

CLAS Academic Advising Center

Academic advising for students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Call Us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us On-line: www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising

Medical School Fact Sheet

What medical degree can I earn?

M.D. = Doctor of Allopathic Medicine **OR** D.O. = Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
M.D. and D.O. doctors can practice in the same specialty areas and can practice internationally. Explore the fit of each philosophy prior to choosing which programs you plan to apply.

Where can I find additional information about M.D. vs. D.O.?

- Association of American Medical Colleges (MD applicants) www.aamc.org
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (DO applicants) www.aacom.org

What major and pre-requisites are required for medical school?

You can major in anything as long as you fulfill the pre-requisites for medical school.

The following courses are strongly recommended as preparation for the MCAT and Medical School:

BIO 120: General Biology I	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I
BMS 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II
BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver)	CHM 241: Organic Chem for Life Sciences I
BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab	CHM 242: Organic Chem for Life Sciences II
BMS 290/291: Human Physiology w/lab	CHM 461: Biochemistry I
PHY 220: General Physics I	PSY 101: Introductory Psychology
PHY 221: General Physics II	

*****Please note that pre-requisites may vary from school to school. Do your research to make sure that you have met the pre-requisites for the medical schools to which you intend to apply. See your faculty advisor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center for assistance in choosing elective courses.***

What entrance exam is required and what GPA do I need?

MCAT	GPA
<p>You will need to take The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). Traditionally, applicants take the exam at least one year before starting medical school. The test is scored between 1-15 for Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, and Biological Sciences and the writing portion is scored between a J (lowest) and T (highest). The total maximum score is a 45 T.</p> <p>The 2010 national average accepted MCAT Score for M.D. Schools is 31. For D.O. Schools it is 26.</p>	<p>To gain entrance to medical school, usually a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA of 3.0 is required. No grade below a C is allowed for pre-requisite courses. The 2010 national average for M.D. admission is 3.65 and the national average for D.O. admission is 3.47.</p>

What do I need to do to be a competitive applicant to medical school?

Besides a strong GPA and MCAT score, medical schools look for the following:

- ✓ Medically related Clinical Volunteer/Work Experiences (i.e. physician shadowing, volunteering or working at local hospitals, clinics, hospices, nursing homes, etc.) as demonstration of your motivation for a career in medicine
 - See <http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/medical-school--md-17.htm> for a list of doctors in the area
- ✓ Extracurricular Activities www.gvsu.edu/studentlife/stuey
 - Pre-Medical Club; Pre-SOMA (Osteopathic or DO) Club; and other clubs of interest
- ✓ Community service www.gvsu.edu/service (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates)
- ✓ Research experience www.gvsu.edu/ours; Departmental Websites: Listing of research by faculty member and discipline
- ✓ Strong letters of recommendation

* Keep a journal of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application. Include dates, hours, supervisors, and what you took away from the experience. This can also include awards and honors. Remember that while participating in various activities, you are a GVSU ambassador and should act professionally. At all times and in all ways, make sure that you are proud to be a Laker and appropriately represent GVSU for both yourself and your fellow Lakers who will follow after you.

Want more information?

- **Subscribe to the Pre-med listserv to continue to receive helpful information while you are enrolled at GVSU**
 - To subscribe:
 1. Email listserv@listserv.gvsu.edu
 2. In the body of the email (leave the subject line blank) write: *Subscribe premed20XX*
(NOTE 1: there is no space in the address; NOTE 2: 20XX: Use the year you hope to begin medical school)
 3. Send the email. You will receive a response that includes a welcome message and instructions.
- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor
- Reference the [CLAS Academic Advising Center](#) Suggested Timeline/Checklist for a listing of items you should do each year at GVSU to help you prepare for your application to medical school
- Plan to also attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center (workshops in Writing Personal Statements, the Application Process, getting Healthcare experience, etc.) to assist you through this process while at GVSU. Log on to your Blackboard site and click on CLAS Academic Advising Center under MyOrganizations.

Sample Medical School Curriculum	
Years 1 & 2	Instruction in: anatomy, biochemistry, genetics, physiology, cell biology, microbiology, immunology, neurosciences, pathology, pharmacology Clinical skills
Years 3 & 4	Clerkships/Rotations (family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, psychiatry, surgery, electives)
Post Graduation	Residency/Internships/Fellowships: Time varies with specialty

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