High School Preparation for a Career in Medicine
Health Professions Advising Office, University of Mississippi

“What does it take to become a doctor?
Becoming a doctor requires a serious educational commitment. It takes from 11 to 16 years to complete your education, including four years of undergraduate school, four years of medical school, and from three to eight years of residency training in a desired specialty. Doctors also are required to maintain licensure and certification and to undergo continuing education in order to keep up with advancements in the field.”

This short paragraph from the American Association of Medical Colleges website says it all!! Read more at: https://www.aamc.org/students/considering/exploring_medical/

While in High School, you should:
- Take as many math and science courses as are available! AP math and science classes are excellent to prepare you for college. Many universities and/or medical schools want you to take your major math and science classes at the college level, so they will not accept AP credit for science courses (see more detail on reverse side). You should take AP classes, but you may not want to pay for the AP credits!
- READ! Improve your reading comprehension, speed and vocabulary.
- Work on that ACT/SAT score. These are important in determining which college classes you can take. They also give you great experience in test-taking—the Medical School Admission Test (MCAT) is similar to the ACT/SAT!
- Develop skills in time management and active study techniques.

While in College, you must:
- Earn a 4 year degree in an academic department. The major you choose is up to you, but you must include science & math courses required by the Medical Schools where you intend to apply (even if they are not required by your academic department). Courses required by the UMMC School of Medicine are on back of this sheet.
- Work hard on your math and science courses. Medical schools look closely at your BCPM GPA (GPA of all your Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Math courses).
- Gain experience in a medical setting by volunteering and/or working with health professionals and patients—and keep a journal of those experiences!
- Develop professional relationships with science and math faculty, who will eventually write evaluation letters for you.
- Take the MCAT after finishing the required science courses.
- Apply for Medical School after finishing 3 or more years of college in your chosen academic department.
- **Use the resources available to Undergraduates at the University of Mississippi.** The Health Professions Advising Office maintains a website, offers information sessions, and advises students on a diversity of health-related careers.

Contact us: HPAO@olemiss.edu http://healthprofessions.olemiss.edu
### Courses Required by the UMMC School of Medicine in Jackson, MS

University of Mississippi Medical Center: [http://www.umc.edu/](http://www.umc.edu/)

**Note:** Other medical schools may require slightly different classes!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological Science</td>
<td>BISC 160/161*</td>
<td>Biological Sciences I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BISC 162/163</td>
<td>Biological Sciences II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inorganic Chemistry</td>
<td>CHEM 105/115**</td>
<td>General Chemistry I</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHEM 106/116</td>
<td>General Chemistry II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>CHEM 221/225</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHEM 222/226</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Physics ¥</td>
<td>PHYS 213/223</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHYS 214/224</td>
<td>General Physics II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>ENGL any</td>
<td>Composition or Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>MATH***121 or 261</td>
<td>College Algebra or Calculus I</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>123 or 262</td>
<td>Trigonometry or Calculus II</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(or elective such as 125, Statistics)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Required courses for MCAT.**

* Requires a minimum Math score of 23 on ACT or 550 on SAT, or “A” or “B” in Math 123, or 125 or Chem 101.
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*** Students who qualify by placement tests to enter calculus I directly, can satisfy their math requirements with Calculus I; the other three (3) required hours may be met by an approved math course such as statistics (Math 115).

**Advanced Science** (At least 6 hours, 300 level or above) such as: CHEM 471 (Biochemistry I, 3 cr), CHEM 473 (Biochemistry II, 3 cr), BISC 330 (Physiology, 4 cr), BISC 336 (Genetics, 4 cr).

**Others include:** BISC 331 (Comparative Anatomy, 4 cr), BISC 333, (Microbiology, 4 cr), BISC 440 (Cell & Molecular Biology, 4 cr), CHEM 314 (Quantitative Analysis, 4 cr), CHEM 331 (Physical Chemistry, 3 cr), and MATH 353 (Differential Equations).

AP and CLEP credit in science or math do not count towards these admission requirements.

No correspondence, independent study, or online course will count toward UMC’s required courses.

See “Credit by Examination” in UM catalog.

For clarification of required courses, see the Registrar’s office, [http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/registrar/](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/registrar/)

**The UM Medical School evaluates all coursework when making admission decisions, including courses in which the student has invoked the UM “Grade Forgiveness Policy.”**

Med School AdmReq for HS students.docx  
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