



# THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM (P3) AT FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

The Pre-Professional Program (P3) is a rigorous competitive program for students pursuing admission to health professions schools after obtaining their undergraduate degrees. P3 assists students with academic and career goals to prepare them to be qualified candidates for these professional programs. In this respect, “Pre-Professional” refers to most medically related fields, including but not limited to, medical, dental, veterinary, physician assistant, optometry, podiatry, and physical therapy, but does not apply to nursing or to pre-law studies and other paths that lie outside of the natural sciences and health professions.

In this program, students will participate in specific activities designed to increase awareness of competitiveness and that encourage continued exploration of the health care field. Activities include workshops, classes, one-on-one advising, professional observation and volunteer experiences. Students completing the program are well prepared to submit a holistically competitive application to outstanding professional programs.

Students interested in P3 should declare their intent to their academic advisor and participate in workshops and activities facilitated by the Science and Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator as soon as their first semester at Florida Southern College.

**Although any FSC student may pursue a pre-health track, only those students who apply, are accepted, and maintain eligibility, are considered members of the FSC Pre-Professional Program (P3).**

Full participation in P3 includes a 2-part application process. Students must gain acceptance into P3 (Part 1) to be eligible to apply for Part 2. Students who successfully complete Part 2 will be recognized as having completed the P3 program.

**Part 1** - Acceptance into P3 requires completion of specific coursework, a competitive GPA, a personal statement, extracurricular activities, and completion of an application by January 15<sup>th</sup> of the second or third year\*.

**Part 2**- Completion of P3 requires submission of an extensive application by February 1<sup>st</sup> of the third or fourth year\* and culminates in a formal Committee Interview and Letter of Evaluation.

\*P3 is designed to be completed immediately prior to the submission of a student's professional school application. Therefore, completion of both part 1 and part 2 is dictated by a student's intended application date, rather than their year in school. Ideally, students would submit their Part 1 application about 1 ½ years before they plan to submit their professional school application. They would then submit their Part 2 application about 6 months prior to submitting their professional school application. Transfer students, students planning to graduate from Florida Southern in less than 4 years, and students planning to take one or more gap years, should consider this information when determining the appropriate application date.

**Meeting the basic eligibility requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Pre-Professional Program (P3). Applicants are reviewed holistically by the FSC Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC) who collectively make recommendations for acceptance following a thorough review of application materials, competencies, and emotional intelligence.**

Students with specific questions regarding their individual, recommended Part 1 and Part 2 application dates should contact Ms. Lauren Albaum, the Science and Pre-Health Career and Internship Coordinator for more information.



## **GPA INFORMATION**



## **FOLLOWING ACCEPTANCE TO PART 1:**

If granted acceptance to part 1, students are required to maintain highly competitive standards. To ensure students are maintaining competitiveness, they will be required to submit a Part 2 application in the spring semester preceding their application to professional school.

Students accepted to Part 1 must complete all of the following before submitting their Part 2 application:

Meet with a member of the HPAC at least once each semester

Submit an updated unofficial transcript after final grades have been posted for both the spring and fall semesters to the Pre-Medical Studies Coordinator or the Science & Pre-Health Internship Coordinator

Maintain or demonstrate progress towards a minimum overall and BCPM GPA of at least 3.50

Attend the Crucial Year Workshop (*available in Fall*)

Complete a mock interview with a staff member in the Science & Pre-Health Advising Center or with a member of the HPAC

Attend the Gap Year Workshop

Complete an *additional* 50 hours of professional observation and/or clinical exposure

Complete an *additional* 20 hours of community service (*must be separate from the professional observation and/or clinical exposure- cannot “double dip”*)

Complete a mock interview and personal statement review

***FAILURE TO MEET THESE CONDITIONS WILL RESULT IN STUDENTS BEING DROPPED FROM THE PROGRAM.***

## **PART 2: COMPLETION OF P3 (INCLUDES COMMITTEE INTERVIEW/LETTER)**

Once a student has been accepted into Part 1 of the P3 program and has completed all of the requirements to satisfy Part 2, they are eligible to apply for completion of the P3 program. When applying for completion of the program, students are also eligible to participate in the HPAC Interview and receive a Committee Letter of Evaluation. Most professional schools require an interview as a part of the admissions process, and many prefer a committee letter of recommendation for evaluation. The interview, held with a committee of faculty, staff and administrators, provides practice for the student and allows members of the committee to gain a holistic perspective of the applicant. After the interview, the HPAC will provide feedback to the student on interview skills and the personal statement. If requested, the HPAC will compose a letter of evaluation, where all members of the committee will contribute to the honest assessment of the qualifications of the student. One committee member will be designated to write the letter. It is the responsibility of the student to report this committee member's name and contact information in the application as the author of the letter when applying to professional school.

### **PART 2 - ELIGIBILITY:**

**Students should plan to submit their Part 2 application in the semester preceding their health professions application.** Based on the summer that a student plans to apply to professional school, part 2 applications are due by **February 1<sup>st</sup> of either the third or fourth year.** This will allow the HPAC committee enough time to review the application materials a



***FAILURE TO SUCCESSFULLY GAIN ACCEPTANCE TO PART 2 WILL RESULT IN STUDENTS BEING DROPPED FROM THE PROGRAM.***