Medicine is both an art and science. A physician’s responsibilities cover a wide range of functions in the maintenance of health and the treatment of disease, including caring for patients with both acute and chronic conditions and promoting preventative approaches involving substantial patient education. These include diagnosing disease, supervising the care of patients, prescribing medications & other treatments, and participating in the improved delivery of health care. Admission to medical school is highly competitive. A degree in medicine requires four years of academic study of which two years are dedicated to the sciences and two years to clinical rotations. Upon graduation, students enter residency programs that can last three to eight years depending on the medical specialty you choose to pursue. Training in family practice, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics can take three years; general surgery requires five years; and subspecialty training in disciplines such as plastic or neurological surgery may involve another two or three years. In addition, some medical schools offer joint degrees: MD/PHD, MD/MPH, MD/JD, or MD/MBA.

### Advising Sheet

**Common Pre-Med Prerequisite Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>One year of coursework with lab</td>
<td>BISC 120Lg &amp; BISC 220Lg OR BISC 121Lg &amp; BISC 221Lg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>One year of coursework with lab</td>
<td>CHEM 105aLg &amp; CHEM 105bL OR CHEM 115aLg &amp; CHEM 115bL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>One year of coursework with lab</td>
<td>CHEM 322aL &amp; CHEM 322bL OR CHEM 325aL &amp; CHEM 325bL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>One year of coursework with lab. Please note: Undergraduate major may determine physics requirement.</td>
<td>PHYS 135aLg &amp; PHYS 135bL OR PHYS 151Lg &amp; PHYS 152L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>At least one semester of Math is generally required. Some schools require no math, whereas some require calculus, while others require calculus &amp; statistics. Statistics is highly recommended for the MCAT.</td>
<td>Calculus: MATH 125g and/or MATH 126 Statistics: MATH 208x, BISC 305, HP 340, PSYC 274 or equivalent stats course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>One semester is strongly recommended but may be required by other Medical Schools. Biochemistry is highly recommended for the MCAT.</td>
<td>BISC 330L for science majors CHEM 350g (Fall) for non-science majors BISC 312 (Spring) for non-science majors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>One year is required for most medical schools in the country.</td>
<td>WRIT 150 and WRIT 340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Behavioral Science</td>
<td>Introductory psychology and sociology are highly recommended for the MCAT.</td>
<td>PSYC 100g and SOCI 200gm, or SOCI 210g, or SOCI 242g, or SOCI 360m, or SOCI 475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional subjects recommended by some U.S. Medical Schools. Please refer to the MSAR for specific information.

**Molecular Biology, Genetics, Physiology, Microbiology:** Advanced level sciences courses are desirable. Performing well in upper division sciences further demonstrates your ability to handle the rigorous science based curriculum found in medical school. Note: Physiology is recommended to prepare you for the MCAT.

**Research Methods:** A course in Scientific Inquiry and Reasoning Skills, which covers statistical analysis and design of research endeavors, is recommended for the MCAT 2015. PSYC 240xg

**Foreign Language:** Knowledge of a foreign language, specifically Spanish, is highly recommended by some schools. Foreign language courses

**NOTE for the MCAT:** In the past, medical schools have had a relatively simple set of required courses, which included: 2 semesters each of general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology and physics (each with corresponding labs), and English. A few schools also required or recommended biochemistry, math and/or statistics, or additional biology courses. You will still see these requirements on many websites and in publications. However, the MCAT will require students to have, in addition to the above courses, a background in biochemistry, statistics, and introductory psychology and sociology.
# Application Timeline

The following outlines a general application timeline from pre-application to matriculation for any given application year.

## January
- Purchase the online Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)
- Research & request Medical school information
- Consider enrolling in an MCAT prep course
- Attend USC Application workshops
- Apply for (AAMC) Fee Assistance Program if qualified.
- Request letters of evaluation from evaluators

## February
- Register for the MCAT
- Begin drafting personal statement

## March
- Follow-up with letters of evaluation

## April-May
- Take an MCAT at the latest in April, May or June.
- Initiate primary AMCAS application (first week of May)

## June
- Submit primary AMCAS application
- Send official transcripts from all institutions attended.
- April-June-last recommended MCAT sitting

## July
- Secondary/supplemental AMCAS application begin. Complete within 1-2 weeks within receiving them (ongoing).

## August
- By August 1st: Letters of Evaluation (LOE) should be submitted.
- Secondary/supplemental applications (cont’d.)
- Verify individual school deadlines

## September—December
- Secondary/supplemental applications (cont’d.)
- Interviews/visit schools
- October 15: First acceptances sent out by medical schools.

## January—April
- Interviews (cont’d)/visit schools

## May
- May 15th: Last date to hold multiple acceptances.

## May—July
- Submit final transcripts

## July-September
- Medical school begins, depending on school.

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### Resources

- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
- AAMC Applicants and Matriculants Data
- AAMC Fee Assistance Program
- AAMC Today Facebook page
- MCAT 2015 Content
- MCAT 2015 Information
- AAMC Resources
- American Medical College Application Service
- Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)
- AspiringDocs.org

www.aamc.org
www.aamc.org/data/facts/applicantmatriculant/
www.aamc.org/students/applying/fap/
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www.aamc.org/students/services/341550/mcat2015.html
www.aamc.org/students/
www.amcas.org
www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar/
www.aspiringdocs.org/

This information is not comprehensive and should not be used as your only advising tool. Research each school and the MSAR for a complete list of requirements.