



June 27, 2006

To: Incoming First Year and Transfer Pre-Med/Allied Health Students

From: Martha Smith, Coordinator of Pre-Health Professions Advising at Messiah College

Hello -

Congratulations on your acceptance to Messiah College. It will be very good to have you here.

I'd like to start by introducing myself. My name is Martha Smith and I am the Coordinator of Pre-Health Professions Advising at Messiah College. I serve as the *professions* advisor for Messiah students interested in pursuing medical or allied-health careers.

I have received calls from several accepted students regarding appropriate course selection for first year students. The answer is actually quite straightforward. In registering for classes for Fall, 2006, it would be my recommendation that you register for Biology 150 (with lab) and Chemistry 105 (with lab) and then whatever other classes you are required to take (such as FYS) to fill your schedule. By taking these two science classes, and indeed the other science classes in their respective sequences – in the case of biology that would mean that you will take Biology 151 during J-term and Biology 152 during the Spring, for example – you will have a strong foundation for taking the required upper level science classes in the coming years. If you are entering Messiah with AP credits, you may actually have the choice of taking these classes or replacing them with other, upper level courses. What you choose to do in this situation is up to you. Some students opt to take these introductory level courses despite high AP scores in order to receive additional reinforcement of the subject matter, while others opt to replace these foundational courses with upper level science classes. The choice largely depends on your confidence in your understanding of the subject matter. I would be happy to discuss this decision with you either by telephone or when you arrive on campus in August.

I hope that this brief letter helps to answer your immediate scheduling questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions or need further clarification. I look forward to meeting you in person.

Warm regards,

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