

# MEDICAL SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Health Professions Advising Office (HPAO), University of Mississippi Oxford campus  
[www.healthprofessions.olemiss.edu](http://www.healthprofessions.olemiss.edu)      [HPAO@olemiss.edu](mailto:HPAO@olemiss.edu)      662-915-1674

A physician must attend from 11 to 16 years of school after high school! Preparation for medical school involves coursework and experiences that demonstrate familiarity with the medical profession, leadership, community service, and other activities. The American Association of Medical Colleges website ([www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)) has information to help you plan your path to become a physician.

Every medical school is slightly different in their pre-requisite courses, letter of evaluation requirements, and their mission. So, you need to research medical schools to find those that are right for you. Two types of medical schools exist today: allopathic and osteopathic. See the HPAO webpage for more information on these types of medical education and links to medical schools.

**A pre-med student must balance the courses required by their major, the MCAT and their chosen medical schools! To apply to medical school, you will need:**

- **BA or BS in any major that you choose.** Choose a major that you enjoy – this should lead to better grades and will be your contingency plan if you don't get into medical school or choose not to go! You must be on track to finish your degree by the time medical school classes begin, which will be a full year after you apply.
- **A competitive MCAT score.**

The MCAT should be taken only after extensive preparation—you can learn what that means by attending an advising session specific for pre-medical students in the HPAO. Beginning in April 2015, the MCAT 2015 will cover content from the “old” MCAT (General and Organic Chemistry, Introductory Biology, Physics and Verbal Reasoning), but will also include a new section on Behavioral Science plus emphasis on Biochemistry and Statistics.

Certain courses should be taken before the MCAT, but you will find that different medical schools have different course requirements. You should research the admissions requirements for the medical schools of interest to you and create a plan for when to take specific classes.

- **Specific UM courses required by medical schools.** Different medical schools have different course requirements, but the majority require the following:

General Chemistry = CHEM 105/115\* & 106/116

Introductory Biology for Science Majors = BISC 160/161\* & 162/163

General Physics= PHYS 213/223 & 214/224 (Trig-based) OR 211/221 & 212/222 (Cal-based)

Organic Chemistry = CHEM 221/225 & 222/226

Biochemistry = CHEM 471

\* In order to register for these specific courses, you must have an ACT Math sub-score of 25 or greater, or an SAT Math sub-score of 580 or greater.

For the MCAT2015, it is strongly suggested that students take the above courses and statistics (MATH 115 or PSY 202 or BISC 300), Intro to Psychology (PSY 201) and Intro to Sociology (SOC 101). Some medical schools require these last courses, while others just want students to show proficiency on the MCAT. Students taking Physiology (BISC 330) or Cell/Molecular Biology (BISC 372 or 440) as part of their curriculum will find that these can be very valuable classes to take before the MCAT.

Besides coursework and an MCAT, medical schools today require the following:

- **Experience in a medical setting**, such as volunteering or working in a hospital or clinic, shadowing physicians, and working with patients and their families. Document your experiences so that you can describe them in your medical school application.
- **Evidence of leadership and community involvement.** Because you are preparing for a humanitarian profession, it is important to have volunteer learning experiences which demonstrate a commitment of service to others. Generally, it is better to have long-term meaningful involvement in a couple of organizations rather than shallow involvement in many organizations.
- **Letters of evaluation.** Different medical schools have different requirements, but you need to develop relationships with faculty and medical professionals who will support your application by writing a letter about you and your personal characteristics. Make sure you have contact information for supervisors and physicians you shadow or work with in case you need to ask for letters of evaluation.

We have tools to improve your application, such as a BCPM calculator and advice on interviews on the HPAO webpage.

The earliest you can apply to most medical schools is the summer after your junior year of college. Students are encouraged to attend small group sessions with a pre-med advisor in the HPAO—we will cover information on applications and much more! Medical school application systems officially open on May 1 each year. Expect to spend a minimum of 40 hours on the medical school application. Follow the instructions carefully and try to submit your application during the summer, even though deadlines may occur in the fall or later.

The University of Mississippi School of Medicine is located in Jackson, MS, on the UM Medical Center campus and only accepts residents of Mississippi.

10 Feb 2015