College of *Science, Engineering and Technology*

Pre-Health Programs

FIND YOUR PURPOSE

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY®

PRIVATE. CHRISTIAN. AFFORDABLE.

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

BRING LOPES to Life

Get Started!

Download the GCU Virtual Tour application on your smartphone by either searching your phone's app store or scanning the QR code below:

While the application is running, point your phone at designated GCU virtual triggers.

Try it out!

Scan the trigger icon below and throughout the brochure to watch Lopes leap off the page!

NEW AUGMENTED REALITY

This brochure contains augmented reality, an interactive experience in which real-world objects are enhanced by technology. Look for the trigger symbol on the images, as this symbol identifies where augmented reality is used. Follow the instructions and prepare to be amazed as these sections come to life on your phone!

ABOUT GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

Grand Canyon University is Arizona's premier, private Christian university. We help students find their purpose by offering next-generation education with over 270 academic programs, including 175 online programs, across nine distinct colleges. Over 20,500* ground students learn on our vibrant campus in the heart of Phoenix and over 81,000 online students join our innovative and collaborative virtual learning community.

Spanning 250+ acres, GCU's campus continues to grow with new residence halls, academic buildings, popular eateries, student support resources and amenities, as well as state-of-the-art athletic facilities like GCU Stadium, the Canyon Activity Complex and more. GCU offers generous scholarship opportunities to make a private education affordable and invests in revitalizing the community with a commitment to making a difference.

*Fall 2019

#19 Best College Campus in America
#6 Best College Dorms in America

Niche.com - 2020 Best Colleges

Christian Worldview

Built upon a biblically rooted mission, GCU believes quality education and faith can coexist in the 21st century. We integrate aspects of our distinctive Christian worldview into everything we do, and we incorporate Christian principles in the classroom to encourage students to shape their own perspectives. A values-based curriculum further helps students cultivate morality, ethics and compassion within their careers and lives.

GCU students are not required to be Christians. Our approach is missional in nature, characterized by a welcoming spirit and loving service to all from different walks of life. Our students experience the Christian faith, the mission of God and the idea of living for the good of others in a safe and supportive space. We encourage everyone to grow spiritually and live with intention while responding to their call to purpose.

GCU'S SIX COMMITMENTS

for rewarding experiences

10 GCU ENTERPRISES:

Lope House Restaurant and Pro Shop, GCU Hotel, The GCU Golf Course, Canyon 49 Grill, GCU Ad Agency, Grand Canyon Beverage Co. (GCBC), Canyon Promotions, Canyon Pizza Co. and Lope Shops.

*Average tuition after scholarships is approximately $8,600. Scholarships may be awarded based on 6th semester transcripts. At the time in which final, official transcripts are received, GCU reserves the right to rescind or modify the scholarship if it is determined that eligibility was not achieved. GCU reserves the right to decline scholarship awards for any reason. If a student does not meet the minimum renewal criteria, their scholarship will be forfeited. GCU reserves the right to change scholarship awards at any time without notice. If a student does not meet the minimum renewal criteria, their scholarship will be forfeited. Prices based on 2019-20 rate and are subject to change.

1 *Start Strong, Finish Strong*

Student success and well-being are top priorities at GCU. We go above and beyond to help our students prepare for their career, as well as have a happy and healthy GCU experience. A wide range of complimentary resources are available around campus to support our Lopes, from academic assistance to student wellness.

2 *Early Graduation*

As part of our commitment to affordability, we offer fast-track options for students to accelerate their educational path toward graduation and enter their career sooner. Graduating early means students pay less tuition and overall college expenses.

3 *Low Student Debt*

Finances deter many students from pursuing a college degree. In response, GCU helps make a college education accessible by offering generous scholarships. After receiving GCU-funded scholarships, a student pays an average of $8,600* for the academic year.

4 *Home Away From Home*

We go to great measures to provide students with a safe and comfortable environment to live, learn and enjoy. Various clubs, organizations and ways to get involved, as well as supportive resources, such as Academic and Career Excellence (ACE) Centers, help turn our campus into a second home.

5 *Real-World Experience*

GCU also serves as the parent organization of multiple enterprises—the GCU Golf Course, GCU Hotel, Canyon 49 Grill, Grand Canyon Beverage Company, Canyon Promotions, the GCU Ad Agency and Canyon Pizza Co. Students have a unique opportunity to get involved in these enterprises, participating in the transformative impact that an effective relationship between business and community creates. These enterprises provide students with hands-on learning environments, create real workplace experiences and inspire students to use business as a means for good in their communities.

6 *One Application*

Many colleges and universities have implemented additional measures of evaluation before permitting upperclassmen to complete their major course of study. Secondary acceptance requires an additional application, a second review of previously submitted materials and/or a minimum GPA requirement. These secondary measures can potentially delay graduation and cause students to incur greater expense. At GCU, most incoming students are accepted into their program of study without a secondary review, with the exception of our nursing and athletic training programs, which require secondary acceptance due to clinical restrictions.

WHAT MAKES GCU DIFFERENT?

What sets GCU apart from other universities and bachelor programs?

- Small, appropriately sized classrooms*
- Hands-on and project-based learning environments
- Faculty dedicated to teaching and learning
- Christian worldview integrated into core courses
- Industry-driven curriculum aligned with GCU's STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) guiding principles

*10.5 average class size for online; 13.6 average class size for professional studies; 26.6 average class size for traditional

REAL-WORLD PREPARATION FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Our passionate, highly educated instructors specialize in more than just lecturing — they engage students in active learning. In both lectures and labs, hands-on learning begins during a freshman's first semester where students apply theory and concepts immediately. Unlike many universities, our undergraduate students have access to labs and work with top-tier equipment to heighten their learning experiences. Within this collaborative space, activities include building prototypes, conducting experiments, analyzing data and solving problems.

WHY PURSUE PRE-MED AT GCU?

Our curriculum establishes a strong foundation in the sciences as students begin their journey toward professional careers in the health care industry. Our biology degree programs prepare students for various graduate health care programs at schools such as medical (MD & DO), dental, podiatry, optometry, veterinary, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy and physician assistant school.

Biology programs are designed to match common graduate school prerequisite coursework, rendering students eligible to apply for graduate school programs all across the country. Moreover, science coursework is designed to align with topics tested on graduate school entrance exams. Our science coursework matches the core science topics tested on the following examinations: Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), Dental Admissions Test (DAT), Optometry Admissions Test (OAT), Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT), etc.

Since GCU is a teaching university, our full-time faculty members focus first on teaching. This means that our professors deliver every single lecture inside the classroom, not instructional or graduate assistants. Our faculty are experts in their fields and many also possess clinical degrees. GCU also has state-of-the-art classroom and lab facilities. Our science lab facilities have been built within the past five years, equipped with modern lab machinery and technology in two buildings dedicated to STEM learning.

"The programs are top-notch and produce very successful students in the workforce. GCU's faculty is fantastic; they are always helping students and know everyone's name."

— **David Ghobrial, alumnus '17, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine**

IS PRE-HEALTH FOR ME?

Pre-medicine attracts students who are eager to help people while achieving what many consider the pinnacle of accomplishment as a health care provider. However, many don't realize the first step on the educational path is to master the sciences: biology, chemistry, physics, organic chemistry, anatomy/physiology and more. GCU prioritizes teaching students these foundational sciences. If you love science and are fascinated by the workings of the human body, you may have the motivation necessary to be successful on the path toward medicine.

BIOLOGY DEGREES

Bachelor of Science in Biology

The college offers four biology degrees, each with a different area of emphasis. Students can select among the following areas of emphasis: Pre-Medicine, Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Physical Therapy and Pre-Physician Assistant.

It is important to understand that these biology degrees are pre-professional programs. This means that they prepare for professional school that follows undergraduate studies. Professional school options include medicine, dental, optometry, podiatry, veterinary, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assisting and more.

Emphasis in Pre-Medicine

Readies students to advance into medical school or allied health graduate programs. Courses include the foundational sciences such as biology, physics, general chemistry, organic chemistry and biochemistry. These core classes match the science topics found on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), Dental Admissions Test (DAT) and the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT).

Emphasis in Pre-Pharmacy

Prepares students to apply for graduate-level pharmacy school programs. This program provides opportunities to master interpersonal and intercultural communication skills, preparing students to work with customers and pharmacists on an ongoing basis. Coursework examines current theories and practices of pharmacology. Curriculum also prepares students for the pharmacy college admissions test (PCAT).

Emphasis in Pre-Physical Therapy

Provides specialized coursework designed to prepare students for graduate physical therapist or occupational therapy programs. Areas of study include biological, exercise and social sciences, psychological and physical components of health, as well as wellness and therapeutic intervention.

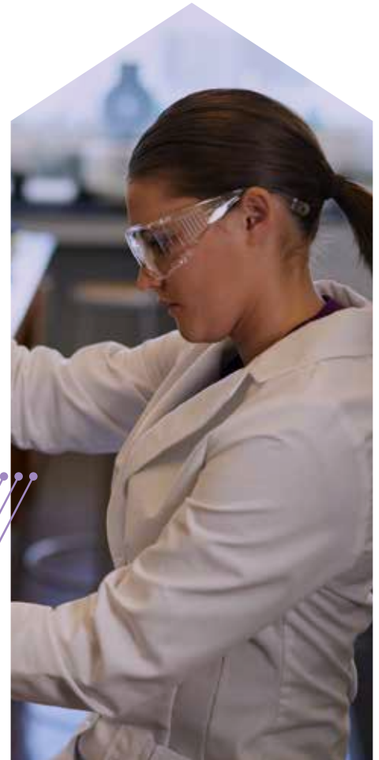
"GCU did an amazing job supporting its students for their respective fields of study in the future. I had so many resources at my disposal; all I had to do was ask about them. My time at GCU thoroughly prepared me for graduate school, not only for courses but also socially and professionally. I was able to find internships and shadowing opportunities and was even able to practice for interviews before I had them. I could always go to professors for great advice on internships, shadowing or job opportunities.

I was also able to be involved in research with our POWER lab, which was a fantastic experience! I also had an incredible social and spiritual experience. Coming from a public high school, I felt GCU allowed me to genuinely further my relationship with Christ while forming meaningful connections with others. At GCU, you can meet so many people and create awesome friendships!"

— **Sarah Peelman, alumna '20, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Physical Therapy**

Emphasis in Pre-Physician Assistant

Provides a multi-disciplinary foundation, tools and skills necessary to apply for a graduate-level physician assistant (PA) program. PAs practice in physicians' offices, hospitals and clinics under the direction of physicians and surgeons. Students learn properties of biological networks and master human cadavers, scientific inquiry, critical analysis and ethical issues.



PRE-HEALTH & SCIENCE DEGREES

Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Provides students with a foundation in physical and life sciences and conforms to guidelines by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Its interdisciplinary curriculum instills core competencies in molecular and cellular biology, physics, genetics, microbiology, organic chemistry and biochemistry for students principally interested in research careers.

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Provides a broad background in chemical sciences and interdisciplinary curriculum conformed to American Chemical Society (ACS) guidelines. The domains and competencies cover topics including organic, analytical, environmental, physical and inorganic chemistry, as well as biochemistry.

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science *with an Emphasis in Sports Performance*

Provides students with the knowledge to help improve performance in sports and fitness-related activities for a wide variety of populations including athletes. Areas of focus include anatomy, kinesiology and physiology. Careers include personal trainer, health and wellness coach or an exercise physiologist. Graduates possess eligibility for certifications or can pursue related sports medicine graduate degrees.

Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Sciences

Prepares students for graduate studies and/or careers in a wide range of fields that utilize nutritional principles. Students will demonstrate competency in the domains of food science, biochemistry, physiology, dietetics and nutrition. This program prepares students for a future master's degree in dietetics, which can serve as a pathway toward becoming a registered dietician. Possible career paths include: nutritionists, nutrition technicians, dietitians, fitness professionals or health education/outreach professionals.

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Provides the knowledge, resources and skills needed to design and implement effective health promotion programs including health education interventions and policies for specific populations within the larger community. Public health practitioners focus on the prevention of communicable and chronic diseases as well as health education and reducing the impact of environmental hazards. The program prepares students to work as public health practitioners in various health-related settings, including community-based organizations, government agencies, behavioral health agencies, primary care centers and global or domestic nonprofit organizations.

The BS in Public Health degree program also integrates the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC) Seven Areas of Responsibility for Health Education Specialists, addressing fundamental skills in community assessment, program planning, implementation and evaluation.

MINOR DEGREE PROGRAMS

Minor in Chemistry for Life Sciences

The minor in chemistry for life sciences will give students majoring in non-chemistry disciplines a solid foundation in chemical science. This minor is particularly suitable for students studying life sciences such as biology, but will interest anyone seeking to learn more about the relationship of chemistry with life processes.

Minor in Nutritional Sciences

The minor in nutritional sciences prepares students to turn a passion for health and wellness into a career that involves helping others achieve and maintain optimal health. The minor provides the foundation needed to develop into a nutrition, health care, fitness and education professional. By examining connections among diet, physical activity and health, students gain the knowledge and skills to promote proper food, nutrition and fitness management in the lives of others.

Minor in Pre-Medicine

If you choose a non-science major, you can still prepare to be a competitive med school candidate by adding a pre-med minor. This minor includes most of the standard science coursework required for admission into graduate medical programs. Classes include general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry and physics. While the coursework defined in this minor covers the standard science courses required by most graduate programs, schools may have additional requirements for admission. It is strongly recommended that students research the admission requirements of the specific graduate programs that they are considering.

For a full list of minors, visit gcu.edu/minors ▶

GCU Exercise Science and the NSCA

The GCU Exercise Science program has been recognized by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) as an approved NSCA Education Recognition Program. Among many other benefits, this provides GCU EXS students with enhanced opportunities for NSCA internships and scholarships, NSCA career assistance and discounts on conference attendance, exam prep and certification exams. Additionally, the GCU Exercise Science program has been awarded Gold Status by the American College of Sports Medicine's Exercise is Medicine On-Campus program — the program's highest level of recognition.

GAIN A COMPETITIVE EDGE

CADAVERIC ANATOMY AND DISSECTION

GCU is one of few undergraduate institutions in the nation that have human cadavers accessible to undergrad students. GCU has anywhere between 15-20 cadavers on campus, enough to accommodate all the students in our pre-health programs. Traditionally, students have to wait until they are in medical school before they even get to see a cadaver; thus, less than 10% of incoming medical students have cadaver experience. At GCU, our undergraduate students study human cadavers for a full academic year as part of our biology programs. Students will work hands on with our human cadavers when studying anatomy and physiology, a science class commonly taken sophomore year. These cadaver experiences make our students more competitive for medical school.

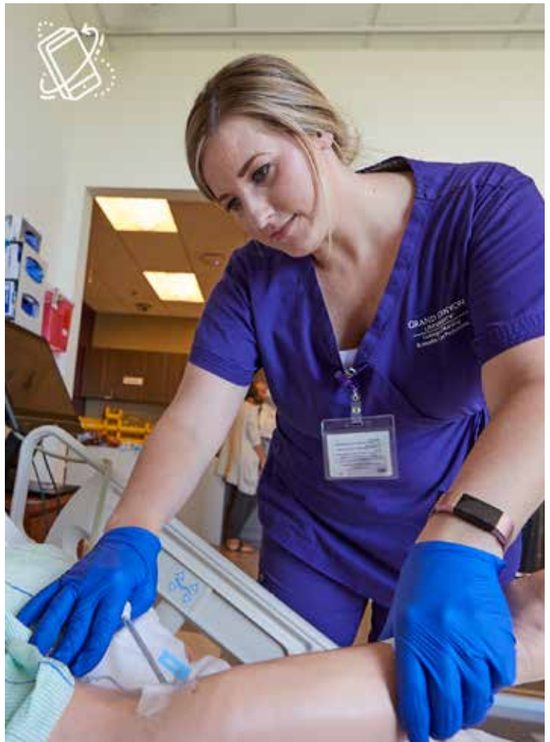
In addition to studying cadavers in the classroom, students are encouraged to gain additional experience through extracurricular involvement on a dissection team as early as freshman year. Our cadaver labs allow students to study the structure of the human body from an applied anatomical perspective. Our dissection lab specially prepares students for graduate-level gross cadaver anatomy coursework where students learn proper cadaver dissection techniques. Students explore, locate, expose, identify and demonstrate various muscles and associated osteological landmarks, nerves and blood vessels of the human body.

MASTERING ANATOMY PROGRAM (MAP)

Students can additionally apply to the Mastering Anatomy Program (MAP), a unique co-curricular program designed to give undergraduate students graduate-level cadaver dissection experience. As part of the program, students will complete a full human cadaver dissection. Students even have access to associated clinical anatomy research and leadership opportunities. Upon completion of MAP, students earn college-level graduation honors and a medallion to wear at commencement. Due to the intentionality placed on grad school preparation during MAP, 100% of the students that have completed this program have been accepted into medical school.

"Some of my most memorable moments at Grand Canyon are from the days when people from different schools would visit to learn about human anatomy in our cadaver labs. Getting to engage with these students and participating in the Mastering Anatomy Program (MAP) have been especially helpful. MAP was also beneficial because it exposed me to different research opportunities and hands-on learning with the cadavers."

— **Enrique Mighty, Class of 2023, BS in Psychology with a Minor in Pre-Medicine**



RESEARCH & DESIGN PROGRAM

The Research & Design Program (RDP) gives students the opportunity to get hands-on research experience. Dozens of faculty-led research projects take place every semester in a vast range of disciplines, including biology, chemistry, biochemistry, anatomy, neuroscience, microbiology, bioengineering and biotechnology.

Many of our undergraduate students are active participants in research projects as part of the Research & Design Program. To support these researchers, several labs have been created and equipped with cutting-edge equipment that drives projects on neuroscience, cellular and molecular biology, chemistry, environmental science, microbiology and others.

The Research & Design Program's goal is to fund promising and innovative projects to give students valuable research experience, enhance GCU's STEM programs and offer opportunities for faculty development and scholarship. GCU ensures that research opportunities are available to all levels of science students. Underclassman and transfer students alike are welcome to join current research projects. Students also have the opportunity to present their research projects at scientific conferences.

Student Ajeane Cotton received an award for her undergraduate presentation at the American Society for Microbiology branch conference in Flagstaff, AZ, spring of 2019.

"My experience with Grand Canyon University's Research & Design Program has been one of the best academic experiences. Through the RDP group, I was able to present at the American Society for Microbiology conference. It was an unforgettable experience, as I never imagined being in the same room with some of the best microbiologists in the field, let alone presenting in front of them!"

— **Ajeane Cotton, fall '20, BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

INTERNSHIPS, JOBS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Many of our students pursue internship experiences across the valley, including:*

- **Medical**

  Mayo Clinic Scottsdale
  Phoenix Children's Hospital
  St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center
  Banner University Medical Center Phoenix
  St. Vincent De Paul Hospital

- **Research**

  Translational Genomic Research Institute (TGEN)
  Helios Scholars
  Ivy Fellowship Barrow Neurological Institute
  Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)

- **Exercise Science**

  EXOS
  Fischer Institute
  Arizona Cardinals
  San Francisco Giants

**This information is self-reported.*

"My experience at the Translational Genomic Research Institute (TGEN) was phenomenal. I learned how to perform biomedical research in the field of neuro-oncology while collaborating with exceptional scientists and gaining opportunities for professional development. I was further inspired and prepared to pursue an MD/PhD degree."

— **Alena Grubaugh, alumna '16, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine**

"My internship at SARRC was absolutely incredible and really helped me grow in my knowledge of research. SARRC is known for their mission to support families and children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). I specifically worked with the researchers coding numerous videos that were being studied for an ongoing research project. Being able to be a part of the bigger project that is focused on aiding the lives of those diagnosed with ASD was an amazing experience."

— **Christina Mortensen, alumna '18, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine and BS in Psychology**

MEDICAL & GRADUATE SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

Interested in where our students attended graduate school? Here is a list of institutions where students have been accepted into medical school, dental school, pharmacy school, etc. Please note that schools are self-reported.

- A.T. Still University
- Franklin Pierce
- Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Loma Linda University
- Midwestern University
- Northern Arizona University
- Oregon Health & Science University
- The University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix & Tucson
- University of California, Davis
- University of Chicago
- University of Colorado
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of Washington
- Western Reserve University

WHAT IS STUDYING PRE-HEALTH LIKE AT A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY?

Our students embark on their educational journey with a divine purpose and faith that serves as the starting point for learning. Our strong devotion to our faith allows us to unite the knowledge of God and the universe, as well as deepen understanding to advance inquiry.

With a strong foundation in faith, our students often present as the ideal clinician candidate: well versed in science and exploration, a strong critical thinker and, most importantly perhaps, humble and deeply caring with a servant's heart. We seek to produce students who will go forth in the world with positive change as their goal and servant leadership as their means.

COEXISTENCE OF FAITH AND SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION

Our learning environment encourages fertile context for science-faith inquiry that is open to the analysis of scientific and theological interpretations. Our Christian beliefs provide a moral and ethical guide in our search, leading us to celebrate scientific discoveries. Our faith is not to stifle research, suppress dialogue or inhibit scientific exploration. We respect and welcome different perspectives and believe in intellectual discourse. In a spirit of humility and service, we will better understand our world.

TEACHING UNIVERSITY VALUING RESEARCH

Doctoral/Professional University

Our institution is a Doctoral/Professional University (Carnegie Classification) that supports and promotes a wide array of student and faculty research. Aligned with the Boyer model of scholarship, GCU embraces innovative discovery research, the scholarship of teaching and learning, applied scholarly initiatives, and integrative community-based endeavors. Our thriving research community includes independent faculty scholars, emerging doctoral student researchers, and a wide-range of collaborative faculty-student research teams. We balance our support of faculty scholarship with an emphasis on teaching and mentoring student endeavors.

This integrated approach to teaching and research reflects our commitment to both student learning and our growing scholarly community. GCU hosts state of the art laboratory and simulation equipment, provides dedicated support for grant-funded and industry-sponsored research, and promotes innovation through a collaborative research environment and industry-friendly intellectual property policies.

ON-CAMPUS STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES

GCU has built several state-of-the-art science buildings dedicated to STEM learning to accommodate our growing number of students studying these disciplines. These buildings serve as innovative learning grounds for science students to gain hands-on experience and develop skills they will use in their future careers.

ENGINEERING BUILDING

This building is the largest academic building on campus. This four-story, 170,000-square-foot structure is a giant, not only in size but also in the cutting-edge technology within our sophisticated labs, including:

LOPES LAB

The Lopes Lab is an on-campus collaborative learning space that helps GCU students turn their ideas into a reality. The engaging and interactive environment enables students from all degree programs to work together to create projects of interest. For example, Brianna Locke, a pre-PA major, used the Lopes Lab for her project called 3DERMA, an emergency-use hydrocolloidal bandage to prevent wound infection within developing countries. The Lopes Lab is open for any GCU student to come and learn the ins and outs of making everything from artwork to real-world products.

DEDICATED RESEARCH LABORATORIES

To support undergraduate research, several labs have been created and equipped with cutting-edge equipment. Neuroscience, cellular and molecular biology, chemistry, environmental science, microbiology and many other disciplines are supported.

NATURAL SCIENCES BUILDING

The fourth floor of this building is home to many science-focused labs, including:

GENERAL CHEMISTRY LABS

Students engage with chemistry first-hand to learn to create buffer systems, create solutions and dilutions of chemicals, handle acids and bases and explore quantitative analysis techniques. Students become equipped to use Bunsen burners, ovens, hotplates, various glassware, burettes and industry measurement tools such as Vernier Lab Quests for spectroscopy.

BIOCHEMISTRY LABS

Biochemistry labs focuses on the interaction of organic matter related to biological concepts and living organisms. The one semester lab encompasses proteins, lipids, carbohydrates and nucleic acids (DNA) with respect to how they are assayed, compared and characterized utilizing current biotech methodologies. Core techniques include micropipetting, amino acid or protein colorimetric assays, protein isolation or purification and DNA isolation and purification.

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABS

These labs cover a systematic approach to the study of matter, namely the interaction of carbon-based materials. Objectives commence with the fundamentals for measuring physical properties and laboratory techniques for handling matter evolving to synthesis of organic molecules and structure validation experiments of the reaction products over a two-semester regimen. Core techniques include determination of melting and boiling point, chromatography (thin layer and column), separation and extraction methodology, purification by distillation and recrystallization, safe handling of organic materials and FTIR spectroscopy interpretation.

TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

This facility was built in 2015 and covers more than 148,000 square feet full of cutting-edge technology. This dynamic building has a wide diversity of labs including:

BIOLOGY LABS

General biology students have opportunities to use equipment and techniques that help them succeed in their future careers. Labs use compound light microscopes and dissecting microscopes to observe organisms both macroscopic and microscopic. Hands on activities are used to help solidify difficult concepts like genetics and ecology. Students participate in labs using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and gel electrophoresis, common techniques used modern research.

MICROBIOLOGY LABS

The microbiology labs focus within the realms of bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa. These microorganisms are ubiquitous in nature and play a crucial role in agriculture, biotechnology, ecology, medicine, and veterinary science. Undergraduate coursework in microbiology serves as a foundation for advanced study, entry into the professional schools and employment in the biotechnology industries.

ANATOMY LABS

These labs house cadavers, deceased human bodies donated to science. Beyond the normal anatomical nomenclature found in pictures of an atlas, this hands-on experience allows students to investigate the variable aspects of the individualized human body. GCU acquires cadavers through the National Body Donor Program in St. Louis, MO. One of these labs is a special facility known as the Dissection Lab, where students have the opportunity to dissect these cadavers to develop first-hand anatomy knowledge.

PHYSICS LABS

These labs are specifically designed to develop holistic physics knowledge through hands-on projects and experiments. Our pre-health students have the opportunity to experience the study of matter and energy up close.

EXERCISE SCIENCE LABS

These rooms offer an introduction and reinforcement to the practical skills used for sports performance and health and wellness. Experience with industry-grade exercise science equipment provides students with the opportunity to develop skills for work in strength and conditioning specialties, physical therapy, wellness conditioning and nutrition.

SETTING STUDENTS UP *for success*

GCU goes to great lengths to provide students with extensive resources, including:

- Academic and Career Excellence (ACE) Centers
- Collaborative learning classroom environments
- Professors with open-door policies
- Living & Learning Communities
- Student services counselors
- Chapel, The Gathering and Life Groups (Bible studies)

"Being an athlete and a student leader on campus made consulting with my professors essential to my success as a student. Building mentor relationships has helped me not only with school and my medical school application, but with my volunteer and career opportunities as well. The best advice I could give any student who is interested in the medical field is to get to know your professors. Most were professionals in their field and know what it takes to get into medical school and work in their field."

— **Jessa L. Deckwa, alumna '18, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine**

PRE-HEALTH AND GRADUATE ADVISORS

Our dedicated staff of student success specialists offer free professional advisement to engage students on their path toward applying for graduate level healthcare programs. The team provides activities to develop soft skills needed for graduate applications.

Graduate school preparation services include:

- One-on-one advising appointments
- Small group workshops
- Graduate school application assistance
- Letter of recommendation support
- Personal statement review
- Individual and group mock interviews

GRADUATE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

To assist students applying to graduate programs, GCU has partnerships with several institutions that can help increase a student's chances of interview and acceptance. Details of each partnership vary. Partnering schools include the following:

Midwestern University: Glendale, AZ & Downers Grove, IL
A.T. Still University: Mesa, AZ
New York Institute of Technology: Jonesboro, AR and Long Island, NY Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine: Meridian, ID
Lake Erie College of Medicine: Erie, PA; Greensburg, PA; Bradenton, FL

"I was fortunate to be accepted to LECOM through their early acceptance program. I will not say that the path to medical school was easy; although, I will say that it could have been significantly more challenging. My advisor and mentors at GCU were extremely helpful and kept the process smooth and on schedule. Many people believe that only the smartest students can get into medical school. In reality, it's not about being the smartest person in the room. It's about being the most committed to achieving your goal. Your job in a medical school interview is to prove your commitment — through your grades, your experiences and your passion for helping other people. GCU has more than enough opportunities to help you do this. All you have to do is take advantage of them."

— **Kaitlyn Druyor, alumna '18, BS in Biology and Psychology (dual degree), Honors College**

GCU'S FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE FOR TRADITIONAL STUDENTS IS 58%!*

* 2014 cohort. Graduation rate includes students attempting at least 12 hours and are accurate as of July 17, 2018.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

There are many pre-health clubs and organizations available for students including the following:

Health Occupations Students Association (HOSA) · GCU Clinical Skills Club · Pre-Med Journal Club · Honors STEMists
Pre-Dental Society · American Student Dental Association (ASDA) · Pre-Vet Club · Pre-Physician Assistant Club · Physical Therapy Club
Occupational Therapy Club · Student Wellness and Health Association (SWAHA)

HOSA

Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) is an international student organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education (HSE) Division of Association for Career and Technical Training. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.

GCU's chapter of HOSA is the largest pre-health club on campus, encompassed by students interested in health care professions. From pre-medicine to pre-pharmacy students, HOSA focuses on creating a community of likeminded students who can learn and grow together. GCU AzHOSA also competes at the collegiate level in state and international competitions and has received the Outstanding HOSA Chapter award internationally. GCU's vibrant HOSA chapter is made up of nearly 700 current students and an alumni family of over 3,500.*

*December 2019

"Take advantage of every opportunity you can and always know you are creating your own path. You can make your experience how you want it and that can dictate the doors that will open for you along the way. Focus on improving every single day and never compare yourself to others because you are not them, you are you. GCU has allowed me to discover my passion and purpose and to help me pursue it.

Additionally, GCU HOSA continues to have a spectacular impact on me. The servant leadership experience, meaningful connections and endless opportunities and resources I gained through HOSA prepare me for my future career every day. Truly I know GCU is preparing me for my future as a physician."

— **Allison Martinez, spring '21, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine**

PRE-DENTAL SOCIETY

The Pre-Dental Society provides resources and guidance for students preparing for a career in dentistry. It inspires members to achieve their full potential as pre-dental students and members of the community, encouraging one another to have a foundation built on Christ. Students have the chance to be involved with head and neck dissection, events hosted by local dental schools, speaker events with different dental specialists and admission counselors, and opportunities to connect with other pre-dental students at GCU.

"GCU prepared me for dental school in countless ways. The biology curriculum corresponds well with graduate school prerequisite requirements, making the process of applying and preparing for dental school much more relaxed. There were several courses at GCU that built an essential foundation for the material I am currently covering in my dental program.

My time in the Pre-Dental Society has also been immensely helpful. Through the club, we were able to connect with both of the local dental schools, one of which I am now attending. We were able to create a community for those who desired to pursue dentistry careers by hosting speaker events with current dental students and specialty residents. We licensed dentists from various fields to show students all the facets of dentistry and took part in simulation clinic days at Midwestern University where students were able to tour the campus and complete a wax-up of a tooth, which ended up being part of my first few months of the dental school simulation clinic curriculum. Graduating from GCU has allowed me to flourish as I've begun dental school."

— **Anna Olsen, alumna '18, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine**

GCU CLINICAL SKILLS CLUB

GCU Clinical Skills Club offers reliable services and opportunities to students who need assistance with their studies or want to develop their skills for graduate program placement. Under the direction of David Jackson, MD, the GCU Clinical Skills Club offers events for students to learn practical skills in health care including suturing, vitals, EKG, CRP, basic life support and more. The club also offers mentoring to anatomy and physiology students, including tutoring experience and help for those struggling with these classes.

"As a freshman I took anatomy and my professor, Dr. Jackson, was engaging and helped expand my knowledge of the world of medicine. Every class it was my goal to come up with a question that stumped him. He invited me to a GCU Clinical Skills meeting and shortly after I was asked to join the leadership team.

This club has been a bright spot in my time at GCU because it has helped me to remain focused and allowed me to pass on the medical knowledge that was given to me. My hope is that students in the club are instilled with more self-confidence and are motivated to continue in their pursuit of a career in medicine."

— **Hadassah Gates, BA in Spanish, Minor in Pre-Medicine**

PHYSICAL THERAPY CLUB

The Physical Therapy Club is a welcoming community for interested pre-physical therapy students. The club provides students with a strong community that seeks to enrich its members. The club not only introduces students to the profession of physical therapy, but also provides students with networking experiences.

"Applying for positions in a doctorate of physical therapy program is one of the most intense, laborious and nerve-racking times in our lives. On interview day, it was not uncommon to see other applicants walk into the school confident, yet leave looking demoralized. I never had this issue, in part due to the exemplary preparation that GCU offered me. Options such as the on-campus PT club, pre-interview counseling, volunteering options and a wonderful staff of pre-health care advisors helped prepare me since my freshman year."

— **Grant Black, alumnus '18, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Physical Therapy**

STUDENT WELLNESS AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION (SWAHA)

The Student Wellness and Health Association (SWAHA) is a group of exercise science students under the faculty advisement of exercise physiologist Dr. Zachary Zeigler. This group promotes physical activity to help students maintain a healthy lifestyle during college. SWAHA executes their mission through the Health Intelligence and Programming (HIP) Clinic. The HIP Clinic collects data on a patient's physical activity level during each health assessment. Patients receive testing that they would not otherwise get without going to a medical specialist. These additional tests specially measure physical activity levels and include aortic blood pressure, body fat composition and maximal oxygen consumption (VO2 max) tests. What makes this group special is that exercise science students manage the clinic, oversee the patient referral process, run tests and collect measurements.

"Students at the HIP clinic, part of GCU's exercise science program, oversee a series of exercise tests. You come in, it's all free and we asses a lot of these measurements that you wouldn't get routinely like the pressure of your aorta."

— **Professor Ziegler**

GCU offers many more on-campus clubs and societies!

PRE-HEALTH ▶ *Top 5's*

- **NSCA Education Recognition Program** *pg. 9*
- **Human Cadaver Lab** *pg. 10*
- **Mastering Anatomy Program** *pg. 10*
- **Medical and Graduate School Acceptances** *pg. 11*
- **Largest Collegiate HOSA Chapter** *pg. 18*

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