

ALLOPATHIC MEDICINE (MD)



An allopathic physician's (M.D.) responsibilities cover a wide range of functions in the maintenance of health and the treatment of disease, including both acute and chronic care and preventive approaches involving substantial patient education. These include diagnosing disease, supervising the care of patients, prescribing medications and other treatments, and participating in the delivery of health care.

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 medical residency training, which can last three to eight years depending on the chosen specialty. Specialties include anesthesiology, family and general medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, and surgery. Though admissions into medical school is highly competitive, there is no one route that guarantees one's acceptance. The vast majority of medical schools employ rolling admissions. Some medical schools will provide a list of required courses; others ask for "competency" and allow flexibility in how you demonstrate that.

As an undergraduate pre-medical student, it is important to carefully review the prerequisite course requirements of all programs of interest as they vary. Academic performance, GPA (overall and science) and MCAT scores are contributing factors in the admission process; however, med schools also look carefully at clinical exposure, extracurricular activities, life experiences, community involvement and leadership, research experience, motivation to study medicine, the personal statement, and letters of recommendation.

We encourage you to meet with a Pre-Health Advisor at least once a semester to ensure satisfactory progress towards your goals!

COMMON CORE COURSES

Students are responsible for verifying the prerequisite coursework and policies of the schools to which they plan to apply.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A science major is not required. Students should choose a major based on their interests and an area that they find exciting, which at the same time, will keep them academically competitive.
- All pre-health science courses must be taken for a letter grade and earn a minimum grade of "C".
- Medical schools have differing policies for accepting AP/IB credits to fulfill prerequisites. Most do not honor AP credits. Refer to each school for specific policies.
- Some medical schools may recommend an additional upper division science course such as Genetics, Molecular Biology, Physiology, Anatomy, or Immunology.
- The MCAT is valid for 3 years.
- There are over 145 accredited allopathic medical schools in the U.S that award the degree of Medical Doctor (M.D.).
- Some medical schools offer joint degrees: MD/PHD, MD/MPH, MD/JD, or MD/MBA.

Course	# of Courses	USC Course(s)
General Biology	2 courses with lab	BISC 120L and BISC 220L or BISC 121L and BISC 221L
General Chemistry	2 courses with lab. Major may determine course selection.	CHEM 105aL and CHEM 105bL or CHEM 107L and CHEM 108L or CHEM 115aL and CHEM 115bL
Organic Chemistry	2 courses with lab. Major may determine course selection.	CHEM 322aL and CHEM 322bL or CHEM 325aL and CHEM 325bL
Physics	2 courses with lab. Major may determine course selection.	PHYS 135aL and PHYS 135bL or PHYS 151L and PHYS 152L
Mathematics	1 course in Calculus is required by some medical schools. 1 course in Statistics	Calculus: MATH 125 or MATH 126 (Math 118 will suffice for BUAD majors) Statistics: MATH 208x or QBIO 305g or HP 340Lg or PSYC 274g or BUAD 310g
English/Writing	2 courses	WRIT 150 and WRIT 340
Biochemistry	1 course Major may determine course selection.	Science Majors: BISC 330L Non-Science Majors: CHEM 350g (Fall only) or BISC 312 (Spring only)
Social and Behavioral Sciences	1 course in Psychology and 1 course in Sociology is highly recommended for the MCAT.	PSYC 100Lg SOC1 200 or SOC1 210 or SOC1 242

APPLICATION TIMELINE

The following is a general timeline from pre-application to matriculation at a medical school. More detailed information can be found on the [AAMC website](#) on [Application and Admission Timeline to Medical School](#).

MONTH	TASK
JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open an American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) account.• Research and request medical school information; curate list of schools.• Apply for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Fee Assistance Program.• Register for the MCAT at least two months prior to your planned test date.• Registration for the AAMC PREview Professional Readiness Exam opens• Choose writers for your letters of evaluation.
FEBRUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brainstorm, outline, and write your personal statement(s), and Work and Activities Section.• Solicit letters of evaluation.
MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow-up with letter writers.• Purchase the online Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR).
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take the MCAT (if not already done so) or if you need to retake.• Consult MSAR to confirm each medical school's specific requirements.
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early May: Primary Application (AMCAS/AACOMAS/TMDSAS) opens.• Finalize your school list.• End of May: Submission of primary application begins.• Request all official transcripts from all institutions attended.• Register and take the CASPer Test.
JUNE-JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secondary/supplemental AMCAS application period begins (complete within 1-2 weeks of receipt).
AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All letters of evaluation should be sent no later than early August.• Verify individual medical school deadlines.• Secondary/supplemental applications (cont'd).• Begin to prepare for medical school admissions interviews.
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview and visit schools.• 10/15 - First acceptances sent out by medical students• Secondary/supplemental applications (cont'd)• Send letters of interests and updates, if appropriate
JANUARY - APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview/visit schools.• By April 15, applicants to AMCAS schools may be holding a spot at no more than three schools.• By end of April, applicants to AAMC must formally choose a medical school.
MAY - JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit final transcripts.
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical schools begin!

IMPORTANT FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

- Academic Coursework and Performance (Overall GPA and Science (BCPM) GPA)
- Standardized Exam: Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- Co-Curricular Activities and Experiences
- Letters of Evaluation: Typically 3-5 letters: two from science faculty, one from non-science faculty, remainder from professional references such as a PI or research supervisor. Amount is determined by each school; check requirements.
- Personal Statement/Secondary Application Essays
- Interview Skills
- **Pre-Professional Competencies:** Capacity for Improvement, Cultural Competence, Ethical Responsibility to Self and Others, Oral Communication, Reliability and Dependability, Resilience and Adaptability, Service Orientation, Social Skills, Teamwork