

IUPUI University College

Information for Pre-Medical Students

The following pre-med courses are the minimum required by medical schools:

- General Chemistry - two semesters each of lecture & lab
CHEM C105 & C125 Principles of Chemistry I
(prerequisite: high school chemistry and 2 years high school algebra)

and
CHEM C106 & C126 Principles of Chemistry II
(prerequisite: CHEM C105 & C125)
 - Organic Chemistry* - two semesters lecture and minimum one semester lab
CHEM C341 Organic Chemistry Lecture I
(prerequisite: CHEM C106)
CHEM C343 Organic Chemistry Laboratory I
(prerequisite: CHEM C341)
CHEM C342 Organic Chemistry Lecture II
(prerequisite: CHEM C341)
- *NOTE: CHEM C344 Organic Chemistry Laboratory II is not required by IU School of Medicine, but may be by other medical schools.
- Biology - two semesters with lab
BIOL K101 Concepts of Biology I
(prerequisite: high school or college chemistry)
BIOL K103 Concepts of Biology II
(prerequisite: BIOL K101)
 - Physics - two semesters with lab
PHYS P201 General Physics I
(prerequisite: MATH 159 or equivalent)
PHYS P202 General Physics II
(prerequisite: PHYS P201)

In addition to satisfying coursework requirements, applicants must present the following credentials in order to be considered for admission to medical school:

- Bachelor's degree in any major
- Better than average grades in all courses
- Better than average scores on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)
- Favorable faculty recommendations
- Positive impressions in a personal interview
- Exploration of medicine through shadowing physicians, or work, or observation in a clinical setting
- Involvement in extracurricular activities, including community service or volunteerism

Many medical schools have additional requirements. If you have a specific school in mind other than Indiana University Medical School, it would be helpful to check the Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR) book located in the reference section of most libraries.

HOW MEDICAL SCHOOLS SELECT STUDENTS

The most important standards for admission to medical school are the applicant's grade point average and the MCAT scores. Medical schools are more concerned with the quality of the applicant's work than with the pattern of work. Because pre-med is not a major and students generally do their best when they do things they like, we recommend that you choose a major that matches your intellectual interests. It is not uncommon for pre-med students to major in the humanities, or social and behavioral sciences.

In addition to your core and major requirements, you may have a number of elective courses to choose. The number of these electives will vary depending on the school from which you are seeking a degree. Electives are important because you can use them to obtain a second major, to supplement your primary major, or to explore other interests. Careful selection of electives, with help from your advisor, will better prepare you for medical school.

Although the Indiana University School of Medicine does not require a certain GPA for application, it is in your best interest to achieve at least a 3.2 GPA. Indiana residents with a cumulative 3.2 GPA are eligible for an interview. Students who have below a 3.0 GPA may be considered on an individual basis.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TEST (MCAT)

You should complete all of the required courses for medical school before taking the MCAT during the spring semester of your junior year (pre-med advisors have the MCAT registration books). How you plan your academic program, select your courses, and prepare yourself can determine how well you will do on the MCAT.

The MCAT exam consists of the following:

- The first section tests verbal reasoning skills in subjects for the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.
- The second section assesses knowledge of basic concepts in physics and physically-related chemistry areas.
- The third section uses writing exercises to test your ability to develop a central idea, synthesize concepts and ideas, and present cohesive and logical ideas.
- The fourth section assesses knowledge of basic concepts in biology and biologically-related chemistry areas.

Students under the premedical option are encouraged to dedicate their first five semesters to taking courses related to MCAT tested areas, particularly English and the natural sciences. Courses in areas not emphasized, such as advanced courses in your major should be left for the last two years of college.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

A significant factor in evaluating medical school applicants is the quality of recommendation letters from faculty members. It is advisable not to wait until the time of application to medical school to ask for letters of recommendation.

If you do well in a course in which the professor is familiar with you and your work, ask him/her to write you a letter of recommendation and file it away until you are ready to apply to medical school. This not only saves time during the application process, but also ensures your professors fully remember your achievements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Office of Admissions
Indiana University School of Medicine
Fesler Hall 213
1120 South Drive
Indianapolis, In 46202-5113
(317) 274-3772
www.medicine.iu.edu

Or contact an advisor:
University College
(317) 274-4856

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