

Pre-Med Information Sheet

Basic Pre-Med Curriculum

Prerequisites can vary on a school by school basis. Please check the prerequisites for schools to which you hope to apply.

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

Medical School Prerequisites/MCAT 2015 Preparation	GMU Recommended Courses
Biology 2 semesters	BIOL 213/Cell Biology BIOL 311/Genetics
Biochemistry 1 semester	BIOL 483/Biochemistry
General Chemistry 2 semesters	CHEM 211/ General Chemistry CHEM 212/ General Chemistry
Organic Chemistry 2 semesters	CHEM 313/315 Organic Chemistry I CHEM 314/318 Organic Chemistry II
College Physics 2 semesters	PHYS 243/244 College Physics PHYS 245/246 College Physics
English 1 semester	ENGL 101
Psychology 1 semester	PSYC 100 Basic Concepts in Psychology
Sociology 1 Semester	SOCI 101 Introductory Sociology

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

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. It is very important to do well in science courses.

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)

Up to date information regarding the current MCAT and the anticipated 2015 MCAT is available at <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/> Most medical schools require applicants to take the MCAT.

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. Additional information regarding preparation for the MCAT and practice tests may be found at <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/preparing/> Some students find that it is helpful to take a preparation course for the MCAT.

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 less than 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.

Submit application to at least 4 or 5 schools that best match your strengths.

Obtain practical clinical experience in a medical setting.

Volunteer to work with underserved populations.

The American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS)

Students applying to medical schools must submit application materials through AMCAS. Information regarding the AMCA application process can be found at <https://www.aamc.org/students/advisors/amcasresources/>

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 led by the Health Professions Advisor and composed of GMU faculty and administrative faculty members. A year and a half prior to desired medical school matriculation, the MSAC collects information about students including standardized application forms, letters of recommendation, and transcripts. Using this information in conjunction with personal interviews, 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. For more information, please go to <http://www.aedgmu.org/cms/>

Pre-Med advising

Students must still be advised in their department regarding their major.

Individual appointment, walk-in and small group pre-med advising is available from the Health Professions Advisor, Jane Rockwood, in the Academic Advising and Transfer Center at 3500 Student Union I. The availability of these advising opportunities is announced weekly through the HEALTHPROFESSIONS-L listserv.

HEALTHPROFESSIONS-L listserv

The Health Professions Advisor Listserv is meant to provide prospective health professions students with information regarding relevant current events, related upcoming programs and other opportunities.

To join the new HEALTHPROFESSIONSADVISOR-L listserv go to <http://metis3.gmu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?INDEX> .

Scroll to HEALTHPROFESSIONADVISOR-L.

Click on HEALTHPROFESSIONADVISOR-L.

Click on "Join".

Fill in your "Name" and "Email Address".

At the bottom of the page, click on the "Join HEALTHPROFESSIONSADVISOR-L" button.

Subsequently, you will need to click on a link in "Command confirmation request", a confirming email. (The purpose of this confirmation procedure is to make sure that you have indeed requested to be added to the list.)

.jrockwo1@gmu.edu/1.24.2012