PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Pre-engineering

Central’s dual degree engineering program leads to a B.A. from Central and a B.S. in engineering from either Washington University (St. Louis), The University of Iowa or Iowa State University. Students obtain a strong liberal-arts education. A broad background in the liberal arts, as well as our emphasis on communication skills, helps students to establish themselves as thoughtful, creative, productive engineers. The transition from high school to a demanding course of study such as engineering can be difficult. Students are helped by small classes taught by extremely well-qualified, experienced teachers committed primarily to their teaching.

Typically, a student enrolls at Central College and chooses a science major closely allied with an engineering field of interest (usually physics, chemistry, mathematics or computer science). After three years of full-time study at Central (with at least 90 semester hours of credit completed, including all Core requirements and all major requirements), the student leaves Central and enrolls at either Washington University, The University of Iowa or Iowa State University. Upon completion of one year of engineering study at Washington University, The University of Iowa or Iowa State University, appropriate credits are transferred back to Central, enabling the student to graduate with a B.A. degree from Central. The student will then earn a B.S. in engineering from the cooperating institution after an additional one to two years of engineering study. Students pursuing Central’s B.S. in Engineering program are not eligible to participate in the dual degree engineering program.

Prior to the start of the first semester of classes in the first year at Central, interested students must formally declare to Central’s pre-engineering program director their intent to participate in order to graduate in the time frame mentioned above. They must also complete specific courses at specific points in their academic programs to remain eligible for continued participation. Careful consultation with the appropriate faculty advisors makes this cooperative program successful. This dual degree program also enables students to complete a full four years of study and the B.A. degree at Central. Students opting to do so may then take advantage of their advanced standing toward the fulfillment of B.S. in Engineering requirements at any of the cooperating institutions. Students pursuing this option must declare their intent prior to the start of their second year at Central.

Pre-health

The pre-health professions program is designed to serve the needs of students who plan to attend professional or graduate school in a variety of health-related fields (including but not limited to medical school, veterinary school, dental school, optometry school, chiropractic school, nursing school, physical therapy school and occupational therapy school). Central offers dual degree agreements with Palmer College of Chiropractic (Davenport, Iowa) and Allen College of Nursing (Waterloo, Iowa). Because of the diversity of academic preparation required by the various health professional and graduate schools, the pre-health program is designed as a supplemental advising program meant to complement any major. Students participating in the pre-health program will be assigned a major advisor associated with the pre-health program. As students identify specific professions or areas of interest, they should contact the health professions coordinator, Dr. Ellen DuPré. The program coordinator will then direct the student to a pre-health advisor with advising expertise appropriate to the student’s interests. The role of the pre-health advisor is to guide the student in identifying appropriate graduate or professional schools and their admission requirements and to assist the student in designing curricular sequences to meet the individual professional school requirement.

Pre-nursing

Central’s agreement with Allen College is an excellent way for students to obtain both a nursing degree and a liberal arts degree. This program allows students to complete both a Bachelor of Arts degree (BA) from Central College majoring in Biology, Communication Studies, Psychology, Sociology or Anthropology and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Allen College. Students are able to take full advantage of all opportunities offered at a small liberal arts institution. Students may spend three or four years at Central as a full time student, taking courses toward the Central College degree and then transfer into the Allen College Accelerated Nursing Program and complete a 15 month program. Credits earned from each institution allow for completion of both degrees in just a little over 4 years. Students may also opt to complete the four year degree at Central College and then transfer to the Nursing Program at Allen College.

Students interested in this program should contact Dr. Ellen DuPré, the Health Professions Coordinator. Dr. DuPré will work with students and their major advisor to ensure that all required coursework is taken and to communicate with representatives at Allen College regarding transfer into their Nursing program. Because the pre-nursing option does involve meeting several requirements for both degrees it is best if interested students meet with their advisor and/or Dr. DuPré prior to the start of their first semester to develop a three year schedule plan that will ensure that all requirements are met in order to graduate in the time frame mentioned above.

Pre-chiropractic

Central’s 3 + 1 agreement with Palmer College is an excellent opportunity for students to obtain both a Doctor of Chiropractic degree and a liberal arts degree in a shorten time span. Students will earn credits toward a Bachelor of Arts degree (BA) from Central College majoring in Biology and transfer to Palmer College to begin work on the Doctor of Chiropractic degree. Students typically spend three years at Central as full time students, taking courses toward the Central College degree with a major in
Biology. Students are able to take full advantage of all opportunities offered at a small liberal arts institution. After three years at Central College, students transfer into the Palmer Program. Credits earned during the first year in the Doctor of Chiropractic program at Palmer College are transferred back to Central College and allow the student to complete the Central College BA degree. Students may also opt to complete the four year degree at Central College and then transfer to the Chiropractic Program at Palmer College.

Students interested in this program should contact Dr. Ellen DuPré, the Health Professions Coordinator. Dr. DuPré will work with students and their major advisor to ensure that all required coursework is taken and to communicate with representatives at Palmer College regarding transfer into their Doctor of Chiropractic program. Because the 3+1 option does involve meeting several requirements for both degrees it is best if interested students meet with their advisor and/or Dr. DuPré prior to the start of their first semester to develop a three year schedule plan that will ensure that all requirements are met in order to graduate in the time frame mentioned above.

Pre-law

By design, Central does not offer a pre-law major. Law schools regularly accept students from all majors. Pre-law advisors, law school admissions directors, the American Bar Association, American Association of Law Schools – and attorneys – indicate that developing and sharpening key skills and values are the best preparation for the study and practice of law. All strongly agree on the value of a well-rounded liberal arts education.

Choose a major that you are interested in or that fits with your personal and professional life goals. Increasingly, law schools are admitting students from a wide range of majors, including the social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts. Law schools are interested in demonstrated academic success and skill development, not in a specific list of courses taken or a particular major. They are also generally unimpressed by double majors or minors. During your undergraduate years, work towards achieving the strongest possible academic record you can and enroll in courses that will enhance the skills necessary to be successful in law school.

The American Bar Association Committee on Pre-Law Education and Iowa law schools recommend that you consider the following key skills areas when choosing courses:

- Writing Skills
- Analytical Reasoning Skills
- Logical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills
- Critical Reading Skills
- Oral Communication and Listening Skills
- Research and Information Literacy Skills
- Task Organization and Management Skills
- Values of Serving Faithfully the Interests of Others While Promoting Justice
- A Healthy Respect for History

Developing and sharpening these skills and values will increase your potential for success in the very rigorous, demanding study and practice of law. Attorneys – and law students – must be able to analyze complex and sometimes conflicting cases and statutes, while expressing their legal reasoning with clarity, logic, and precision. Choose courses that are designed to prepare you to write well and think logically. Take challenging courses, with challenging requirements, which force you to continuously improve your writing, analytical, and research skills.

Central’s pre-law program is an advising-based program. Central does not offer a major or certificate/endorsement in pre-law, but works with students, in partnership with their academic adviser(s), to choose courses which will maximize their skills prior to applying for law school.

Pre-ministry

Central College continues the emphasis of the ecumenical Christian tradition in general, and the Reformed tradition in particular, to prepare students for a life of service to God and community, as well as to prepare some students for a professional vocation in the ministry.

The chaplaincy and the religion faculty work together to provide a period of reflection and discernment for students who are considering ministry, whether this be lay ministry (such as missions, church-related teaching, or para-church service) or ordained ministry that requires further graduate or seminary study. Pastoral and vocational counseling is offered by the chaplain, the director of the Christian ministries emphasis of the religion major, and other faculty members. In addition, pre-ministerial students usually complete either a major or a minor in religion in order to give them adequate grounding in scriptural studies, in church history, theology, and ethics, and in at least one world religion other than Christianity. The students also have an opportunity to complete ministry internships in churches and church-related organizations either locally or through Central’s off-campus programs. Students may also choose to receive spiritual formation from a designated mentor.

The variety of denominations represented by the faculty, students, and staff at Central College provides student with a rich exposure to various formulations of Christian teachings and practices. Although our aim is to provide students with an opportunity to study various church teachings besides their own, we also focus a particular student’s study on the Church teaching to which he or she is most accustomed. As parts of an educational institution, the chaplaincy, the Christian ministries emphasis, and the religion major encourage students to develop a strong sense of the centrality of education to ministry. We foster an integration of faith with training of intellectual qualities of mind in order to establish a student’s vocation on the best that is thought and known in Christian teaching and ministry.