



THE DEPARTMENT OF

Natural Sciences

OF PITZER & SCRIPPS COLLEGES

Success in the Sciences

U.J. Sofia

Dean & Professor of Physics

Susie Fang

Director of Pre-Health Professions Advising

The Nucleus



Scripps has 13 different traditional and interdisciplinary science majors

<https://natsci.claremont.edu/>

All you need to know right now is:

- Have I taken pre-calculus or calculus?

~ and ~

- Am I interested in a major involving physics, biophysics or engineering?

~ or ~

- Am I interested in a major involving biology, chemistry, neuroscience or environmental science (or pre-health with a non-science major)?



If you are interested in Physics, Biophysics or Engineering

If no pre-calculus
or calculus

- Enroll in MATH 023 SC or MATH 025 PZ

If you have had
pre-calculus or
calculus

- Enroll in Physics 33
- (and Calc 1 if needed)

Introduce

- Introduce yourself to a physics professor

If you are interested in Biology, Chemistry, Neuroscience, Environmental Science, or Pre-health

01

If you haven't had pre-calculus or calculus, enroll in (MATH 023 SC or MATH 025 PZ)

02

If you have had pre-calculus or calculus, enroll in CHEM 014 now or CHEM 029 in the spring

03

Discuss with your advisor when to take Introductory Biology (BIOL 043/044)

3 ways to take Intro Chem

Chem 14 section 1 – extra problem-solving sessions, contact Prof. Babbes for permission to enroll,
ABabbes@natsci.Claremont.edu

Chem 14 sections 2 - 13, appropriate for most students

Chem 29 – accelerated course, contact Dr. Chris Dettmar about the placement exam,
cdettmar@natsci.claremont.edu

What is **IBC**?

Want to learn more?

Let's connect and chat!

- Integrated **B**iology and **C**hemistry (**BIOL042**) in Spring 2027
- Fulfills requirements of **BIOL043** and **CHEM015**
- **NOT** an accelerated course (same hours as BIOL043 + CHEM015)
- **IS** team taught and connects disciplines
- Labs use same techniques, but with interdisciplinary emphases (e.g., food processing, drug development)
- Not compatible with taking CHEM029

Prof. Mihoko Kato

Biology

MKato@natsci.claremont.edu



Prof. Ethan Van Arnam

Chemistry



**Some
options/alternate
paths for Intro
Bio/Chem**

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Most Students	Chem 14, or Chem 14 – Section 1	Chem 15 Bio 44
If you like the intersection of Bio & Chem	Chem 14, or Chem 14 – Section 1	IBC (Chem 15 + Bio 43)
If you took the Chem 29 placement test	(Bio 43)	Chem 29 (Bio 44)

In Summary

- Talk with your advisor at Scripps
- Talk with an advisor in Science if you need more information
- For most students:
 - Physics/Biophysics/engineering: Take Phys 33
 - Other sciences: Take Chem 14



For the majors listed below, faculty indicated are available for consultation

- Biology— Professor Pete Chandrangsu (pchandrangsu@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Chemistry— Professor Ethan Van Arnam (evanarnam@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Environment, Economics, Politics – Professor Diane Thomson (dthomson@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Physics— Professor Adam Landsberg (alandsberg@scrippscollege.edu); Experimental Physics – Professor Janet Sheung (jsheung@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Biochemistry— Professor Aaron Leconte (aleconte@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Biophysics— Professor Sarah Marzen (smarzen@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Environmental Science— Professor Diane Thomson (dthomson@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Human Biology— Professor Elise Ferree (eferree@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Management-Engineering— Professor Kevin Setter (ksetter@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Molecular Biology— Professor Pete Chandrangsu (pchandrangsu@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Neuroscience— Professor Melissa Coleman (mcoleman@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Organismal Biology— Professor Marion Preest (mpreest@natsci.claremont.edu)
- Science Management— Professor Anna Wenzel (awenzel@natsci.claremont.edu)

Pre-Health Advising at the Department of Natural Sciences

Susie Fang

Director of Pre-Health
Professions Advising

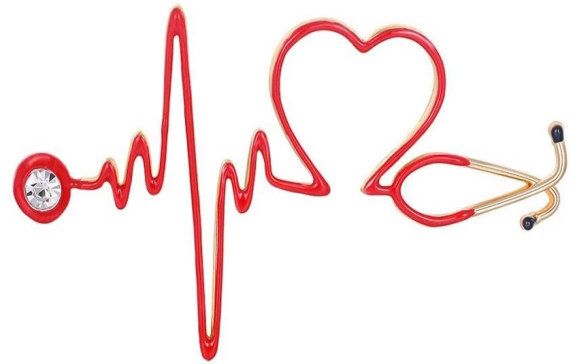
sfang@natsci.claremont.edu

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Pre-Health Advising

- Supplemental to your Major/Faculty Advisor
 - Will need to go to Major/Faculty Advisor for questions specific to Scripps GE's or major requirements
- You can major in ANY subject for Pre-Health
 - What is most important are:
 - Completing prerequisites
 - Competitive GPA/standardized test score
 - Experiences
- One-on-one advising appointments to address following
- Pre-Health Peer Mentors
 - Will be paired with a mentor
- Workshops & Events throughout the year





Resources

Pre-Health Advising Recommendations

- Scan QR code above!

CANVAS Website

- Sign up for the email list below and we will add you to the site.
- Events, Programming, Announcements, Opportunities, Pre-Health Student Ambassadors

Sign up for the **Pre-Health Email List** – scan QR code to the right, OR email Susie sfang@natsci.claremont.edu

Everyone who signs up for the email list will be assigned a Pre-Health Peer Mentor to meet with in September to go over course plan, experiences, questions, etc.

Initial meeting with ambassador required to meet with Susie



Tips for your first semester

- Give yourself time to adjust to being a college student
- Work on study skills & time management skills
 - Goal is to build a solid academic foundation to build off as you take progressively more challenging coursework (while also getting more involved).
- Keep an eye out for student organizations, clinical and research experiences and volunteer opportunities that might occupy your second semester and beyond.



Options for Courses...

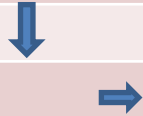


You have multiple course options during your first year of college

Each of you is unique as is your path toward Pre-Health.

- Do you NOT want to take a gap year and go straight into medical/health school? **Option 1**
- Do you want to take your time and explore your options? **Option 2**
- Do you want to take IBC and take a gap year? **Option 3**
- Do you want to take Chem 29? **Option 4**
- **75% of our applicants take 1 or more gap years**
- **25% of our applicants do not take a gap year**
- **35-40% take 2+ gap years**

Option 1: No Gap Year

Class	Fall	Spring
First-Year	Chem 14L	Chem 15L
	Bio 43L	Bio 44L
Sophomore	Chem 116L	Chem 117L
	Phys 30/33L	Phys 31/34L
Junior	Biochemistry	MCAT/Apps
or		
Junior (abroad)	Study abroad	= Gap Year
 Senior		MCAT/Apps Sr Yr
Additional	Calculus	Statistics (Bio or Psych)
Coursework	2 English/Lit	Intro Psych (if no AP)

- If you do NOT want to take a gap year

OR

- You want to be able to study abroad without having to worry too much about pre-med/Pre-Health courses
- Can be a lot very soon.
- If you feel comfortable with taking 2 science courses, and do not want to take a gap year – this is for you!

Option 2: Gap Year & Open Timeline

- Open to a gap year
- Want to ease into college life
- Not in a rush to apply to a graduate health program
- Want to study abroad
- Want to explore other disciplines and courses before committing
- Want to keep Pre-Health an option

Class	Fall	Spring
First-Year	Chem 14L	Chem 15L
		Bio 44L
Sophomore	Bio 43L	Chem 117L
	Chem 116L	
Junior	Phys 30/33L	Phys 31/34L
or		
Junior (abroad)	Study abroad	= Gap Year
		Biochemistry
Senior	Phys 30/33L	Phys 31/34L
Additional Coursework	Calculus & Statistics (Bio or Psych)	MCAT/Apps Gap Year
	2 English/Lit	Psych (if no AP)

Option 3: IBC & Gap Year

- You want to take IBC
- You will most likely take a gap year this route
- You can study abroad – but this may push you back to 2 gap years.
- Take this course if you are interested in IBC - integration of biology and chemistry

Class	Fall	Spring
First-Year	Chem 14L	IBC – Chem 15L
		IBC - Bio 43L
Sophomore	Chem 116L	Chem 117L
	Bio44L	
Junior	Phys 30/33L	Phys 31/34L
	Biochemistry	
Senior	Take MCAT	Med Apps Sr Yr
	Gap Year	
Additional Coursework	Calculus	Statistics (Bio or Psych)
	2 English/Lit	Psych (if no AP)

Option 4: Chem29

- You want to take Chem29
- You will need to take Biochemistry with Lab at Pomona
- Works for no gap year or 1+ gap years
- If you are planning on applying to a graduate health program other than medicine, I suggest you take Chem14 & 15 instead
 - Can sometimes be difficult to have the programs accept Chem29 as 2 chemistry courses

Class	Fall	Spring
First-Year	Bio43	Chem29
		Bio44
Sophomore	Chem 116L	Chem 117L
	Phys 30/33L	Phys 31/34L
Junior	Biochemistry	Take MCAT
Senior		Med Apps JR or SR Year
Additional Coursework	Calculus	Statistics (Bio or Psych)
	2 English/Lit	Psych (if no AP)

To Sum It All Up....

No Gap Year:

Fall 2026

- Chem14
- Bio43
- Core
- Plus 1 additional course

Optional

- ***Calculus*** (if it fits in your schedule and only if it fits. You can take this Spring semester without a problem) or ***Intro to Psychology***

To Sum It
All Up....

1 or more Gap Years:

Fall 2026

- Chem14
- Core
- Plus 2 additional course

Optional

- ***Calculus*** (if it fits in your schedule and only if it fits. You can take this Spring semester without a problem) or ***Intro to Psychology***

To Sum It All Up....

If taking Chem29 in Spring:

Fall 2026

- Bio43
- Core
- Plus 2 additional course

Optional

- ***Calculus*** (if it fits in your schedule and only if it fits. You can take this Spring semester without a problem) or ***Intro to Psychology***

To Sum It All Up....

Spring 2027:

- Chem15
- Bio44
- Core
- 1 additional course OR
- IBC OR
- Chem29 + Bio44

Optional

- ***Calculus*** (if it fits in your schedule and only if it fits).
- You can take this Spring semester without a problem) or ***Intro to Psychology***

Upcoming Event

- Introduction to Pre-Health
- *for Freshman and Transfer students*
- TBA
- Session at the beginning of the academic year to introduce you to all things Pre-Health at DNS! Be on the lookout for the weekly newsletter (sent every Friday) once classes begin for more information. Make sure to sign up for the email list!





Questions?