Basic Pre-Med Curriculum
The following courses are required by most medical schools in the United States as the minimum background needed for acceptance into medical school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical School Requirement</th>
<th>GMU Recommended Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Biology 213, 303</td>
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<td>General Chemistry</td>
<td>General Chemistry 211, 212</td>
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<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Physics</td>
<td>College Physics 243/ 244, 245/ 246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>English 101</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Some schools require one or two semesters of mathematics. These requirements vary among medical schools, and some schools have additional requirements.

Any undergraduate major is appropriate for medical school assuming the applicant has completed the basic pre-med requirements. Nonetheless, the majority of students applying to medical school have undergraduate majors in the biological or physical sciences. Students majoring in non-science subjects are accepted to medical school at a comparable rate to those majoring in the sciences. However, it is very important to do well in your science courses.

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)
Most medical schools require applicants to take the MCAT. The MCAT reports four scores. Three of the scores are on a scale ranging from 1 (lowest) to 15 (highest) in the areas of:

**Verbal Reasoning** -- tests critical thinking and reasoning skills.

**Biological Sciences** – tests problem solving and knowledge of basic concepts in biology and biologically related chemistry.

**Physical Sciences**-- tests problem solving and knowledge of basic concepts in physics and physically related sciences.

The fourth score is based on two essays measuring analytical abilities and writing skills. The essays receive one score ranging from “J” (lowest) to “T” (highest).

The MCAT is given many times a year. Students are encouraged to take the MCAT 18 months before they plan to enter medical school. For many students this means taking the MCAT in their junior year. Some students find that it is helpful to take a preparation course for the MCAT. Go to http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/ for more information.

Applying to Medical School
Admission to medical school is very competitive. The percentage of applicants who are accepted varies from year to year but is generally around 50% of the applicant pool. Accepted applicants nationally have an overall undergraduate grade point average of 3.5-3.6. Accepted applicants also have good scores on the MCAT averaging scores of 10 or better on the three numerically scored subtests.
Students who feel they have realistic potential for acceptance to medical school should plan carefully to improve their chances. Some helpful guidelines are:

- Apply approximately one year before the expected date of matriculation.
- Apply to at least 4 or 5 schools that best match your strengths.
- Obtain practical experience in a medical setting.

**The American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS)**

Students applying to medical schools must submit application materials through AMCAS. A complete set of official transcripts for each U.S., U.S. territorial or Canadian college, university, junior college, or graduate school attended should be forwarded directly to AMCAS by the registrar of the institutions attended. There are 115 medical schools participating in AMCAS, and most applicants apply to at least one AMCAS school. For more information about AMCAS, visit their web site at:

http://aamc.org/students/amcas/

**Medical Sciences Advisory Committee**

George Mason University has a Medical Sciences Advisory Committee (MSAC) which interviews qualified students who are applying to medical school and writes a composite letter of evaluation for applicants. Many medical schools find this information helpful in their decision making process, however students are not required to use the services of MSAC.

The committee is composed of faculty members and other professional staff. MSAC collects information about students including standardized application forms, letters of recommendation, and transcripts. Using this information in conjunction with a personal interview, a composite letter of evaluation is developed and forwarded to the schools to which the applicant has applied.

**Pre-Medical Honor Society**

George Mason University is the home of the Virginia Zeta chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta—National Premedical Honor Society. The chapter sponsors events related to the medical school application process and a career in medicine. Activities include: sponsoring blood drives, CPR classes, practice MCAT tests, an externship program with area physicians, a program observing surgical procedures at local hospitals, faculty-student receptions, and trips to area medical schools. Students are eligible for national membership after three semesters or 36 hours at GMU. They are eligible for associate membership at any time. Go to http://www.gmu.edu/org/aed/ for more information.

**Pre-Med advising**

Pre-med advising is available by appointment at the Academic Advising Center located in SUB I, room 304, 703-993-2470. Students in their year of application will be advised by Dr. Emil Chuck at echuck@gmu.edu. Students must still be advised in their department regarding their major. Students are also strongly encouraged to visit Mason’s premed website at http://premed.gmu.edu and http://money.howstuffworks.com/becoming-a-doctor.htm for more information about medical school.

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