

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 2020, there were 53,030 applicants, who averaged 17 applications each, for M.D. programs; 22,239 matriculated.
- Nationally in 2020, there were 22,708 applicants for D.O. programs and 8,280 matriculated.
- **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:

BIO 120: General Biology I Or CMB 155+156 Intro to Cell & Molecular Biology with a research-based lab	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I (PRQ: MTH 110)
BIO 375/376: Genetics w/lab Or BIO 355: Human Genetics	CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II (PRQ: MTH 122)
BMS 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 241: Organic Chemistry for Life Sciences I
BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver)	CHM 242: Organic Chemistry for Life Sciences II
BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab	CHM 461: Biochemistry I
BMS 290/391: Human Physiology w/lab	PHY 220: General Physics I (PRQ: MTH 122+MTH 123)
	PHY 221: General Physics II
	PSY 101: Introductory Psychology
	SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology

Other suggested courses:

BIO 328, CHM 463, 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.= 511 (84th percentile)**
- **D.O.= 504 (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.= 3.73** overall GPA and **3.65** BCPM GPA
- **D.O.= 3.57** overall GPA and **3.50** BCP GPA

Besides a strong GPA and MCAT score, medical schools do a holistic review and will heavily weigh:

- **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 has a list of shadowing locations
- **Extracurricular and Leadership Activities:** Join Laker Link: <https://gvsu.campuslabs.com/engage> 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 (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-** 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://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/core-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 track service hours on “Laker Link” (<https://gvsu.campuslabs.com/engage>) 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 programs: Central Michigan University (MD), Michigan State University CHM (MD), Michigan State University COM (DO), and Wayne State University. For more details, see a pre-professional advisor and visit www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/eap. Additionally, GVSU has an Early Decision Program with Western Michigan University (MD) program. TO learn more, visit med.wmich.edu/node/298.

Also follow us on social media!  **YouTube** [GVSU Pre-Professional Programs](#)

 | **Instagram** [@gvsupreprofessionaladvising](#)

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