



Pre-Medical Advising Sheet

Admission to medical school is highly competitive. The Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) is published annually by the Association of American Medical Colleges and is an excellent resource to help students interested in medical school.

Educational philosophies and goals, undergraduate course requirements, and other admissions requirements vary by medical schools. However, they all stress the importance of a strong background in science, communication skills, and a breadth of knowledge in social science and humanities. Medical school usually takes four years of college to obtain the M.D. degree of which two years are dedicated to basic sciences and two years to clinical rotations. Residency can last anywhere from three to five years for sufficient clinical training. Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) see patients, prescribe medications, perform surgeries, and deliver babies in hospitals, medical centers, and offices across the United States and overseas. Some schools offer joint degrees such as MD/PhD, MD/MPH, or MD/MBA.

Choosing an Undergraduate Major

“Pre-med” is **not** a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. Most medical schools do not require a specific degree in order to apply. Major in whatever you want, and do well in it...if it is science, fine. If it is nonscience that is fine. There is no advantage to any particular major. Instead, they are looking for a well rounded applicant who does well in the medical school admissions requirements. However, students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary. The majority of entering medical students have four years of college completed and a baccalaureate degree. However, students with only three years of undergraduate coursework could be accepted. Students applying to medical school need to plan carefully and complete not only the medical school admissions requirements, but also the requirements for their undergraduate major and the general education required by the undergraduate transfer institution.

Suggested courses for most Medical School:

One Year of General Biology with Lab

One Year of General Chemistry with Lab

One Year of Organic Chemistry with Lab

One Year of Physics with Lab

One Year of English (Comp. and Lit.)

Math—Almost all schools require one year of Math. Some schools require one year of calculus, while others require statistics and calculus. Please refer to the MSAR for more information. Your undergraduate major may also determine your choice of Math requirements.

Suggested GCC courses:

BIOL 101 and 102

CHEM 101 and 102

CHEM 105 and 106

PHYS 105 and 106 or PHYS 101, 102, 103

ENGL 101, 102 or 104

MATH 103, 104 (Calculus)

MATH 136 (Statistics)

Additional subjects recommended by most U.S. Medical Schools

Advanced course in Biological Science

Courses overlapping in subject matter (e.g. human anatomy) with those in the school of medicine are not recommended. However, basic or advanced courses in biological science (e.g. cellular physiology) are desirable. It is in your best interests to take several upper-division science classes at the four-year institution to which you transfer. Performing well in upper division science courses further demonstrates your ability to handle the rigorous science-based coursework found in medical school. Therefore, if you are not a science major, it is still important for you to take additional science courses beyond the minimum requirements to further support application to medical school.

Foreign Language

Knowledge of a foreign language, specifically Spanish, is strongly recommended

Humanities and Social Sciences

Medical schools like to see that you have taken a wide range of coursework and have a diverse educational background. It is recommended that you take several humanities and social science courses. See IGETC Area 3B and Area 4 for a list of courses offered at Glendale College.

Computer Science

Basic computer knowledge is necessary for almost all medical schools. Some may recommend Computer Science courses. See MSAR for more information.

Note: All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Credit/No Credit.

Medical School Selection Criteria

- Most schools require that you apply through the American Medical College Application Service (**AMCAS**). Visit their website (see recommended websites section below) and become familiar with the policies, procedures, and expected turnaround times. Read the FAQ section carefully on their website.
- Completion of the **prerequisite coursework**.
- **Bachelor's Degree** or 3 or more years of undergraduate coursework.
- **GPA** in terms of overall college grades and science grades are a major factor in the selection process.
- Score on the Medical College Admission Test (**MCAT**), a standardized, multiple-choice examination designed to assess problem solving, critical thinking, and writing skills in addition to the examinee's knowledge of science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine.
- **Research experience/community service/leadership** There are endless options for community service work, College clubs and service organizations, Church involvement, Community centers, Soup kitchens, Homeless shelters but you should find a project that fulfills you and motivates you to continue your work in the community. Your passion for community service will be clear to admissions officers if you genuinely enjoy what you are doing, and this will ultimately help your application to medical school.
- **Letters of recommendation** from science faculty, non-science faculty, and a supervisor from relevant clinical experience, research, or relevant work.
- **Interviews** with faculty from the institutions you apply to.

Recommended Websites

American Medical College Application Service	www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas
Association of American Medical Colleges	www.aamc.org
MCAT information	www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat
MSAR information	www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar
Osteopathic Medicine	www.aacom.org Volunteer
Medical School Advising	www.naahp.org
AspiringDocs.org	www.aspiringdocs.org

Select Medical School Websites

Charles Drew Joint UCLA Program	www.cdrewu.edu/com/pgm/CDUUCLAPRIME
Stanford University	http://med.stanford.edu
UC Davis School of Medicine	http://som.ucdavis.edu
UC Irvine School of Medicine	www.som.uci.edu
UC Los Angeles Geffen School of Medicine	www.medstudent.ucla.edu
UC Riverside School of Medicine	http://medschool.ucr.edu
UC San Diego School of Medicine	http://medicine.ucsd.edu
UC San Francisco School of Medicine	http://medschool.ucsf.edu
USC Keck School of Medicine	http://keck.usc.edu
Western University of Health Sciences	http://www.westernu.edu/

Academic Preparation Programs

UCLA PREP	www.medstudent.ucla.edu/offices/aeo/prep.cfm
Summer Medical and Dental Education Prep	www.smdep.org

Research Opportunities for Community College Students

UCLA Undergraduate Research Center/Center for Academic and Research Excellence	www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu
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Clinical Experience

Saban Free Clinic/Los Angeles Free Clinic (hands-on experience)	www.lafreeclinic.org
Care Extenders Medical Internship	www.uclahealth.org/volunteer/Pages/our-programs/care-extender-program.aspx
Clinical Care Extender Program	www.L3connect.org
International Service Learning	www.islonline.org/medical-programs

Postbaccalaureate Programs

Postbaccalaureate Premedical Programs	http://services.aamc.org/postbac
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Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check the MSAR and medical schools for the most up to date information.