Post-Baccalaureate Reference Guide

If you are interested in applying to a professional school program and need to enhance your GPA or are a career changer and need to start with pre-reqs, please read the following information for instructions. Please note: you will need to be admitted to UNLV before you make an appointment with the PPAC.

**Post-Bac Programs**

- Please note: UNLV does not offer formal post-bac certificates or programs, just a pathway for students to professional school through additional coursework. Please do your research to understand the difference between formal post-bac programs/certificates vs. pathways in which you are just taking additional courses.
- Formal Post-Baccalaureate programs and certificates are available across the country through a variety of schools.
- These programs can be a better option so you have a tangible certificate at the end of your coursework; some programs even have an incentive of a reserved seat in their professional school/program.
- The best resource for Post-Bac programs is through AAMC: https://apps.aamc.org/postbac

**Pathway to Professional School**

At UNLV, we only offer students the option of taking additional courses via a post-baccalaureate pathway. Post-Baccalaureate pathways are a specialized way for you to become a competitive applicant for professional school. You are eligible if you have graduated with your Bachelor’s degree and fall in to one of two categories below:

1) In need of GPA repair/enhancement: you have an undergraduate GPA between 2.85-3.2 upon graduation and need to demonstrate successful completion of a full time, rigorous, science-heavy course load; or, you who have applied to professional school and were denied due to low GPA
2) You are a “career changer” and need to complete general pre-requisites and upper division science courses

Please note: if you are pursuing a post-bac pathway for GPA repair/enhancement, you should *already* have significant clinical, shadowing, community, involvement, and research experience. Those that are “career changers” we can advise on experiences to pursue.

**I’m interested in pursuing this route at UNLV. What do I do?**

**Step 1: Admissions & Financial Aid**

- You will apply through UNLV Admissions as a “second degree/second bacc” or a non-degree seeking student
  - If you are applying as a “second degree” seeking student, you can choose any major and are possibly eligible for financial aid. Please note: official transcripts will be required for admission.
  - Non-degree students: you won’t need to turn in official transcripts but are limited to 8 credits per semester and are not eligible for financial aid.
- You will apply as a degree seeking student if you need financial aid
- Please visit the financial aid office to inquire about aid availability after graduation
Upon acceptance to UNLV, you can make an appointment with the PPAC by calling 702-895-2959 or emailing: ppac@unlv.edu

- Be sure to read “Preparing for your Appointment” on the PPAC website: www.unlv.edu/advising/ppac

**Step 2: Understand Necessary Post-Bac Pathway Coursework**

- If you are a career changer:
  - You will start on foundational/general science pre-requisites first. See list of “Pre-Requisite Science Courses” below. Please note, placement tests are required for Chemistry and possibly Math (depending on previous coursework)
    - Chemistry: [https://www.unlv.edu/chemistry/placement](https://www.unlv.edu/chemistry/placement)
    - Math: [https://www.unlv.edu/math/placementoptions](https://www.unlv.edu/math/placementoptions)
  - First semester schedule should consist of a general Biology along with the Chemistry and Math course you placed in to

- GPA Enhancement Students:
  - If you have taken all necessary pre-reqs (listed below under “Pre-requisite Science Courses”), you can enroll in upper division Biology and Chemistry courses.
  - Aim to complete 28-30 credits of coursework during Post-Bac year equating to 15 credits each semester (this will show you are full time).
  - Take 3-4 upper division science courses and one upper division Psychology or Sociology course each semester
  - List of upper division courses to take is at the end of this document. It is advised that you take the “Recommended” courses first, followed by any of the “Acceptable” courses.

- The length of time all students will need to follow this schedule is completely dependent on their academic history

**Step 3: Set up an Appointment and Enroll**

- Once you have been admitted to UNLV, please call the Pre-Professional Advising Center at (702) 895-1809 to set up an appointment with an Advisor.
- Please read through the “Preparing for your Appointment” section on our website: [www.unlv.edu/advising/ppac](http://www.unlv.edu/advising/ppac).
- If you are able to register for courses prior to your appointment, great! Your appointment can simply serve as a confirmation you are on the right path and/or to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

*Pre-requisite Science Courses*

All students applying to professional school, regardless of status, should have the following general pre-requisites completed:

- General Biology: BIOL 196/197
- General Chemistry: CHEM 121*/122
- Organic Chemistry: CHEM 241/242
- Biochemistry: CHEM 474
- General Physics: PHYS 151/152
- Calculus (possible): MATH 181

**Placement tests are possibly required for Chemistry depending on previous coursework. See: [https://www.unlv.edu/chemistry/placement](https://www.unlv.edu/chemistry/placement)**
Frequently Asked Questions

1) I want to meet with an advisor prior to applying to see what coursework I need to take. How do I set up an appointment?

At the present time, the Pre-Professional Advising Center only sees current UNLV students. If you would like an appointment, please apply to UNLV first and then give us a call so we can assist! All information about this pathway and required courses is in the information above.

2) How should I prepare for my appointment with the advisor?

Please complete the GPA calculator (found in our FAQ’s online at: [www.unlv.edu/advising/ppac](http://www.unlv.edu/advising/ppac)) so you know your true cumulative and science GPA. Additionally, see the “Preparing for your Appointment” section of the PPAC website for documentation to bring to your advisor or send ahead of time.

3) I fall in the “GPA repair/enhancement” category, but my GPA is lower than a 2.85. Am I eligible?

Students with GPA’s lower than a 2.85 cumulative or science will have a difficult time raising their GPA to a competitive level, even with a post-bac year. Trajectory of your grades is important, but we encourage students to use the GPA calculator to see if 28-30 additional credits will improve their GPA to a competitive average. There are additional options available to students, including Master’s degrees, to help them achieve the same type of career goals if professional school isn’t feasible.

4) Should I do a post-bac year or a Master’s degree to improve my competitiveness to professional school?

This depends on several factors including previous coursework, GPA, experiences, professional school test score, etc. Remember, you will enter in your professional school application that you have completed a Master’s degree (and most admissions committee will give weight to a good graduate school GPA) but those classes will not improve your undergraduate GPA. However, if your GPA is too low and it isn’t possible to raise it to a competitive level after a year of post-bac undergraduate coursework, it is advised students pursue an actual Master’s degree program for career purposes.

5) Do I need to take my professional school test (ex: MCAT, DAT, etc.) before I start a pathway?

No. You can work with your advisor to determine the best time to take your test before you apply to professional school.

Acceptable Upper Division Post-Bac Classes

Recommended by Professional Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biol 445</td>
<td>Cell Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 348</td>
<td>Intro to Human Anatomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 349X</td>
<td>Human Physiology Foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 453</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 351</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 405</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 300</td>
<td>Principles of Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 468</td>
<td>Histology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stat 391</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 440</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Other Acceptable Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biol 301</td>
<td>Fossil Record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 302</td>
<td>Evolutionary Survey of Vascular Plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 304</td>
<td>Molecular Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 305</td>
<td>Intro to Conservation Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 320</td>
<td>Invertebrate Zoology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 341</td>
<td>Principles of Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 360</td>
<td>Intro to Biomathematics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 361</td>
<td>Intro to Biomathematics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 402</td>
<td>Great Biological Discoveries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 409</td>
<td>Virology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 414 or Chem 478</td>
<td>Endocrinology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 412</td>
<td>Molecular Evolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 416</td>
<td>Bioinformatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 417</td>
<td>Biochemical Adaptations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 418</td>
<td>Microbial Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 422</td>
<td>Taxonomy of Vascular Plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 425</td>
<td>Genomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 426</td>
<td>Plant Anatomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 427</td>
<td>Bryology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 431</td>
<td>Ichthyology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 432</td>
<td>Herpetology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 433</td>
<td>Ornithology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 434</td>
<td>Mammalogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 437</td>
<td>Entomology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 441</td>
<td>Field Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 442</td>
<td>Principles of Plant Physiology with Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 444</td>
<td>Principles of Plant Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 447</td>
<td>Advanced Comparative Animal Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 449</td>
<td>Comparative Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 451/455</td>
<td>Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy/Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy &amp; Biomechanics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 452</td>
<td>Comparative Behavioral Endocrinology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 460</td>
<td>Microbial Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 464</td>
<td>Bacterial Pathogenesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 465</td>
<td>Vertebrate Embryology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 466</td>
<td>Developmental Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 470</td>
<td>Topics in Applied Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 471</td>
<td>Aquatic Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 475</td>
<td>Neurobiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 478</td>
<td>Genetics and Cell Biology of Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 480</td>
<td>Introduction to Biological Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 481</td>
<td>Advanced Cell Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 485</td>
<td>Microbial Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 487</td>
<td>Principles of Systematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 489</td>
<td>Developmental Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 490</td>
<td>Biogeography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 492</td>
<td>Undergraduate Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biol 496</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Modern Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chem 421</td>
<td>Physical Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chem 422</td>
<td>Physical Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chem 428</td>
<td>Quantum Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chem 474</td>
<td>Biochemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chem 475</td>
<td>Biochemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chem 476</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>