Advising:

*For students interested in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, optometry, and podiatry: contact Dr. Beverly Sher, btsher@wm.edu
*For students interested in the allied health professions: contact Professor Ashleigh Queen at aeeverhardt@wm.edu for advice on PA and nursing, or Professor Evie Burnet at enburnet@wm.edu for pre-PT/OT advice. Professor Ray McCoy also advises in these areas, but he is on sabbatical in Fall 2020, so he will not be available until the spring.
*Health Careers Club has a premed mentor program. Instructions for how to sign up for a mentor will be sent out on the Health Professions Advising listserv early in the fall semester.

Online information for premeds, pre-vets, pre-pharmacy students, and pre-dentistry students:

*My website, http://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/btsher, has handouts on course selection, our early acceptance programs with EVMS and VCU, and other important topics.
* To sign up for the Health Professions Advising listserv, see the instructions on the front page of my website. Don’t miss out on the information it provides!

Academics:

*Important note: Do not use DegreeWorks to track your progress through the premed courses! Entering “premed” into DegreeWorks gives you the courses required for the Kinesiology/Health Sciences premed track, NOT the actual premed courses. See the premed course selection handout on my website instead.
*Major selection: there is no official premed major! Choose by interest. Currently, the four most popular premed majors at William & Mary are Neuroscience, Biology, Chemistry, and Kinesiology/Health Sciences. Kinesiology/Health Sciences and Physics have premed tracks.
*For other health professions, major choice may not be as flexible, due to recommended/required courses that should be completed by the time you apply. Check the websites of the professional schools that interest you for details. Dental schools are particularly demanding.
*The courses covered by the MCAT must be completed before you take the exam. Here’s the list. To save space, lecture-lab combinations are listed as lecture/lab:
  -BIOL 203/203L and BIOL 204/204L
  -CHEM 103/103L, 206/206L, 207/253 (or 209/253), and 208/254
  -PHYS 101/101L and PHYS 102/102L or PHYS 107/107L and PHYS108/108L (Chemistry and Physics majors must take PHYS 101/101L and PHYS 102/102L)
  -Biochemistry
  -Psychology as a Social Science (PSYC 202)
  -SOCL 250: Principles of Sociology or SOCL 362: Medical Sociology or SOCL 310: Wealth, Power and Inequality
  -A statistics course could also be helpful (MATH 106, PSYC 301, KINE 394, Biostatistics)
*Many medical schools require a year of math (statistics, calculus) and a year of English. COLL 150 courses take care of half of the medical school English requirement.
*Some medical schools require or recommend additional courses, such as cell biology (BIOL 310). See the AAMC’s MSAR (subscription required) or the individual schools’ websites for details.
*AP/IB credit can be used at most, but not all, medical schools. See the MSAR for details; see my premed course selection handout for William & Mary-specific advice on how to use AP/IB/co-enrollment credit.
*GPA (overall, science) is important, but challenge yourself! See www.aamc.org/facts for details.

Extracurriculars:

*Clinical experience is mandatory for all of the health professions. Required categories for premeds include physician shadowing and volunteer work in clinical settings, such as hospitals and free clinics.
*Other extracurricular activities also matter: the VCU School of Medicine, for example, requires non-clinical service. See https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/core-competencies/ for more details.
*Research is not required for admission to every medical school, but it is a selection factor for some medical schools. If you are interested in research for its own sake, get involved! Many students start doing research as freshmen. See https://www.wm.edu/as/undergraduate/explore-create-connect/undergrad-research/index.php for more information.