



SHENANDOAH
UNIVERSITY

PATHWAYS TO THE ***GRADUATE HEALTH*** ***PROFESSIONS***



2027 First-Year Pathways

SHENANDOAH'S PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM

Our 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 can pursue one of many careers in the health professions such as

- Athletic Training
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Dentistry
- Medicine
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Osteopathic Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Podiatry
- Public Health
- School Counseling
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Veterinary Medicine



WE PREPARE YOU BY:

- **Providing guidance** within an environment that supports diversity and inclusion to students interested in a career within the health professions
- **Coordinating and providing academic experiences** focused on building knowledge and skills necessary for a successful transition into graduate education in the health professions

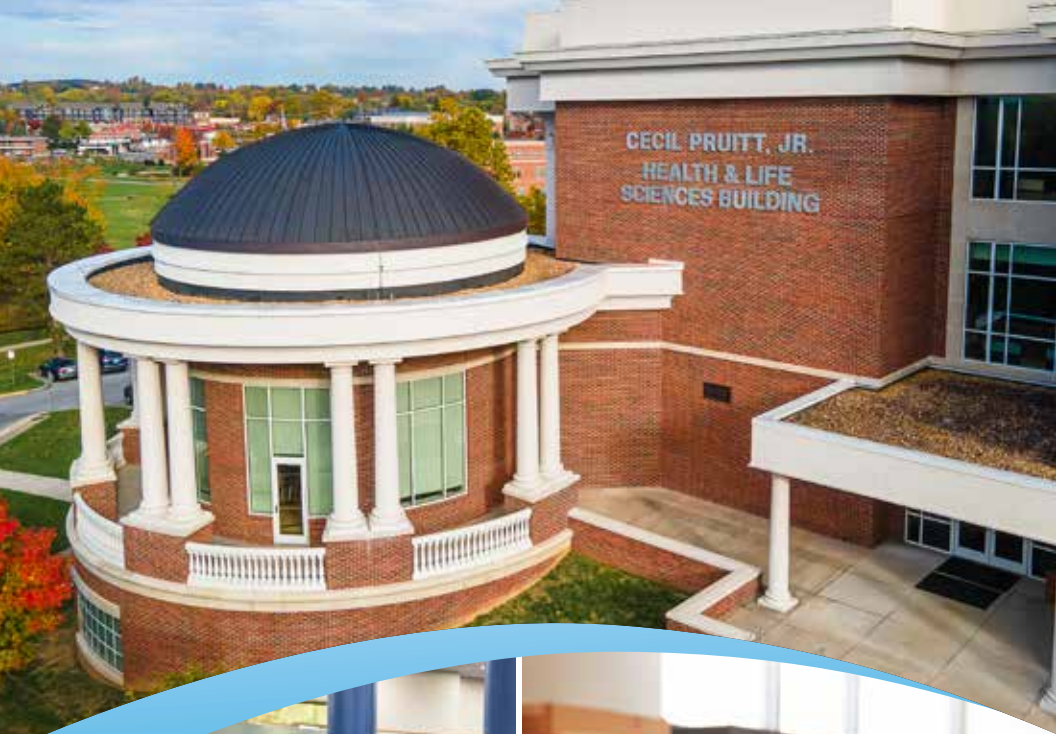
PRE-HEALTH ADVISING:

Pre-Health Advising consists of in-person advising sessions either in a group or individual setting that seek to provide guidance to students interested in pursuing a career within the health professions. Sessions focus on ensuring that pre-health students are on track for timely application to their professional school of choice and preparing their applications. Advising is provided by both the director of pre-health education and by peer advisors. Together, they provide students with important insights into how to succeed in their career pursuit.

LEARN MORE:

Pathways to Graduate Health Professions
su.edu/academics/pre-health-program





PATHWAYS TO THE GRADUATE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Fall 2027 first-year undergraduate applicants interested in **Shenandoah University graduate programs** like **Athletic Training, Nutrition and Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant Studies, and Public Health** have various pathways to the graduate programs:

1. Traditional Pathway
2. Articulation Agreement Pathway
3. Early Assurance Pathway

1. TRADITIONAL PATHWAY

An undergraduate student 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 admission guidelines and procedures.

Traditional Pathway to Graduate Health Profession Degrees Offered at Shenandoah:

- Athletic Training (MSAT)
- Athletic Training/Physical Therapy Dual Program (MSAT/DPT)
- Music Therapy
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy (MSOT)
- Occupational Therapy (OTD)
- Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Pharmacy/ MBA Dual Program (PharmD/MBA)
- Pharmacy/MPH Dual Program (PharmD/MPH)
- Pharmacy/Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Medicine Dual Degree (PharmD/MS in PGPM)
- Physical Therapy (DPT)
- Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS)
- Physician Assistant/Public Health Dual Program (MSPAS/MPH)
- Public Health (MPH)
- Public Health (MPH) 3 + 2 Accelerated Track
- Speech-Language Pathology (MS)

Traditional Pathway to Graduate Health Profession Degrees Outside of Shenandoah:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Podiatry
- Veterinary Science
- Optometry

2. SHENANDOAH ARTICULATION AGREEMENT PATHWAY

Articulation agreements are some of the best graduate school pathways for students. Our graduate Health Professions and Pharmacy schools have established articulation agreements with our undergraduate College of Arts & Sciences programs. 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 Shenandoah University undergraduate programs.

Articulation Agreement Pathway Programs:*

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

*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 full-time 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 the respective articulation agreement, **students will be invited to interview for the graduate program.**





3. **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 who meet the program requirements and pass 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.

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 or Traditional Pathway.

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

FINAL FIRM DEADLINE
of February 18, 2027,
for ALL application
materials.

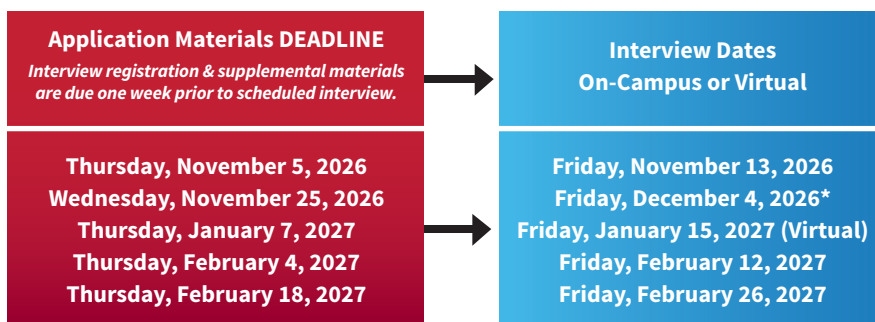


Process for Consideration for the Early Assurance Pathway:

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.



* There will be no EA Pharmacy interviews available on Friday, December 4, 2026.

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

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.

“What I love most about SU is how invested the faculty is in our success. The Early Assurance program creates such a close-knit community. It has given me inspiring professors, some of my best friends, and an incredible support system that keeps me motivated as I work toward my goals.”

– Ellie Sloan '28, Public Health major,
Biology and Psychology minors, Early
Assurance Master of Science in Physician
Assistant Studies program



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: Biochemistry, Biology, Exercise Science, Public Health

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with Division of Athletic Training faculty

While at Shenandoah a student must:

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

EARLY ASSURANCE PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS TO QUALIFY FOR CONSIDERATION



Master of Science in NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

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
- Required undergraduate degree path: **Exercise Science**

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with Division of Nutrition and Dietetics faculty

While at Shenandoah a student must:

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



Master of PUBLIC HEALTH

3+2 Early Assurance Accelerated Pathway

First-year application minimum requirements:

- High School GPA: minimum 3.0
- High School Courses: minimum grade of B- in both biology and chemistry

Supplemental requirements:

- Required interview with Public Health faculty

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- Achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 with a 2.8 or higher in all science/math courses, by the conclusion of the second semester of their first year
- 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: **Biochemistry, Biology, Exercise Science, Public Health**

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
- Recommended Observation Hours - A **minimum of 10 hours** of observation under a licensed occupational therapist is recommended (not required) before the on-campus interview.

While at Shenandoah a student must:

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

- 15 EA seats offered in total between OTD and MSOT graduate programs each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Exercise Science, Psychology



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
- Recommended Observation Hours - A **minimum of 10 hours** of observation under a licensed occupational therapist is recommended (not required) before the on-campus interview.

While at Shenandoah a student must:

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

- 15 EA seats offered in total between OTD and MSOT graduate programs each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Exercise Science, Psychology

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

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- Achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, by the conclusion of the second semester of their first year
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 3+4 Early Assurance Doctor of Pharmacy contract

- 15 EA seats offered in total between 3+4 and 2+4 pathways each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry
- 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

While at Shenandoah a student must:

- Achieve and then maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, by the conclusion of the second semester of their first year
- Follow specific guidelines outlined in the 2+4 Early Assurance Doctor of Pharmacy contract

- **15 EA seats offered in total between 3+4 and 2+4 pathways each year**
- **Suggested undergraduate degree paths: Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry**
- **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.**

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

- 15 EA seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: **Biochemistry, Biology, Exercise Science**

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

While at Shenandoah a student must:

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



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 20 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

- 5 EA seats offered each year
- Suggested undergraduate degree paths: **Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Exercise Science**

While at Shenandoah a student must:

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

SHENANDOAH'S UNIQUE PRE-HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES

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 healthcare careers, introducing students to issues of practice in today's healthcare climate and more.



SHENANDOAH
UNIVERSITY

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Contact the Office of Admissions

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su.edu/admissions

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