

Pre-Medical Requirements

Introduction: This information is based on the general requirements of (>50%) medical schools across the nation. It will be up to each student to research schools of interest and to finalize any remaining requirements.

- It is strongly advised that students take every course tested on the MCAT (marked with *).
- Medical schools do not require any particular major. Students should select a major based on academic strengths and interests.
- If you are in the Honors program, you may want to consider taking Honors level prerequisites.
- Each student should develop an academic plan based on their investigation of medical school requirements and the requirements for their degree. Students start their research with the [Pre-Med Coursework](#) chart provided by the AAMC.
- A draft of your academic plan needs to be reviewed with your advisor from your major.

Required by MOST Medical Schools

Chemistry: 2 Semesters

*CHEM 1031 + CHEM 1033
*CHEM 1032 + CHEM 1034

Organic Chemistry: 2 Semesters

*CHEM 2201 + CHEM 2203
*CHEM 2202 + CHEM 2204

***Tested on the MCAT**

Biology: 2 Semesters

*BIOL 1111
*BIOL 1112 or 2112

Physics: 2 Semesters

Physics requirement dictated by major. Content covered in PHYS 1021 / 22 is recommended for the MCAT.

*PHYS 1021 (or 1061 or 2021)
*PHYS 1022 (or 1062 or 2022)

To look up courses please navigate the [bulletin](#).

Required by SOME Medical Schools

Math: 2 Semesters

Math requirements vary greatly. Some schools recommend Calculus or Statistics while others need just 2 semesters of college-level math.

MATH 1041

MATH 1042

MATH 1044, PSY 1003, SOC 1167, BIOL 3312, EPBI 2219

English: 2 Semesters

Some schools consider any writing intensive course.

IH may not necessarily count as an English course for all programs. Please contact schools of interest for more information.

***Tested on the MCAT**

Social Sciences: 2 Semesters

*PSY 1001 or PSY 1901
*SOC 1576 (or 1176, or 1976)

Upper-Level Sciences:

Refer to schools of interest to determine if any additional sciences are required. Recommended courses below:

*Biochemistry: CHEM 3401, 4401 or BIOL 4375

Genetics: BIOL 2207+2297

Cell Structure and Function: BIOL 3096 or BIOL 3204

Mammalian Anatomy: BIOL 2233

Mammalian Physiology: BIOL 3334

Sample Timeline

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer
Year 1	Chemistry I	Chemistry II Biology I	<i>Exposure to Medicine Community Service</i>
Year 2	Organic Chemistry I Biology II	Organic Chemistry II Psychology Sociology	<i>Continue Volunteering Research</i>
Year 3	Physics I Biochemistry MCAT Prep	Physics II MCAT Prep	<i>MCAT Exam by May/June (latest August) Apply to Medical School by May/June Secondary Applications</i>
Year 4	Any Additional Requirements <i>Medical School Interview</i>	Any Additional Requirements <i>Medical School Interview</i>	<i>Take a break before Medical School!</i>

This timeline is an example of how you may wish to take courses in a perfect world. **The timing of these courses may change due to placement exams or major requirements.** In addition to these courses, each student will fit in any classes required by their major. Develop an academic plan based on the sequence above that is tailored to your profile/needs so you and your advisor can discuss your plan.

Visit [Temple's bulletin](#) to view the availability and prerequisites of each course.

ePortfolio

ePortfolio is a tool that will help students stay organized for a professional school application. Through the ePortfolio process, students will set up this 'mock application' that includes GPAs and professional development experiences. **ePortfolio drafts are due to PPHA June 30th two years before students plan to enter professional school.** Competitive students who complete the ePortfolio are considered for an interview by the Pre-Professional Health Evaluation Committee. Interviewed students will be offered a committee letter of recommendation which will need to include additional letters sent to PPHA to forward to professional schools as they apply.

The circle to the right represents four areas that are important for admission to professional school. As you embark on your journey to medical school, think about ways to enhance each of these four sections.



Applying to Medical School

Application Process: A centralized application service is available through the American Medical College Application Service ([AMCAS](#)) for MD granting schools or the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service ([AACOMAS](#)) for DO granting schools. Applications are submitted one year before students expect to enter medical school and are available for submission in early June. Schools view applicants on a rolling basis – apply early when the application opens!

Undergraduate Major: There is no preferred major for medical school. Students should select a major that they find interesting and consider an academic strength.

GPA: Medical schools will consider both a student's overall and math/science GPA. Math/science GPA is calculated using scores from any course taken in the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math (*some Neuroscience courses can also be included*). **An overall and math/science GPA of 3.5 or above is preferred. GPAs below 3.0 will need to consider Post-Baccalaureate coursework / programs before applying.**

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT): The following subjects are tested on the MCAT: **Biology, Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics, Biochemistry, Psychology, Sociology.** Any courses in these areas should be completed prior to taking the exam. This test is often taken the same summer in which the student applies to professional school (one year before walking through the doors of medical school). A test date in May would allow a student to see their scores before applying when the application opens in June. Remember, take time to prepare for the exam. The latest you should take it is by the last week of August of the year before you expect to enter medical school.

Professional Development: Medical schools will first review your numbers (overall GPA, Math/Science GPA, MCAT scores). If these are in a competitive range, they will then assess your extracurricular and volunteer experiences. Exposure to Medicine, community service, and research encompass an important part of your preparation for medical school. Demonstrated experiences in healthcare, clinical health settings in particular, need to be a part of your profile for future admission.

Letters of Recommendation: If you are applying to medical schools, you will request up to 6 letters of recommendation to be sent to the application service. We recommend you have at least 1 academic science letter (*two preferred*), 1 non science academic letter, and a letter from a professional in the field. Medical Schools will highly prefer a Committee Letter (a Committee Letter from PPHA serves as a cover letter for your individual letters from faculty and mentors). A Committee Letter **will not replace** the need to have other recommendation letters! A Committee Letter will, however, better highlight your strengths as an applicant. Begin to consider letter writers early. Letters may be submitted to PPHA from letter writers directly by using the "[Letter of Recommendation Form](#)" on the PPHA Canvas site.

Additional Resources:

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC): www.aamc.org

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM): www.aacom.org

[AAMC Anatomy of an Applicant | AAMC Aspiring Docs](#)

[AACOM Choose DO](#)