ENROLLMENT AND COURSELOAD

Undergraduate Summer Enrollment
Participation in the summer term is optional. Students who choose not to enroll in summer are still considered current students and do not need to request a leave of absence. Students can enroll in up to 15 points total during the summer, including no more than 9 points in a six- or seven-week session. Requests to exceed the 15-point cap, or the 9-point cap per session, must be submitted to the Committee on Academic Standing. Exceptions will be granted only in rare and unavoidable circumstances.

Summer courses are administered by the Columbia University School of Professional Studies. Students should consult with their academic advisors for course selection.

Postbac Premed
While there is no academic or program requirement for full-time enrollment, some students may need to maintain full-time status because of visa requirements, or to remain eligible for University Housing.

Full-time Enrollment

Option One
Full-time status in the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program is defined as registration for 12 or more points per term. This enrollment status is required for all international students.

Certification
Certification for this option is provided by the University Registrar.

Option Two
A postbac student who is registered for fewer than 12 points may be regarded as equivalent to full-time if enrolled in at least 9 points and participating in unpaid, volunteer work in a health care setting for at least three hours per week and 42 hours per semester. If the position is paid or a stipend is awarded, students will not qualify for full-time status. This option is not available to international students.

Required Courses
Premedical students are generally advised against taking the required science courses in the summer in the six-week course format (with the exceptions of preparatory courses, math courses, and lab courses). The reason for this recommendation is that the compressed summer term schedule is extremely demanding for even the most well-prepared students. For most premedical students, science courses offered in the twelve-week format (Physics II, General Chemistry II) are more appropriate. Premedical students must have the approval of their premed advisors prior to enrolling in six-week summer term science courses.

Registration for Summer Courses
Summer courses are administered by the Columbia University School of Professional Studies. For courses offered during the summer semester that fulfill requirements of the Postbac Premed Program, please visit the Premed section of the SPS website.