-health-program)  
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