

Post-Bacc Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between being a post-bacc student or registering as a non-matriculating student on my own? How do I know what is best for my situation?

The post-bacc program has a required GPA of 3.2 in order to be eligible for acceptance and a once a year application cycle from October-December for classes to begin in the fall semester of the following year. As a part of our program, students will receive priority registration consideration for the basic, required science courses. They also have access to the services available through the Rutgers Health Professions Office, including electronic file management, personal advising, monthly newsletter, and the committee interview.

As a non-matriculating student, you can apply for acceptance in any semester. You are also eligible to open up a file with the Rutgers Health Professions Office and have access to all of the services that the office provides. More information regarding applying to Rutgers as a non-matriculating student can be found here: <https://admissions.rutgers.edu/applying/more-for-part-time-non-degree-applicants>.

2. Is financial aid available for the post-bacc program?

Accepted students in the post-bacc program pay the same tuition that other Rutgers students who are not in the program pay. Please be aware that if accepted, students are responsible for filling out a FAFSA and working with University financial aid if they are in need of loans to finance their post-baccalaureate education. More information regarding Rutgers financial aid can be found here: <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>.

3. I have taken some science classes during undergrad but was not a science major – would I still be eligible for the post-bacc program?

For the post-bacc program, students must have completed the prerequisites for basic sciences as required by Rutgers. These include Pre-Calculus and Expository Writing or equivalent. If you have taken a couple of science classes during your undergraduate degree, that is acceptable, but keep in mind that the program serves students who hold a bachelor's degree and wish to apply to medical or dental school but did not take the pre-med/pre-dental requirements as part of their undergraduate degree. Therefore, accepted students must take at least 21 credits in science at Rutgers in order to receive the full support of the Health Professions Committee.

4. My undergraduate GPA is below the stated requirement for the program. However, I've done some graduate coursework since then with a GPA that meets the requirement. Can I still apply for the program?

No, we are not a record-enhancing program and your GPA from your graduate coursework is not considered when looking at your application. Admission to the program is based on your GPA from your undergraduate degree coursework only.

5. How long will the post-bacc program take me to complete? How much of a time commitment is expected as a student in this program?

Our program is flexible in that there is no required number of courses or credits needed to be taken each semester. However, it is strongly recommended that accepted students plan to include at least one full time semester (12 credits or more) in their program. Keep in mind when thinking about balancing your other responsibilities that science courses can be challenging and time consuming, so it's important to consider if you will have enough time to dedicate to the program before applying.

6. I am graduating from undergrad next spring. Would I be able to apply this cycle and start classes in the post-bacc program next fall?

No, our program is for students who have completed their undergraduate degree at least one year prior to applying to our program. Ideally, our program is for career changers who have some work experience prior to applying.

7. I graduated many years ago and have been working in a different field without any medical experience. Would I be eligible for the post-bacc program?

Yes, our program is intended for career changers who have majored in a non-medical field for their undergraduate degree. However, applicants must have some recent experience in the medical/dental field at the time of application. This can include volunteer work, shadowing, or paid employment.

8. I am trying to improve my grades from the science courses that I took during undergrad. Would this program allow me to do that?

No, our program is not a record-enhancing program. If you do not meet the requirements of our program, we suggest that you visit <http://www.services.aamc.org/postbac>. They have a searchable database of post-bacc programs nationwide. Some of these programs are referred to as Academic Record Enhancers and are intended to improve poor science grades.

9. I completed an undergraduate degree in a different country and am now interest in going to medical school. Would I be eligible for your program?

No, for entrance into our program you must have completed a bachelor's degree from an American college or university in order to be eligible.

10. Once accepted to the program, how do I know if I am eligible for the fast-track option?

Students who wish to apply through the fast-track option must be nominated by Dr. Vogel, the director of the Post-bacc Program and may not apply

independently. The following requirements must be met in order to be considered for eligibility:

- Postbaccalaureate GPA of 3.6
- 2 semesters of General Biology with lab
- 2 semesters of General Chemistry with lab
- 2 semesters of Organic Chemistry with lab
- 2 semesters of General Physics with lab
- 1 semester of Biochemistry
- 2 semesters of English or writing intensive courses (courses from previous undergraduate course work may be eligible to fulfill this requirement)
- 2 semester of Math beyond Pre-Calculus (courses from previous undergraduate course work may be eligible to fulfill this requirement). One of these courses must be Statistics.
- A minimum of 21 credits at Rutgers in the Postbaccalaureate program
- Additional coursework in psychology and/or sociology (courses from previous undergraduate course work may be eligible to fulfill this requirement)

Students who meet the above requirements and are interested in the fast-track option should come in to the Health Professions Office to discuss their progress toward fast-track application and additional requirements in December of the semester before they hope to apply.