

**GRAND CANYON  
UNIVERSITY®**

ANATOMY  
MENTOR CENTER

- NO Phones
- Proper PPE (Scrubs, lab coat, hair)

College of Natural Sciences  
**PRE-HEALTH PROGRAMS**

**FIND YOUR PURPOSE**

Private. Christian. Affordable.

# 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. GCU's biology degree programs can prepare students for various graduate health care programs ranging from medical and dental to physical therapy and veterinary.

GCU is a teaching university. This means that our knowledgeable, full-time professors deliver most lectures inside the classroom and are available to meet with students regularly for one-on-one and small group tutoring. Our classrooms and science lab facilities are equipped with modern lab machinery and up-to-date technology.

“ The amount of time GCU professors devote to office hours is so helpful. I remember thinking it would be difficult to fail a class here because GCU provides so many resources. It's truly impressive how much GCU cares about its students. ”  
– **Tara Garcia, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine**



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

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. We seek to produce students who will go forth in the world with positive change as their goal and servant leadership as their means.

# CAREERS

Our pre-professional degree programs strive to prepare students for professional school that follows undergraduate studies, which can lead to career options including:

**DENTAL CAREERS**

**DOCTOR (MD, DO, ETC.)**

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**

**OPTOMETRIST**

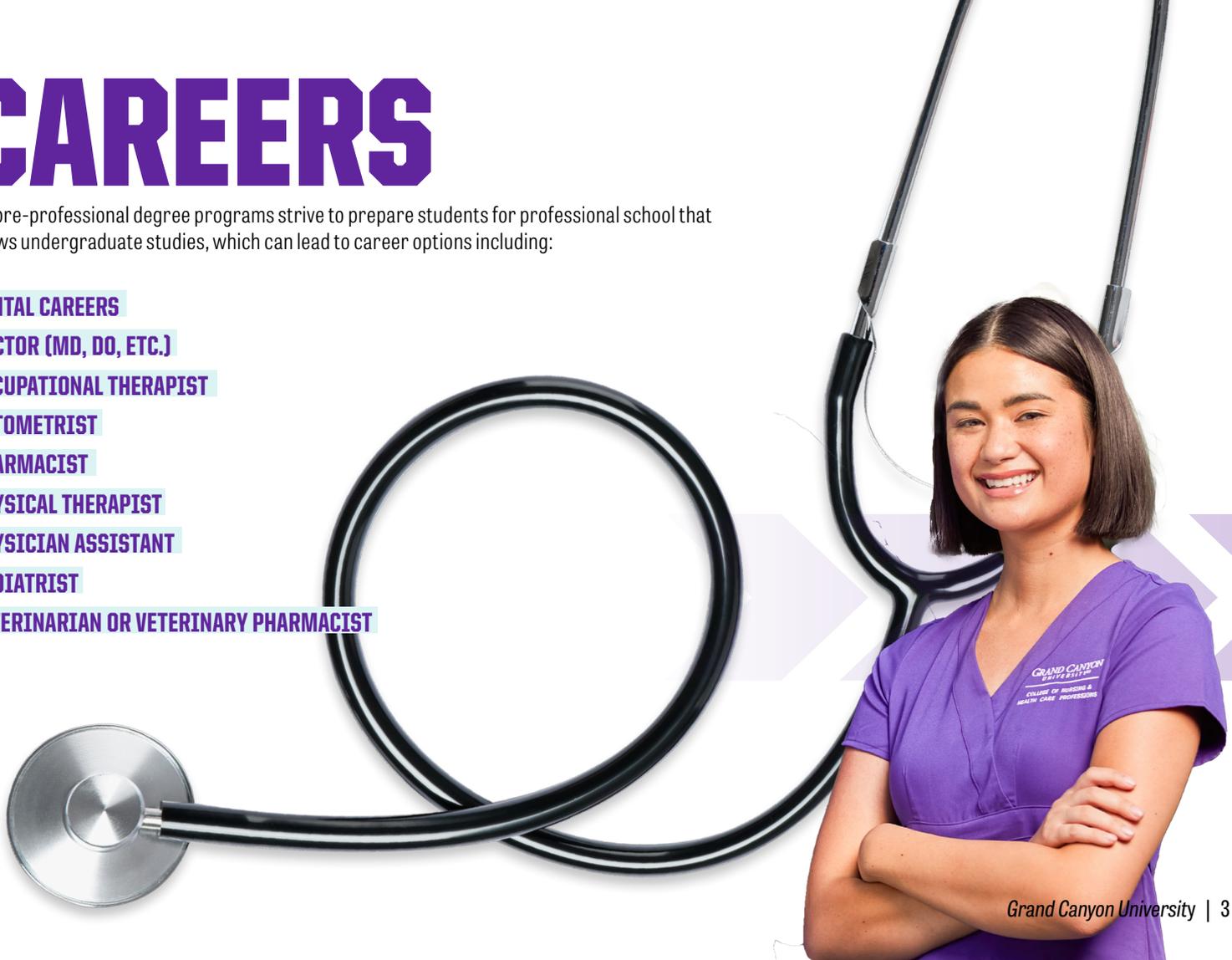
**PHARMACIST**

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST**

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**

**PODIATRIST**

**VETERINARIAN OR VETERINARY PHARMACIST**







## Undergraduate Degree

# PROGRAMS

The College of Natural Sciences (CNS) offers a wide variety of degree programs that provide an educational experience with relevant curricula designed to prepare you for a career in a science field. We teach students to foster qualities such as collaboration and creativity, as well as ethical and social awareness to create graduates who are prepared and excited to enter the workforce.

- Biology with an Emphasis in:
  - Pre-Dentistry
  - Pre-Medicine
  - Pre-Pharmacy
  - Pre-Physician Assistant
  - Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Chemistry
- Exercise Science with an Emphasis in:
  - Pre-PT
  - Pre-AT
  - Sports Performance
- Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Nutritional Sciences

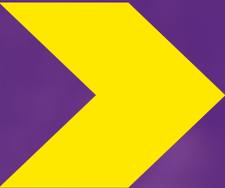
*For more details and a full listing of degrees, visit [gcu.edu/CSET](http://gcu.edu/CSET)*

# CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Clubs and Organizations Office is dedicated to offering students an opportunity to get connected and involved on campus by building community and engaging in service.

- GCU Clinical Skills Club
- GCU HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)
- GCU Pre-Medical Association (PMA)
- Occupational Therapy Club
- Physical Therapy Club
- Pre-Health Prep Club
- Pre-Vet Club

Visit [gcuclubs.org](http://gcuclubs.org) to find a club that's a perfect fit for you!



**GCU HOSA GAVE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO DR. RANDON HALL ABOUT ONE OF HIS PATIENTS IN THE HOSPITAL SO THEY COULD OFFER THEIR INSIGHTS REGARDING THE PATIENT'S INJURY.**

"It is inspiring to see students taking initiative," he said. "I love the passion for learning, for getting better, for gaining experience. Those are the characteristics you want to see in someone pursuing medicine."

**—Dr. Randon Hall, Orthopedic Physician at Phoenix Children's Hospital**



# EXPLORE YOUR POTENTIAL

## CADAVER LAB

GCU is one of few undergraduate institutions in the nation that have human cadavers accessible to undergrad students. These cadavers allow students to learn skills they need for medical school. 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. These cadaver experiences can help our students to be better prepared for applying for medical school.

In addition to studying cadavers in the classroom, students are encouraged to gain additional experience through extracurricular involvement.



What particularly attracted me to GCU was the fact that they fully prepared me for pre-med by providing cadavers in the labs. Not all universities have that kind of learning opportunity – especially for undergrads. But what really got me in the door was talking to the counselors because they were able to immediately show me a course map of all the classes I'd need to take to graduate with this degree. That was super satisfying for me as a high school senior who really wanted to achieve everything. With GCU, it was just something I instinctively felt – like this is just right for me.

**– Mario Barrera, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine**





## 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. Upon completion of MAP, students earn college-level graduation honors with a goal to have students prepared for medical school.

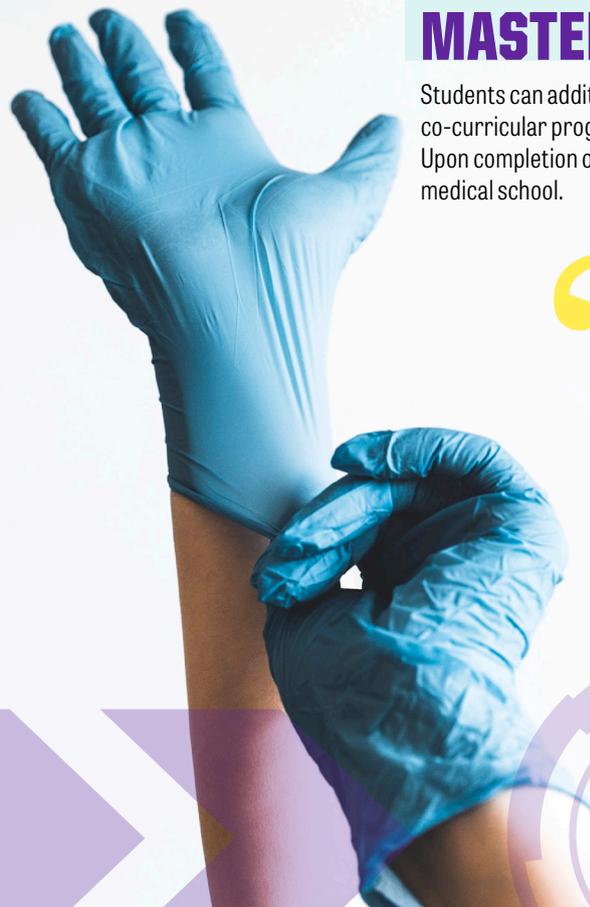


Some of my most memorable moments at Grand Canyon University are from the days when people from different schools would visit to learn about human anatomy in our cadaver labs. Getting to engage with these students and participating in the Mastering Anatomy Program (MAP) have been especially helpful.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

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



**MAP WAS FEATURED IN  
THE BRAIN STEM BLOG,  
“A LOOK INSIDE GCU’S  
CADAVER LAB.”**



# 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.

To support these researchers, several labs have been created and equipped with modern equipment.

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. Underclassman and transfer students alike are welcome to join current research projects.



**AJEANE COTTON, A GCU STUDENT, RECEIVED AN AWARD FOR HER UNDERGRADUATE PRESENTATION AT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY SPRING 2019 BRANCH CONFERENCE IN FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA.**

“

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, BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**



## **EXERCISE SCIENCE LABS**

The Performance Optimization, Wellness and Exercise Research (POWER) Lab is one of the several labs under the Research & Design Program in CNS. It is designed to contribute to research in the areas of health, nutrition, kinesiology, biomechanical analysis, sports performance and cognitive strength. Equipment in the exercise science labs include ellipticals, treadmills, ultrasound machines and advanced equipment to assess body composition, metabolic response and cardiovascular fitness. Like our other labs, the POWER Lab at GCU allows students to utilize all of the equipment starting as early as their freshman year.

## **GCU HIP CLINIC**

The GCU Health Information and Programming (HIP) Clinic overlaps significantly with the Student Wellness and Health Association (SWAHA) and the POWER Lab. In addition to contributing to exercise science research, their focus is to promote exercise as a form of medicine. The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) has an initiative called Exercise is Medicine, which encourages physicians and other health care providers to include physical activity when creating treatment plans with their patients. Through the HIP Clinic and its relationship with the campus health center, GCU maintains a “Gold Campus” designation in ACSM’s Exercise is Medicine initiative.

# ON-CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES

GCU has built several science buildings dedicated to STEM learning. These buildings serve as innovative learning grounds for science students to gain hands-on experience and develop skills they can use in their future careers.

## TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

This facility houses multiple science labs where students can use technology in a wide variety of labs including:

### BIOLOGY LABS

The biology labs use hands-on activities such as working with compound light microscopes and dissecting microscopes to observe both macroscopic and microscopic organisms.

### MICROBIOLOGY LABS

Microbiology labs focus on study within the realms of bacteria, viruses, fungi and protozoa.

### ANATOMY LABS

The anatomy labs house deceased human bodies which have been donated to science and give students the hands-on opportunity to work with cadavers and investigate the variable aspects of the human body.

### PHYSICS LABS

Physics labs are specifically designed to develop holistic physics knowledge through hands-on projects and experiments.



**GCU MOLECULAR BIOLOGY STUDENTS PRESENTED AT THE BOSTON BACTERIAL MEETING, ORGANIZED BY HARVARD UNIVERSITY IN 2020.**

## ENGINEERING BUILDING

This building is the largest academic building on campus. This four-story structure is equipped with modern technology that includes sophisticated labs for research and engineering.

### LOPES LIVE LABS

Lopes Live Labs are collaborative learning spaces that can help GCU students gain access to industry opportunities and turn their ideas into reality. Learners can gain experience by working in areas that include cadaver labs, forensic science research labs and the Research and Design Program (RDP).

### DEDICATED RESEARCH LABS

As part of CET's Research & Design Program (RDP), several labs have been created and outfitted with equipment to support neuroscience, cellular and molecular biology, chemistry and many other disciplines.



I loved creating a presentation for it because I think it gave me a deeper understanding of everything we are working on. People say that the best way to learn something is to teach it. The talks that I was able to watch were really interesting. They really inspired me and made me excited about research.

—*Vianna Mulholland, BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*



## 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.

### ORGANIC CHEMISTRY LABS

These labs cover a systematic approach to the study of matter, namely the interaction of carbon-based materials.



# HELPING STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

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

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

“ One incredible aspect of my experience at GCU has been my professors. They are very helpful at GCU, and I think the main reason is because of the small class size. I know many people that go to other large universities and their professors don't know who they are. My pre-medicine advisor was also very supportive and gave me good advice on applying to medical school. At GCU, people really care about you.

— **David Rincon, BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine** ”





## PRE-HEALTH AND GRADUATE ADVISORS

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

Graduate school preparation services include:

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

## GRADUATE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

To assist students applying to graduate programs, GCU has partnerships with several institutions. Details of each partnership vary. Partnering schools include the following:

- **A.T. Still University:** Mesa, AZ
- **Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine:** Meridian, ID
- **Lake Erie College of Medicine:** Erie, PA; Greensburg, PA; Bradenton, FL
- **Midwestern University:** Glendale, AZ and Downers Grove, IL
- **Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine:** St. Kitts, CAR
- **Tufts University:** Boston, MA; Phoenix, AZ; Seattle, WA

# NEXT STEPS

1



Apply at  
[gcu.edu/ApplyNow](https://gcu.edu/ApplyNow)  
and upload your transcripts.  
No application fee!

2



Make an appointment with  
your counselor to review  
scholarships and programs.

3



Upon acceptance visit campus  
(all-expenses-paid<sup>1</sup>  
programs available).

4



Register early to secure  
courses and  
on-campus housing.

5



Pack your sunglasses and  
move to Lope Country!

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS OFFERED ON CAMPUS,  
AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS AND MORE, CONTACT AN ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR.**

**855-428-7884 | [gcu.edu/CampusAdmissions](https://gcu.edu/CampusAdmissions)**

<sup>1</sup>Travel reimbursement is only available to students who demonstrate their ability to meet admissibility for the traditional campus, plus one legal guardian, from a student's home city/state to Phoenix, AZ. School/district/organizations staff, faculty and/or personnel are also eligible. To participate, the program requires a signed MOU by both the student and parent/guardian or personnel, approval of travel dates by GCU and receipts submitted per GCU requirements. Travel reimbursement thresholds vary based on location and education sector. Only one form of travel will be reimbursed, air or ground. GCU does not reimburse hotel expenses, baggage costs, early check-in or travel insurance fees. Travel reimbursement usually occurs within 45 days.

Grand Canyon University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission ([hlcommission.org](https://hlcommission.org)), an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Please note, not all GCU programs are available in all states and in all learning modalities. Program availability is contingent on student enrollment. Pre-licensure nursing students who begin or resume attendance in Fall 2020 and beyond will be ineligible to utilize most GCU institutional aid/scholarships for tuition and fees once accepted into the clinical portion of the program. Important policy information is available in the University Policy Handbook at [gcu.edu/academics/academic-policies.php](https://gcu.edu/academics/academic-policies.php) The information printed in this material is accurate as of DECEMBER 2023. For the most up-to-date information about admission requirements, tuition, scholarships and more, visit [gcu.edu](https://gcu.edu). Approved by the Associate Dean of the College of Natural Sciences on Dec. 7, 2023. ©2023 Grand Canyon University 23GTR0409

