

Proposal: Accelerated Bachelor's in Health Science (B.H.S.)

The rationale for this reduced credit degree arises from increasing pressure in higher education to reduce student debt and meet healthcare workforce shortages. The 2020 AAMC update on physician education dept ([source](#)) indicated that for indebted students, the amount of debt is rising, despite some other positive trends. In response to these trends, some health professional schools are addressing these pressures by creating 3 year MD pathways ([source](#)). The AAMC also advocated for preserving many of the student aid programs for health professional students ([source](#)), and while unsuccessful, the financing of a medical education remains an area of focus for the AAMC, as well as health professions advisors (as evidenced by topics at the upcoming summer conference for advisors).

Medical schools “do not care what the degree is in, only that the student has prerequisite coursework” (and other professional preparation). We have preliminary feedback that certain health professional schools (MD, DO, Optometry) would be open to accepting this 3-year degree. Building this into a publicizable pipeline in addition to our other dual/early admission programs will increase marketability as a mark of quality of our pre-health programs.

The program as a 3-year degree can produce an efficient route to careers that do not require a MS degree (biotechnology, medical informatics, health technology) and involve business and technology skills that are increasing part of health management, and which IL Tech is well positioned to deliver

The program will provide pathways to 4 Y degrees here in related fields. Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry are natural and likely feasible in 1 year. We will explore other options such as Biomedical Engineering, Chemical and Biological Engineering, and Data Science. In addition, the degree has room for additional credentials and offers a path to Plus 1 MS degree programs. As a feeder to medical careers, such a degree is positioned not as a universal pre-med substitute, but as a deliberately aligned career preparatory pathway designed as an academic on-ramp providing both an efficient off ramp to careers in 3 years, as well as a flexible pathway to more advance credentials, depending on the student and the circumstances. It supports earlier entry into health-adjacent roles such as medical technologist pathways, clinical research coordination, health informatics, regulatory science, and biotech operations which increasingly value bachelor-level analytical capability paired with applied technical competence, rather than disciplinary coverage alone.

Because of this alignment with professional schools and the strong market demand (both among students seeking pathways into the health professions and among employers who need to hire from these areas), this is a logical launch program.

The Bachelor of Health Science curriculum can be found here: [3 Year Health Sciences.xlsx](#) and a sample schedule is shown below.

Bachelor of Health Science (B.H.S.)

90 credits

Year 1			
Semester 1	Hours	Semester 2	Hours

ITP	2	HUM 100	3
BIOL 107	3	BIOL 115	3
BIOL 109	1	BIOL 117	1
CHEM 122	3	CHEM 126	3
CHEM 123	1	CHEM 140	1
MATH 148	4	Statistics	3
Total	14	Total	14

Year 2			
Semester 1	Hours	Semester 2	Hours
BIOL 214	3	CHEM 239	3
CHEM 235	3	CHEM 240	1
CHEM 236	1	PHYS 211	4
PHYS 113	4	SOC 180	3
PSYC 121	3	COM	3
Free Elective	2	CS	2
Total	16	Total	16

Year 3			
Semester 1	Hours	Semester 2	Hours
BIOL 445	3	BIOL 402	3
BIOL 301	3	SSCI	3
PSYC	3	PHIL	3
I PRO	3	I PRO	3
Free Elective	3	Free Elective	3
Total	15	Total	16