

## Preparation for a Profession in a Medical Field

A four-year bachelor's degree is required for admission to medical and osteopathic schools. Any academic major is acceptable, as long as the degree includes the prerequisite core of courses in math and sciences. Medical and professional schools expect candidates to demonstrate the intellectual, analytical, and problem-solving skills necessary to succeed in medical school. Students are strongly advised to balance coursework in the natural sciences with coursework in humanities and social sciences. The General Education component of a Liberal Arts degree provides a sound foundation for demonstrating an interest in and knowledge of a diverse and global society. Candidates should also consider coursework in areas such as anthropology, communication, economics, ethics, logic, psychology, sociology, and statistics.

A broad understanding of health care and medicine is expected of applicants to medical schools. Work and volunteer experiences (including physician shadowing) in health care agencies, hospitals, and physician offices are strongly recommended. The above statement reflects the concerns and suggestions of most medical schools in the country.

A profile of the freshman class is usually posted on the website of each professional school.

Most schools base admissions decisions on a balanced combination of the following:

- Grade point average: This varies by school but is usually above a 3.0 minimum.
- Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) scores
- Personal statement from the candidate
- Professional experience (employment, volunteer work, shadowing, etc.)
- Interview
- Recommendations from academic instructors (usually in the sciences), an academic advisor, and a medical professional

### Core Courses for Medical Schools: a minimum requirement

- Engl 101 English Composition I (3) **and** 102 English Composition II (3)
- Comm 111 Public Speaking (3)
- Math 111 College Algebra (3) **and** 123 College Trigonometry (3) **or** Math 112 Pre-Calculus (5)
- Chemistry 211 General Chem. I (5) **and** 212 General Chem. II (5)
- Chemistry 531 Organic Chemistry I (5) **and** 532 Organic Chemistry II (5)
- Chemistry 661 Intro BioChemistry (3) **or** 662 Biochemistry I (3) **and/or** 663 Biochemistry II (3) **and/or** 664 Biochemistry Lab (3)
- Biology 210 General Biology I (4) **and** 211 General Biology II (4)
- Physics 213 General Physics I (5) **and** 214 General Physics II (5) **or**  
Physics 313 University Physics I with lab (315) and 314 University Physics II with lab (316)

The core classes above meet the minimum prerequisites for admission to most medical schools. Some additional recommended courses include: Biology 419 Genetics (4), Biology 420 Molecular Cell Biology.

**Admission Test:** The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is required for admission to medical and osteopathic schools. Medical school and Osteopathic school admission is very competitive. Most successful applicants have a GPA of at least 3.5 and an MCAT score of 501 or higher.

**Application:** The application period for medical and osteopathic schools occurs during the summer and fall before the fall semester one wishes to begin studies. Medical school applications are processed through AMCAS, the American Medical College Application Service. Osteopathic school applications are processed through AACOMAS, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service.

**Important Websites:**

- American Association of Medical Colleges [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine [www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)
- American Medical Association [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)
- AAMC Campaign to Increase Diversity [www.aspiringdocs.org](http://www.aspiringdocs.org)
- The Student Doctor Network [www.studentdoctor.net](http://www.studentdoctor.net)

**Midwest Medical Schools:**

- University of Kansas School of Medicine [www.kumc.edu/som](http://www.kumc.edu/som)
- University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine [www.med.umkc.edu](http://www.med.umkc.edu)
- University of Oklahoma College of Medicine [www.oumedical.com](http://www.oumedical.com)
- University of Colorado Denver [www.uchsc.edu](http://www.uchsc.edu)
- University of Nebraska College of Medicine [www.unmc.edu](http://www.unmc.edu)

**Midwest Osteopathic Schools:**

- Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences [www.kcumb.edu](http://www.kcumb.edu)
- Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine [www.healthsciences.okstate.edu](http://www.healthsciences.okstate.edu)
- Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine [www.atsu.edu](http://www.atsu.edu)
- Des Moines University- College of Osteopathic Medicine [www.dmu.edu/com](http://www.dmu.edu/com)

**Pre-Med Advising Resources**

Pre-med Student Association: [www.wudoc.org](http://www.wudoc.org)

Blackboard site for Pre-Med professions students:

Pre-Med information	Scholarship Information
Speakers	Shadowing opportunities

To join, send your email address and WSU ID to an advisor listed below.

LASI 150P Intro to Health Professions (1) A fall semester class that shows student a wide range of professions, salaries, and admission requirements.

Pre-Medical Advisors

Blake Cicenas: all medical areas	<a href="mailto:blake.cicenas@wichita.edu">blake.cicenas@wichita.edu</a>
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