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

**University of Southern California**

**Medicine (Allopathic)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON PRE-MED PREREQUISITE COURSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chemistry</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Chemistry</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biochemistry</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social and Behavioral Science</strong></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.

| BISC 320L, BISC 325, BISC 307L, BISC 300L, etc. |

**Research Methods**

A course in Scientific Inquiry and Reasoning Skills, which covers statistical analysis and design of research endeavors.

| 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/recommended biochemistry, math and/or statistics, or additional biology courses. However, the MCAT will require students to have, in addition to the above courses, a background in biochemistry, statistics, and introductory psychology and sociology.
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AspiringDocs.org
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
AAMC Applicants and Matriculates Data
AAMC Fee Assistance Program
AAMC Today Facebook page
AAMC Resources
American Medical College Application Service
Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)
MCAT 2019 Content

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.

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

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/visit schools

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

MAY—JULY
- Submit final transcripts

JULY—SEPTEMBER
- Medical school begins, depending on school.