Medical School Admissions Guide

SO YOU WANT TO BE A DOCTOR?

For many, the pursuit of a career in medicine has been a longstanding aspiration. Some students enter college having known for many years of their desire to earn a medical degree. Other students come to the same realization much later in their academic careers. Whether the idea of becoming a physician is a new one to you or a goal you have sought for many years, the Health Professions Advising Office is here to facilitate your preparations for medical school.

There are two types of medical training programs that you can complete in order to become a practicing physician: allopathic medicine (MD) and osteopathic medicine (DO).

PRE-REQUISITES:

NOTE: THERE ARE GENERAL PRE-REQUISITE COURSES THAT ALL MEDICAL SCHOOLS REQUIRE FOR ADMISSION, HOWEVER THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER COURSES THAT ARE NOT REQUIRED BY MEDICAL SCHOOLS, BUT ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITES OF THE SCHOOLS THAT YOU ARE MOST INTERESTED TO OBTAIN A CURRENT LIST OF UNDERGRADUATE REQUIREMENTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Biology</th>
<th>BSC 114/115 and BSC 116/117 or honors equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>BSC 450 (BSC 300 Pre-Requisite) or CH 461 (Pre-Requisite CH 223, CH 232 and CH 237)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Chemistry</td>
<td>CH 101 and 102 or honors equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>CH 231, CH 232 and CH 237 (lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>PH 101 and PH 102 or PH 105 and PH 106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>PY 211, BSC 380, or CHS 425 recommended</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>MATH 125 is required by some schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>PY 101 and SOC 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>EN 101 and EN 102 or Honors EN 103 or EN 104 or AP credit</td>
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*All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of “C-” or higher.

EXAM AND GPA:

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT): The MCAT is a standardized examination that consists of multiple choice sections that assess your knowledge of natural and behavioral sciences. Starting in January 2015 (in addition to concepts from biology, general and organic chemistry, and physics that were tested in the past) the MCAT will also include material from biochemistry, basic research and statistics, and psychology and sociology concepts. Our office will keep you informed about the new MCAT 2015. You can also visit the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) website for more information: http://www.aamc.org/mcat/

Grade Point Average (GPA): Minimum GPA requirements vary from program to program, but MOST competitive applicants have a minimum 3.5 GPA overall and in their science courses.

TIMELINE:

**Freshman Year:**
- Connect with the Health Professions Advising Office
- Start taking basic sciences (See chart above)
- Think about possible majors (Study what you love)
- Begin getting involved with volunteer opportunities (campus and community)
- Start medical experience (EMT, Scribe, Shadowing, etc)
- Look into getting involved in undergraduate research and talk to professors
- Go to your professor’s office hours
- Join some student organizations (AED)

**Sophomore Year:**
- Continue with next sequence of courses
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities (Medical, volunteer, etc)
- Begin to think about becoming an officer in your organizations
- Visit Health Professions Office to begin to assess competitiveness
- Investigate MCAT preparation options
- Identify MD or DO programs you are interested in
- BOTTOM LINE: Keep working on the things you established your first year!!

**Junior Year:**
- Talk to Health Professions Advising Office about competitiveness (Fall semester)
- Register for the MCAT (Fall Semester)
- Study for MCAT and take MCAT(Spring/Summer)
- Identify 3 individuals to write letters of recommendation (Spring Semester)
- Complete Application (AMCAS and AACOMAS) (Spring Semester-Summer)
- Interview with Health Professions Advising Committee
- Keep working on the things you have established thus far

**Senior Year:**
- Submit Application (AMCAS) if you haven’t already (Fall semester)
- Wait to be contacted for interview from medical schools
- Continue with activities
- Talk with HPAO about Plan B if necessary
- Finish degree requirements and GRADUATE!
RESOURCES:
UA Health Professions Website: www.prehealth.ua.edu
Association of American Medical Colleges Application Service (AMCAS): www.aamc.org
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: http://aacomas.aacom.org
Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR):
Medical College Admissions Test (registration): www.services.aamc.org/20/mcat