Health Science

What is a closed academic program?
A closed academic program is an academic program that is not immediately accessible to Bridge students because of enrollment restrictions. Students interested in one of these academic programs must request a change-of-academic-program application from the appropriate department after enrolling at Clemson. The opportunity to change to one of these academic programs upon enrollment at Clemson cannot be guaranteed.

How competitive is it to change to health science?
Depending on the year, there may be 0 to 15 spaces available for students who wish to change to health science. In addition to Bridge students who wish to change to health science in the fall of their sophomore year, there are also typically 40 to 60 other applicants competing for these spaces.

What are the requirements for changing to health science?
Students may apply in the first fall semester of enrollment at Clemson. The first semester (fall) Clemson GPA will be used to determine eligibility for changing to health science.

The following criteria are used to review students’ requests to change to health science:
• For students with fewer than 49 credit hours, a minimum 2.25 GPA is required.
• For students with 50 or more earned credit hours, a 2.5 GPA is required. (3.0 or higher is preferred for all students.)
• Students with more than 50 earned credit hours must also have earned credit for the math, statistics and science freshman year requirements as listed in the Clemson Undergraduate Announcements.
• Availability of space in the program is by each cohort’s expected graduation date.

Student applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements are not considered.

How does the change-of-academic-program process work for health science?
Requests are reviewed once a year. The application period is from the first day of class in the fall to the last day of classes in the fall term. Students receive a decision prior to the start of the spring term. Students should contact the college’s Academic Advising Center well in advance of the deadline regarding the term for which they are seeking approval to begin the program.

Are there any courses Bridge students must take during their Bridge year in order to change to health science?
Since most students will be at or near 49 or more credit hours when requesting to change to health science, students should be sure to complete the math, statistics and science requirements in the health science major as listed in the Clemson Undergraduate Announcements by the time they formally request to change to health science.

What courses should Bridge students take during their Bridge year?
Students should have an alternative program in mind. It would be best if they take courses that work for both health science and the alternative academic program.

What are some alternative academic programs for students who are not successful in changing their academic program to health science?
Students who are not approved to change to the health science academic program often choose one of the following programs:
• Biological sciences
• Biological sciences with an emphasis in prerehabilitation sciences
• Food science with an emphasis in nutrition and dietetics
• Psychology
• Sociology
• Secondary education teaching in science or mathematics
• Pre-business (for students interested in health services administration)

Students should pursue requirements both for health science and the alternative program as much as possible. If they run out of classes to take for health science, students should take courses to stay on track with the alternative program. It is best that students declare an academic program other than humanities undeclared before completing their Bridge year.

How long will it take for Bridge students approved to change to health science to earn their degree from Clemson?
Depending on the cohort they join, students should expect to remain at Clemson up to two additional semesters in order to graduate from Clemson.
What can Bridge students do during their Bridge year to make the change-of-academic-program process easier? Students should attend MAJOR night in September, meet with Clemson advisers during their Bridge year and utilize Clemson's Center for Career and Professional Development for assistance with selecting an alternative program.

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