Things You Don’t Know You Need to Know About Grad School Preparation

1. **MSU PreProfessional Advising Resources** ([https://natsci.msu.edu/students/preprofessional/](https://natsci.msu.edu/students/preprofessional/)) can provide details on health career options, graduate school selection, grad program admission requirements and prerequisite planning, the application process, admission test preparation, suggested elective courses, related student organizations, co-curricular activities and much more! Three advisors, based in the College of Natural Science, work with students from all majors on campus who are following a pre-professional track for grad school admission.

2. **GPA** matters right from the start. You have the biggest impact on your grade-point average when you have the fewest number of credits. Start strong in the freshman year! Graduate school programs get more competitive every day.

3. **Job Shadowing and Networking** can help you find the best fit for your interests! Keep a log or journal of your experiences. **Cultivate relationships** with faculty mentors and professionals in your field of interest. They may be references and provide letters of recommendation some day.

4. **Professional graduate school admission requirements** often include clinical or volunteer experience in health care, as well as community service activity. Admission officers look for students who demonstrate care and concern for others, leadership, diversity of interests, motivation and commitment.

5. **Explore and join campus organizations** that support your goals and grad school preparation. This is a great place to find study groups and moral support! Seek opportunities for leadership roles and responsibilities.

6. **Involvement in campus research projects** can lead to internships, faculty interaction, opportunities to present and publish, resume boosting and interview discussion topics.

7. **Think about Professional Associations related to your career interest.** Many have student memberships and rates for conferences, workshops and other events which can provide opportunities for networking, professional development and presentation opportunities.


9. **See your advisor regularly** for advice on managing your class schedule and science load, for campus resources and study strategies, for moral support!

10. **Keep an open mind** about your path at MSU and beyond. Look at all possibilities in exploring careers and graduate school options. It’s okay to change your mind. You might find something you like even better!