

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.

- In 2016, there were 53,042 applicants for M.D. programs for 21,030 seats nationally.
- In 2016, there were 20,720 applicants for D.O. programs for 6,592 seats nationally.

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 @AACOMunities 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	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I (PRQ: MTH 110)
BIO 375/376: Genetics w/lab	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 290/291: Human Physiology w/lab	PSY 101: Introductory Psychology
PHY 220: General Physics I (PRQ: MTH 122+MTH 123)	SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology
PHY 221: General Physics II	

Other suggested courses:

BIO 328, CMB 405, BMS 450, BMS 410, BMS 460, other upper-level BMS 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. = 508.7 (77th percentile)**
- **D.O. = 502.17 (57th percentile)**

GPA

To be considered for admission to medical school, a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA of 3.0 is typically required.

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. All attempts of each course are counted in GPA calculations if a student has repeated courses.

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

Recently reported are:

- **M.D. = 3.70** overall GPA and **3.64** BCPM GPA
- **D.O. = 3.54** overall GPA and **3.45** 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
 - <http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional> has a list of shadowing locations
- ✓ Extracurricular and Leadership Activities: www.orgsync.com –sign up and create your profile today 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- rule of thumb is 3 faculty who have taught you in class (two science, one non-science) & one practicing physician (preferably one who 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/>

Two Certificate programs at GVSU that can help you attain these core competencies are Medical and Health Humanities and one in Intercultural Training. The Research Scholar Designation is another way to demonstrate some of these competencies.

* **Keep a journal** of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application; you can use the “Service Tracker” at www.gvsu.edu/service if you would like. 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.

Want more information?

- Subscribe to the Pre-med listserv to continue to receive helpful information while you are at GVSU
To subscribe: **please make sure to use PLAIN text, not HTML! It doesn't always work with your phone!**
 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, for example, Subscribe premed2020)
 3. Send the email. You will receive a response that includes a welcome message and instructions.
- The **AAMC Pre-med Navigator** is a monthly email that includes relevant information, resources, tools, tips, and important dates for pre-med students at every stage of their journey to medical school. Learn more and subscribe here: <http://students-residents.aamc.org/navigator>
- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor
- Reference <https://students-residents.aamc.org/choosing-medical-career/medical-school-101/getting-medical-school/> to see a suggested timeline and other tips on Getting Into Medical School
- Plan to also attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center to assist you through this process while at GVSU. Log on to your Blackboard site and click on CLAS Academic Advising Center under My Organizations to view recordings of previous workshops.

Follow the Pre-Professional Blog! <https://preprofessionallakers.wordpress.com>