

DENTAL HYGIENE/NURSING/RAD TECH

ALTERNATIVE DEGREE OPPORTUNITIES

A lot of students we advise want to transition into one of these highly competitive majors. Unfortunately, based on the limited number of seats, the chance that the majority of these students will be rejected is high. As such, students need to understand that they cannot simply submit a **Change of Major form**; instead, they must essentially apply to these programs, and this can only be done after completing their pre-entry requirements.

When responding to those who indicate they want to apply to one of these programs, our predesigned copy/paste messaging is a great note to add, regardless of GPA, because actually explaining to students that they may be rejected by one of these AAS programs can be an emotional discussion. (see pg. 4)

If in **LAS** and a STEM track isn't a consideration, or the student is in **LAA** and has avoided the required **WL sequence**, we can recommend several other degree programs. We should be prepared to recommend these alternatives, especially if

- The GPA is below a 3.0
- Student has been rejected by the program and has over 30 credits
 - For most of these students, STEM degree programs are often not a real consideration because the highest math taken was MAT 1275 (see pg. 3)

Restorative Dentistry/Dental Laboratory Technology AAS

Vastly different than Dental Hygiene. This major is geared toward applying the latest dental materials and technologies for designing precise dental prostheses.

Health Sciences AS (must register for HSCI 1101 to be considered)

Health Sciences AS was essentially designed to help filter AAS degree hopefuls into these competitive programs, allowing students to complete the aforementioned programs' **Introductory Term/Pre-Clinical** requirements; as such, this AS degree also allows the large percentage of students **who are not viable candidates** for these programs the chance to still get an Associate's degree with "health" in the title.

Ophthalmic Dispensing AAS

This program prepares students to qualify for numerous career options within Vision Care.

Health Communication BS

Because of the amount of credits so many of the hopeful AAS students have completed—including the degree's required BIO 1101 and BIO 2311—this BS degree has acted as a life preserver because of the electives allowed. Since all 3 programs require COM 1330—either for the AAS or the BS—a large percentage of this student pool have already taken it.

- If they haven't already, interested students can/should register for COM 1332/1403, COM 1400, COM 2403, LIB 1201, and PHIL 2203
- If they have not taken an ID course, both COM 2403 and PHIL 2203 have ID sections

Healthcare Policy and Management BS

A relatively new degree for students who may have non-clinical backgrounds and would consider career opportunities in a variety of management or administrative positions within Healthcare.

- Should register for HSCI 1101, HSCI 2201, and SBS 2000

Note: This degree should not be confused with **Health Services Administration**, which has very specific admission requirements.

Human Services BS

A good program for students who enjoy psychology, sociology, and those willing to consider different types of "health-adjacent" opportunities. Mainly, human Services prepares students for mid-level career positions in any social welfare agency. Additionally, this degree is also a perfect opportunity to discuss Graduate School, especially for those students interested in Counseling, Psychology, or Social Work.

If students have at least taken MAT 1375 and express that they are not intimidated by upper-level math courses, we can then discuss one of our Science degrees, including LAS:

Biomedical Informatics BS

This degree is most likely the STEM track students would consider because they have already completed 2-4 BIO courses for the AAS. In this case, if they have not already, interested students should register for BIO 1201.

- Candidates must have a 2.5 GPA to be considered
- If not yet taken, candidates should also register for CST 1101 when applying
- Interested students who don't yet have the GPA, CST 1101, Calculus, etc. can go into LAS (BIO specialization) and complete the requirements needed, thereby allowing the student to also receive the LAS degree, too

Chemistry Technology AS/Applied Chemistry BS

Students considering this degree should be aware that it requires more calculus than BIO. As such, students must eventually take MAT 1575, as well as PHYS 1441 and 1442.

- CHEM also has an **AS degree**. Students seriously considering would need to take CHEM 1110 and be eligible for at least MAT 1375
- Interested students who have not taken CHEM 1110, MAT 1475, or PHSY 1441 can go into LAS (CHEM specialization) and complete the requirements needed, thereby allowing the student to also receive the LAS degree, too

Note: Many students are unaware that CHEM 1000 (which may have been completed for Dental HY) and the required CHEM 1110 + lab are very different classes

Applied Computational Physics BS

Although this degree isn't usually a natural fit, if students have a real aptitude for math and high-performance computing and, additionally, are interested in research, academia, or information professions, they should consider this degree (recommended for students who at least have taken, or are interested in taking, Calculus-based Physics, as well as upper-level math courses)

Keep in mind, if these AAS hopefuls have completed MAT 1375 and are prepared to take Calculus—as well as have completed a sequence of one or more sciences—advisors can now have a discussion around Medical School (Both BIO and CHEM are aligned with “pre-med”). Many students, especially those pursuing Nursing, have, oddly enough, never considered—or, for that matter, been told—that Medical School is an option.

Pre-designed Messaging for Advisors:

These messages and accompanying details are also in our **Faculty Advisement Guide**, but we have included them below for easy copy/paste access: [AdvsiorsGuide](#)

Keep in mind, Dental Hygiene is extremely competitive and generally requires a 3.7 GPA, with “A” or high “B” grades in all Pre-clinical courses.

- Under **Sample Course of Study** are the courses needed for admission into their program: [DentalHY.AAS](#)
- Note that Dental Hygiene has a 10% acceptance rate

Keep in mind, Nursing is extremely competitive and generally requires a 3.5 GPA, with “A” or high “B” grades in all Introductory term courses—along with a strong TEAS exam score.

- Under **Sample Course of Study** are the classes needed for admission into their program: [Nursing.AAS](#)
- For more details about the **TEAS exam**: [TeasPrep](#)

Keep in mind, RAD TECH is extremely competitive and generally requires a 3.5 GPA, with “A” or high “B” grades in all Pre-clinical courses.

- Under **Sample Course of Study** are the courses needed for admission into their program: [RadTech.AAS](#)

LAS is for students who plan to take sequential math and science courses. Students in LAS usually transition into one of our Science programs—BIO, CHEM, or PHYS—or want to pursue a degree in mathematics (including Computer Science AS) or engineering. Is this your plan?

- **For LAS, if students have 30 credits or more** and have not taken math beyond MAT 1275, send the message above—especially if you notice that the student has taken these common AAS Pre-Clinical/recommended classes: BIO 1101, BIO 2311, BIO 2312, BIO 3302, BIO 3524, PSY/SOC 1101, PSY 2301. (MAT 1275 and a sequence of the BIOs is a good indicator of the student’s intent)

REMINDER: CR/NC (only applies to the first semester enrolled)

First-year students—either Freshman or transfer—can convert a single class in which they have a **D or F** to CR/NC. ***They will not be able to convert a class with a C or higher to CR.***

This makes the one-to-one mapping clear for programs that have requirements of C or higher.

- *For example*, pre-Allied Health programs will regard CR as D for entrance evaluation purposes