

The National College Planning Summit

Interested in Pre-Med, Professional Programs or the US Military Academies?

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Nadine Green is a Certified College Counselor and highly diversified Business Executive who understands the college process both as a parent and advisor. She is an independent college counselor who helps families manage the chaos of the college admissions process by using a highly structured approach.

1. What do you mean by Pre-Professional Programs?

- a. Students who intend to pursue a professional school after they have graduated with their Bachelor's degree.

2. What types of careers?

- a. Medical
- b. Nursing
- c. Dentistry
- d. Veterinary
- e. Rehab Professions, (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech)
- f. Law
- g. Engineering
- h. Business

3. How should students approach planning for a professional degree?

- a. This is a 5-8 year plan, not a 4 year plan.
- b. Students need to look ahead to each potential step.
- c. Draft a list of potential schools and then look at each school - Can they earn a higher degree there or do they need to go outside of their school of choice?

4. What does the student's mindset need to be during High School if they are thinking of a profession?

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- a. This is a larger process and students must be the best candidate they can be throughout all four years of college.
- b. Students interested in these programs often have an interest in these fields already and have already started looking at what may be involved by being in clubs or shadowing a professional.
- c. Students should choose an undergraduate program where they can achieve the most academic success.
- d. Students should research colleges that have a combined program. These programs are generally found at very selective, highly competitive universities.
- e. If you are not going into a combined program look at graduate school acceptance statistics of each college; don't look at employment statistics.
- f. High School students should be looking at an expanded timeline – the focus is not just at getting into college. You also need to be looking 4 years ahead to applying to another University or Graduate Program.

5. When people say "Pre-Law or Pre-Med" are these actual majors?

- a. These are not majors - They are advising programs or tracks that ensure the student has the appropriate prerequisite courses. The coursework will gear itself to applying to the graduate program. The pre-professional track is focusing on the core class work the student will take to apply to either Veterinary School, Dental School or Medical School. (For example, a student majoring in animal science will be taking organic chemistry rather than animal nutrition.)
- b. When students are applying to these pre-professional programs, the college may be looking at activities on the student's resume to make sure the student is really interested or passionate about the field.
- c. They may be looking for students with the higher ranges of Standardized Tests Scores, as well as their activities in the field or how their essay ties into the application.
- d. Interviews may be required.

6. What are some advantages of Combined Programs?

- a. If you are accepted as an undergraduate into a combined program, the MCAT or GRE is generally not needed – The student must maintain a certain GPA and then is accepted into the graduate program.
- b. Students are generally accepted into the graduate program during their Junior year of undergraduate and would begin their graduate work as they are completing their undergraduate work.
- c. Combined programs can save time & money. They are generally shorter in length and can save 1-2 years of tuition payments.

7. What are some disadvantages of Combined Programs?

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- a. This is a big life decision for a 17 year old. It is best to apply to 1 or 2 combined programs and also apply to regular undergraduate programs that will get them ready to apply to the professional program.
- b. The student doesn't need to decide until May of their Senior year in High School which gives a little more time to really think about if this is the right program for them.
- c. There is no downside except that it is a big commitment that is made when the student is Senior in High School.

8. Are there many Combined Programs?

- a. There are more combined Medical programs than combined Veterinary programs.
- b. Veterinary, Law & Engineering may have partnerships among schools with the graduate program. These programs are very competitive and not many seats available. For example, for Veterinary programs, Maryland and Virginia Tech have a partnership - it is a combined program. Only 28 schools in the US have DVM programs.
- c. Graduate schools may have State contracts with colleges (University of Vermont has a partnership with Tufts University in Massachusetts - Tufts holds 10 seats for U of Vermont students who want to pursue DVM.) For Veterinary Medicine, it may be wise to go to a school as an undergraduate that has a DVM program.

9. How do the rehab programs, such as Physical Therapy or Speech Pathology work?

- a. They are very competitive with a small class size.
- b. Colleges are typically looking for experience - shadowing experience or something that indicates why the student has a strong interest in the program.
- c. There are very few combined Speech programs - University of Rhode Island is one of the few.
- d. There are Combined Programs for Occupational Therapy & Physical Therapy fields.

10. What about Bachelor/JD Law Combined Programs?

- a. Typically 6 year programs, very accelerated.
- b. Some schools require LSAT & minimum GPA requirement, University of Kansas is one of these programs.
- c. The benefit is that you are already on track to pursue a law career, rather than starting from scratch and applying to Law School.
- d. You may save a year if it is an accelerated program.

11. What about BS/MS Engineering Combined Programs?

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- a. Many differing requirements depending on the school.

12. What about BS in Business or Accounting/CPA?

- a. Requirements vary from state to state, but every student who wants to sit for the CPA exam needs 150 college credits. The 150 credits are not necessarily all in the major.

13. Should students attend colleges that have Pre-Professional advising programs?

- a. It is not required, but can be helpful.

14. Do you need to major in Biology to apply to Medical School?

- a. You don't necessarily need to be a Biology Major to apply to Medical School – you can major in anything, but majoring in a relevant field shows interest.
- b. You must have all the prerequisites for Medical School, regardless of Undergraduate Major.

15. What questions should students ask when talking to the Dean or Faculty of the Pre-Professional programs when they visit the colleges?

- a. “What percentage of students are in the pre-professional programs?”
- b. “What are your acceptance rates?”
- c. “How many students that graduate from your college are accepted into the graduate program?”
- d. “What graduate programs are they accepted into?”
- e. These questions are more valuable than graduation employment statistics for students pursuing professional programs.

16. How should students prepare for these professions?

- a. Go to professional websites. Find out requirements and accreditations.
 - i. www.aavmc.org - for veterinary school
 - ii. www.ama-assn.org – for medical school
 - iii. www.lsac.org - for law school
 - iv. www.asha.org - speech pathology
- b. Go to www.collegeboard.org for general information about colleges.

17. If you attend an Undergraduate Program where there is also a Professional Program, does that give you an advantage?

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- a. It depends on each program and the academic strength of the student.
- b. The professors already know you. It may be possible to apply for residency to pay in state tuition.

18. What happens if a High School student is accepted into a program and then changes their mind? Can they get out of the program?

- a. Yes, but it may add additional time and course work to change majors. Ask questions before committing to any programs.
- b. Apply to combined and non-combined programs.

19. Finally, let's talk briefly about the 5 US Service Academies. What are the different branches?

- a. US Military Academy
- b. US Naval Academy
- c. US Air Force Academy
- d. US Coast Guard
- e. US Merchant Marine

20. Is the Application process different for the Service Academies?

- a. Students interested in the Service Academies need to apply early – some branches open their applications during the Junior Year of High School – check each academy website for specific details.

21. What are the benefits?

- a. They offer an outstanding education.
- b. Tuition, books, board and medical and dental care are all fully paid for all four years.

22. Are they difficult to get into?

- a. The competition to get in is fierce. Admission criteria include:
 - i. Excellent High School Academic Performance
 - ii. Excellent Standardized Test Scores
 - iii. Athletics and Extracurricular Activities
 - iv. Leadership Experience and Community Involvement
 - v. Congressional Letter of Recommendation (not required by Coast Guard Academy)

23. What degrees do graduates receive?

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- a. Graduates of all Academies receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned as Officers into their respective Service Branch. There is a service obligation of a minimum of five years.

24. Do you have any final thoughts for our listeners today?

- a. Research, Research and ask lots of questions!

25. Tell us about your business and how people can contact you.

- a. I'm located in Marlboro, New Jersey
- b. Our experience is broad and we work with many students, but our niche is students interested in Pre-Professional Advising. We also work with students who have learning challenges.
- c. We have a network of professionals providing other expertise.
- d. Our website is www.tcan4u.com
- e. Our phone is 732-890-3896.