



GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER

616.331.8585 | www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising | C-1-120 MAK

## 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 2024, there were 51,946 applicants, who averaged 18.6 applications each, for M.D. programs; 23,156 matriculated.
- Nationally in 2024, there were 22,107 applicants for D.O. programs and 9,631 matriculated.

Association of American Medical Colleges (M.D. applicants) [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O. applicants) [www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)

### 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 BIO 375/376: Genetics w/lab OR BIO 355: Human Genetics BMS 208: Human Anatomy BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver) BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab BMS 290/391: Human Physiology w/lab	CHM 125/126: Principles of Chemistry I CHM 127/128: Principles of Chemistry II CHM 235/236: Organic Chem for Life Sci. I CHM 237/238: Organic Chem for Life Sci. II CHM 461: Biochemistry I PHY 220: General Physics I (PRQ: MTH 122+MTH 123) PHY 221: General Physics II PSY 101: Introductory Psychology SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology
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Other suggested courses: BIO 328, CHM 463, CMB 405, BMS 450, BMS 410, BMS 460, other upper-level BMS "-ology" courses, COM 201, STA 215, MTH 201, AHS 100, more PSY/SOC and ENG/WRT courses

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 mentor 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/50<sup>th</sup> 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 (500/501 is the midpoint/50<sup>th</sup> percentile).

The national MCAT averages for applicants matriculating to medical school fluctuate minimally from year to year.

Recently reported are:

- M.D. = 511 (82<sup>nd</sup> percentile)
- D.O. = 502 (55<sup>th</sup> 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.

The national GPA averages for applicants matriculating to medical school fluctuate minimally from year to year.

Recently reported are:

- M.D. = 3.79 overall GPA and 3.73 BCPM GPA
- D.O. = 3.57 overall GPA and 3.47 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
  - See [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional) for shadowing recommendations as well as the Healthcare Volunteering & Experience Guide
- **Extracurricular and Leadership Activities:** visit [www.gvsu.edu/studentorg](http://www.gvsu.edu/studentorg) to begin searching for organizations to join at GVSU!
  - [Pre-Med Club](#) and other clubs of interest
- **Community service** [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service)
- **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://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/core-competencies/>

The Medical and Health Humanities Certificate, Intercultural Communications Certificate, and the Research Scholar Designation are great ways to attain competencies professional schools are looking for in applicants.

**Track your experiences.** Create a copy of our Preprofessional Action Plan document ([www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/actionplan](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/actionplan)) to log information you will need for your application process. This document has tabs for many items including your academic plan, experiences and hours, GPA calculators, potential letter writers, important contact info and more.

GVSU has **Early Assurance Programs** with the following MD programs: Central Michigan University, Michigan State University CHM, and Wayne State University. For more details, see a preprofessional advisor and visit [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/eap](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/eap). Additionally, GVSU has an Early Decision Program with Western Michigan University (MD) program. To learn more, visit <https://wmed.edu/wmedstart>.

#### **Want more information?**

- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty mentor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor.
- Plan to attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center to assist you through this process while at GVSU.
- Check out summer programs like the Summer Health Professions Education Program: [www.shpep.org](http://www.shpep.org)
- Visit our pre-med website, <https://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/premed>, for more resources!

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

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

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