

# LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

*Health Professions Program*

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## Health Professions Advising Guidance: Nitty Gritty Course Considerations for the Class of 2029

Thank you for your interest in health professions! If you are here, you found our web page and we invite you to explore it independently. We in HP Advising will rarely tell you what to do, but as you explore your course choices for Fall 2025, this is one of those times when we will do just that 😊 !

1. To provide us with the most accurate information, **please complete your tests for MATH and CHEMISTRY and LANGUAGE placement ASAP! Even if you don't intend to register for one or more in Fall 2025! Our guidance depends on useful and relevant input. Doing so will help you select courses** that meet your needs, not only for your health professions aspirations but also for your intended major. We want you to enroll in courses for which you are adequately prepared. We want your performance to be at its best across your whole course complement.

2. If you haven't yet done so, **explore our Health Professions Advising webpage**. See if you can locate summaries of programs that we hosted last year! Think about others you might like to recommend! You will find links to our course recommendations, as well as well as how to choose among different course options. Consider it a scavenger hunt!

Please remember that your academic program must have first priority and our co-curricular HP Advising will be a supplement to that. Your Common Course of Study and Intended Major requirements always take precedence, but realize nearly every course you select early in your career will help propel you forward. Now, it is true—some disciplines are vertically integrated, so completing 100-level work is needed to get into 200-level work, and so on. Be mindful! Please READ the requirements for your intended major, as well as course descriptions that will tell you any pre-requisites. Remember, you can elect any major or degree program, so explore now as part of your choices.

3. Another question we have received requires specific follow up: What do I do about AP/IB scores? First, only official score reports can be considered for credit. Each department has specific guidelines, e.g., 4 for history, but 5 for biology, etc. You may be entitled to AP credit by virtue of your test. But PLEASE NOTE, some health professions schools look skeptically on use of AP credit, and some actually DO NOT accept it in lieu of core STEM courses. You need to demonstrate competence in college level science with laboratory AND as part of a full course load. So, we encourage using AP credit for non-core areas such as English, writing, social science and humanities courses. If you do elect to use AP credit in a STEM discipline, be prepared to enroll in more advanced coursework in subsequent semesters beyond your introductory AP credit. It demonstrates your aptitude for challenging yourself, and will ensure you fulfill all of your requirements for health professions schools.

4. Here's an interesting question: what if you place out of an introductory level class and into a higher-level class? For example, you take your chemistry placement and learn you should bypass Chem 107 and enroll in Chem 108. Congratulations for your excellent performance! How this works for course credit is variable, both by department, and by health professions school. So, we encourage you to reach out to the relevant department for clarification and their best recommendation.

5. Now...what classes ought you to select for Fall 2023? You get to solve a puzzle here, fitting together different sections and courses that maximize your options.

- Of course, you need your FYS. That leaves three courses to select
- If you intend a STEM major you should enroll in the introductory level class in that intended major, and be certain you have options for the lab section. With that, the typical load would also include a collateral science class. Some examples?
  - FYS, Biol 111 with lab, Chem 107 with lab
  - FYS, Psych 110 with lab, Neur 201...you get the picture.
- If you intend a non-STEM major, you should still target the introductory course level class in that intended major, perhaps another related one as well, so that you have options and can truly explore. And you can do this while still electing an important core course for health professions. Some examples?
  - FYS, Econ 101, Biol 111 with lab
  - FYS, WGSS 101, Psych 110 with lab
  - FYS, English 205, Chem 107 with lab...you get the picture.
- You are now left with a single course slot—what to choose? Many students like to put mathematics in that spot. A very good choice! But be sure to complete your math placement AND check your intended major—different mathematics courses serve different needs, and they can vary as well between a BS and an AB degree. Another option is a language course, or maybe something new and different for you to explore, like sociology or philosophy. These choices depend on your placement and preparation!! But any of these will be valuable. Use your problem-solving skills to complete the puzzle of a few different scheduling options. And have a few back up courses at the ready in case you need to pivot to a different section.

You should now have a relatively plausible class schedule. Remember, any area where you can continue to challenge yourself, it is fine to do so! When you know the timing of your FYS you will be positioned to make any final adjustments. Armed with all of this information, we are confident in your competence to do these tasks independently...

...BUT IN ADDITION...

STAY TUNED for your Academic Advisor Assignment. Your Class Dean is working diligently to link you to your AA. Please respond and complete the Advising Survey when that invitation arrives! You will want to connect with your AA no later than your first week of classes in case you need to make any course changes.

PLAN TO ATTEND our virtual Health Professions Program Summer Session on Monday, June 23, 2025 at 3pm. At this session, we will offer a brief introduction to our HP Advising program, address common health professions school myths and answer questions you might have for us.

PLAN AHEAD: In August we will begin to accept student emails to enroll in our HPA Programming listserve. So, on or around **August 11, 2025**, plan to send us an email to request inclusion on our email distribution list! That way you won't miss important announcements or great opportunities.

SAVE THE DATE! Our **First Year and Transfer Student Information Session** will be held across lunchtime. Specific details about the date/time and location TBA so stay alert for our email (which will come when you sign up above!). Plan to register for it and ATTEND! AFTER you attend to get the basics, we will offer Small Group HP Advising sessions. You will discover how to access these at the Info Session.

Remember, your education is in your capable hands! We are here to support you. Your First Year Dean, Alexis Smith, remains your primary point of contact. If *after* searching for answers, you still have questions, please reach out to her and the Office of the Dean of Advising and Co- Curricular Programs.

Your Health Professions Advising Team