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. physicians can practice in the same specialty areas; both can practice internationally. Explore the fit of each philosophy in your preparation for medical school application.

- Nationally in 2017, there were 49,990 applicants for M.D. programs; 20,840 were accepted; 19,752 enrolled
- Nationally in 2017, there were 20,836 applicants for D.O. programs for 7,317 seats.

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

- Association of American Medical Colleges (M.D. applicants)  www.aamc.org
  - You can also follow @AAMCPreMed on Twitter, and “like” AAMC Pre-Med on Facebook!
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O. applicants)  www.aacom.org
  - You can also follow @AACOMmunities on Twitter, and “like” AACOM on Facebook!

You can choose any major you would like as long as you fulfill the prerequisites for medical school.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIO 120: General Biology I</th>
<th>CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I (PRQ: MTH 110)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Or CMB 155+156 Intro to Cell &amp; Molecular Biology with a research-based lab</td>
<td>CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II (PRQ: MTH 122)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 375/376: Genetics w/lab</td>
<td>CHM 241: Organic Chemistry for Life Sciences I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or BIO 355: Human Genetics</td>
<td>CHM 242: Organic Chemistry for Life Sciences II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 208: Human Anatomy</td>
<td>CHM 461: Biochemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver)</td>
<td>PHY 220: General Physics I (PRQ: MTH 122+MTH 123)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab</td>
<td>PHY 221: General Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 290/291: Human Physiology w/lab</td>
<td>PSY 101: Introductory Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other suggested courses:

BIO 328, CMB 405, BMS 450, BMS 410, BMS 460, other upper-level BMS “-ology” courses, CIS 150, COM 201, STA 215, MTH 201, AHS 100, more PSY/SOC courses

Please note that prerequisites vary and schools may or may not accept AP or community college credit for prerequisites. Research to make sure that you have met the prerequisites or competencies 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. Prerequisite courses typically require a C or better grade.

MCAT

Applicants traditionally take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) at least one year before starting medical school. The MCAT consists of four sections, each scored 118-132 (midpoint/50th percentile is 125):

- Chemical & Physical Foundations of Biological Systems
- Critical Analysis & Reasoning Skills
- Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
- Psychological, Social, & Biological Foundations of Behavior

A total score will be calculated, ranging from 472 to 528 (500 is the midpoint/50th percentile).

The national MCAT averages for applicants matriculating to medical school fluctuate minimally from year to year. Recently reported are:

- M.D. = 509 (80th percentile)
- D.O. = 503 (61st percentile)

GPA

To be considered for admission to medical school, a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA of 3.0 is typically required. All attempts of each course are counted in GPA calculations if a student has repeated courses.

For M.D. admission, a separate science GPA is calculated based on Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math (BCPM).

For D.O. admission, a separate science GPA is calculated on Biology, Chemistry, and Physics (BCP).

For both M.D. and D.O., a non-science GPA is also calculated, and trends in the GPA are considered as well.

The national GPA averages for applicants matriculating to medical school fluctuate minimally from year to year. Recently reported are:

- M.D. = 3.71 overall GPA and 3.64 BCPM GPA
- D.O. = 3.58 overall GPA and 3.33 BCP GPA
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
  - [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional) has a list of shadowing locations
- **Extracurricular and Leadership Activities**: visit [www.gvsu.edu/studentorg](http://www.gvsu.edu/studentorg) to begin searching for organizations to join at GVSU!
  - Pre-Medical Club, Pre-MD/PhD Club, Pre-SOMA (Students of Osteopathic Medicine Association), and other clubs of interest
- **Community service** [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service) (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates!)
- **Research experience** [www.gvsu.edu/ours](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours); Departmental Websites: Listing of research by faculty member and discipline
- **Strong letters of recommendation** - typically, students get letters from 3 faculty (two science, one non-science) & one practicing physician (preferably one whom you have observed or has observed you in a clinical setting)
- **Your ability to pass a criminal background check** (CBC). Medical schools will conduct a CBC before allowing admitted students to begin medical school.

*For more information on the Core Competencies medical schools are looking for in applicants, visit this link:* [https://www.staging.aamc.org/initiatives/admissionsinitiative/competencies/](https://www.staging.aamc.org/initiatives/admissionsinitiative/competencies/)

Some certificate programs at GVSU that can help you attain these core competencies are Medical and Health Humanities, Human Rights, and Intercultural Training. The Research Scholar Designation is another way to demonstrate some of these competencies.

*Keep a journal* of your experiences, awards, and honors so you have accurate records for your application; you can use the “Service Tracker” at [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service) if you would like. Include dates, hours, supervisors, and what you took away from the experience. Remember that while participating in various activities, you are a GVSU ambassador and should act professionally.

GVSU has Early Assurance Programs with the following MD programs: Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University. For more details, see a pre-professional advisor and visit [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/eap](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/eap)

For more information:

Subscribe to the Pre-Medical google group to receive helpful information while you are at GVSU. To join follow the instructions below:

1. Sign into your GVSU student e-mail
2. Send message to “premedical+subscribe@mail.gvsu.edu” > leave everything else blank
3. Look for message in GVSU student e-mail with subject “Join request for premedical”
4. Open the “Join request email” and click the blue “Join This Group” button
   a. If adding from a mobile device you must click desktop version in the footer after clicking “Join This Group”
5. Welcome message will appear confirming you have been added to the group. Be sure to click on Join this Group button after reviewing group information.

To schedule an appointment with a Pre-Medical Advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center, visit [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising) and click on “Schedule Appointment”