



PRE-PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS IN US HIGHER EDUCATION

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EXPERT ADMISSIONS





OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Overview of Pre-Professional Pathways
- Examples of specific pathways
- Optional Practical Training and post-graduate work
- Case studies

EXAMPLES OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

- **Undergraduate:**

- Business (BBA)
- Engineering (BSE)
- Architecture (BArch)
- Pre-Law track
- Pre-Med track

- **Graduate:**

- Business (MBA)
- Engineering (Meng)
- Architecture (MArch)
- Law (JD/LLM)
- Medicine (MD)

PATHWAY 1: BUSINESS

- Typically four year programme
- Could be standalone business school (Babson, Bentley), offered by separate business school (Mendoza, McDonough), or accessed through College of Arts and Science (Ross, Robins)
- Heavier than UK degrees in terms of mathematical content
- Pre-requisites: generally Calculus = A Level Mathematics
- Some universities (e.g. Bentley) happy to accept GCSE Maths at grade 7 or higher

PATHWAY 2: ENGINEERING

- Typically four year programme
- Pre-requisites: A Level Maths & Physics strongly recommended; FM recommended but not essential
- Undergraduate programmes often have a liberal arts element, e.g. Yale: “Y-Shaped Engineers”; CU Boulder: Herbst Program for Engineering, Ethics, and Society
- More exclusively STEM-focused programmes – Whiting at JHU, Berkeley Engineering
- ABET accreditation offers pathway to professional practice

PATHWAY 3: ARCHITECTURE

- Typically five year programme
- Pre-requisites: A Level Mathematics recommended but not always required
- Some programmes have more emphasis on maths, others on design
- Maths recommended for Cornell, Cooper Union, Syracuse
- RISD, Pratt Institute have more emphasis on design and do not require maths
- Portfolio required for admission
- NAAB (National Architecture Accrediting Board) accreditation is required to practice in the US

PATHWAY 4: PRE-LAW

- Law is only available as a postgraduate degree
- Difficult but not impossible without US residency
- Pre-Law is a track available for students, often with support from Career Services
- No specific academic requirements for law school
- Extracurriculars recommended include mock trial, debate, internships in law firm or related field
- LSAT is a requirement for entry to law school
- Law schools should have ABA accreditation
- Bar exams are required to practice in each state
- Attorney - no separation between barrister and solicitor

PATHWAY 5: PRE-MED

- Medicine is only available as a postgraduate degree and to US citizens or permanent residents
- Pre-Med is a track available for students, often with support from Career Services and academic advisors
- MSAR outlines course requirements for med schools – typically Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Writing
- Extracurriculars recommended include clinical volunteering, medical research
- MCAT required for entry to med school
- Pathway from med school include patient care, research, teaching, business



WORKING AFTER GRADUATION IN THE US

OPT:

- “temporary employment that is directly related to an F-1 student’s major area of study.”
- 12 months pre- or post-completion of studies
- 2 year STEM Extension to OPT
- Degree needs STEM designation to be eligible
- ICE list here:
<https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2016/stem-list.pdf>
- List includes Economics and Architecture

CASE STUDIES

Example student: Architecture

- Five 9s, five 8s at GCSE
- Maths, Further Maths, Geography, Economics A Level
- A*A*A*A predictions
- 1460 SAT
- Work experience with landscape architecture firm, 3D modelling, architecture summer school, Oxfam volunteering, Gold D of E
- Does not need financial aid
- Non-US resident/citizen
- Where should he apply?

CASE STUDIES

Example student: Pre-Law

- Four 9s, two 8s, four 7s, two A*s GCSE
- Politics, Economics, Polish A Level; History Pre-U + EPQ
- A*A*D3A predictions, A* result (Polish)
- Test optional
- Debate team, rowing cox, coaches debate and chess to younger students, volunteers at church
- Needs full financial aid (0 EFC)
- Non-US resident/citizen
- Where should she apply?

CASE STUDIES

Example student: Pre-Med

- Six 9s, three 8s, one 7 at GCSE
- Biology, Chemistry, History A Level + EPQ
- A*AA+A* predictions
- 1440 SAT
- Extracurriculars: work experience with Charing Cross hospital during COVID, co-founded Digital Media and Art Club, blog on healthy cooking
- EPQ on appendectomy
- Does not need financial aid
- US citizen
- Where should he apply?