Andra Oprisan wants to go to medical school. She’s taking all the right classes, adding extracurricular experiences in the field to her résumé and getting valuable guidance from the College’s Health Professions Advising Program. That, she says, has given her a key advantage in preparing for the next phase of her education.

Right from her first semester, Andra knew this path she had chosen would require a mastery of science and long hours in the library. She also trained and qualified for the on-campus EMS team, shadowed physicians at nearby hospitals, volunteered at a hospital in Haiti and joined AED — a service-oriented society for pre-med students. And almost everything she’s done is the result of plans she made with her counselor from the Health Professions Advising Program.

“I’ve been meeting with her every single semester since I started school,” explains Andra. “She’s just the best resource. We go over my schedule of classes, we go over activities and we discuss what I should be doing to prepare for the MCATs. She also invites physicians to speak to students, and she offers opportunities for us — such as volunteering at a nearby children’s hospital. A lot of schools don’t offer that kind of personal touch. If you want an internship, some guidance, that sort of thing, she’s always there to help us.”

Andra shadowed a thyroid surgeon at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), only blocks from campus. “I ended up doing research with that doctor for a full summer. It was amazing, and it was only available to me because of the contacts the College has with MUSC. We worked in the operating room, the clinic and the pathology lab. I got to see the full spectrum of that particular work.”

Of all her experiences to date, Andra keenly values her work with the campus EMS team. “All the members of our team are students, and we’re the ones who respond to every 911 call that comes in on campus. I’ve been doing this for 10 to 60 hours a week since I was a freshman, and it’s taught me a lot about leadership, teamwork and communication. Of course, you’re working directly with patients, so it’s taught me a lot of skills in that area, too. Given that, and all my experiences, I think I’ll really have an advantage when I apply to medical school.”

The College of Charleston offers excellent preparation for careers in the health professions. By way of the Health Professions Advising Program, we provide students the opportunity to explore a wide range of career interests and receive the preparation required to be competitive applicants to professional schools throughout the country. We have the expertise, experience and the contacts to offer you an important advantage.

Facts
Our office works with students who declare various different majors, and we offer preparation for numerous careers, including:
- medicine
- nursing
- dentistry
- optometry
- pharmacy
- occupational therapy
- public health
- physical therapy
- speech pathology
- health administration
- physician assistant
- laboratory science
- veterinary medicine

Opportunities
The Health Professions Advising Program brings guest speakers to campus on a regular basis. You can join AED, a service-oriented society for pre-med students. You can sign up to live in the health professions house on campus.