AP, IB & CLEP Credits and the Pre-Health Student

While AP, IB, and CLEP credits may be a great preparation for college, professional schools—especially medical and dental schools but other programs as well—may not consider these as adequate preparation for their programs. Although you can receive Purdue credit for these courses, you may not want to use AP, IB, or CLEP credits to replace required courses for professional school. See the Purdue Admissions website for info on what credits you have earned at Purdue:
http://www.admissions.purdue.edu/transfercredit/collegeboardap.php

How the professional schools view it:
- Professional schools feel that high school courses rarely provide the depth or breadth of college courses.
- Opting out of some of the required courses in college may lead students to not take the heavy science load professional programs need to see in your record.
- These courses/exams are seen as creating an opportunity to take more courses in that area—not a chance to get out of taking classes in college.
- Professional programs are often much more open to these credits in math and English, but are more reluctant about taking science credits.
- Professional programs have a limited number of required courses from which they can compare grades among applicants. If you have AP credit for these, you will not have these important grades.

You need to make an informed decision about this. Your options are:
- Do not make use of your credits in science and repeat those courses in college.
- Accept your credits, but use this as an opportunity to take upper level courses in those areas. If your credits are in your major—this probably isn’t a problem. If they aren’t, then you should consider taking upper level courses in that area to “replace” the ones for which you received credit.

Things to think about:
- Do you feel prepared to move to the higher level course? Many students find they don’t have a strong enough background to start in the higher level course.
- Do you feel that the AP course prepared you for the aptitude test and the rigors of professional school? Will you remember this material when you take your aptitude test?