

Pre-Med Quick Facts



Pre-Health Advising
Pre-Professional Advising Office
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Average Matriculant Numbers

- Overall GPA: 3.7
- Science GPA: 3.7
- MCAT: 510; ~85th Percentile

You should prepare for a career in medicine by building credentials in scholarship, leadership, humanitarian/community service, and by shadowing in the various settings of the profession. There is **no “best” major** for pre-medical students. Instead, you are encouraged to pursue a major you are genuinely interested in as that will help you excel. Remember to consult a pre-health advisor about your individual plan.

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

Advised Pre-MCAT

Biology BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L

General Chemistry CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L

Organic Chemistry CHEM 2211/L

Physics PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212

Biochemistry BCMB 3100 or BCMB 4010 & 4020

Statistics STAT 2000 or BIOS 2010

Recommended Pre-MCAT

Physiology VPHY 3100, PMCY 3000, CBIO 3710

Genetics GENE 3200

Psychology PSYC 1101

Sociology SOCI 1101

The MCAT is required for admission into medical school and is offered multiple times per year at a cost of \$320. You should plan to take the exam only once. You may retake the exam if you believe your score doesn't accurately reflect your knowledge –i.e. if it is significantly different than what you have consistently scored on practice exams. However, retakes are limited and should be considered very carefully. You will receive your score a month after the exam date. If you have time in your schedule, take the recommended pre-MCAT courses as they will be very helpful for the exam.

You should plan to take 5-6 full length practice exams (~\$40 each) since this is the best way to prepare and to gauge your progress. Commercial prep courses (~\$2000) can provide structure for studying, but you can succeed on the MCAT without them.

Required Courses and GPA Expectations

DISCLAIMER: This is not a definitive list of the classes you will need for every school. Always check with the individual schools to see their specific requirements regarding coursework and AP/IB credit.

If you wish to enter a medical program, you will need to have both a strong science and strong overall GPA. Admissions committees also look for trends on transcripts—so all is not lost if you stumble in your first semester or two, but then show substantial improvement each subsequent year. However, they will also notice negative trends such as if you consistently withdraw from or perform poorly in hard science courses or if you take many courses away from UGA. While an instance or two is not a deal-breaker, a pattern of behavior should be avoided. You must demonstrate the ability to handle difficult scientific content.

Science GPA Calculations (MD v. DO)

M.D. programs via the AMCAS application use the **BCMP** GPA, which takes into account biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics courses. All attempts at a course will be included in the GPA calculation.

D.O. programs via the AACOMAS application use the **BCP** GPA, which only includes biology, chemistry, and physics courses. As of the 2017 application cycle, all attempts at a course will be included in the GPA calculation.

Shadowing

You are expected to spend time **shadowing** a physician to experience the “doctor/patient” interaction, and should plan to begin shadowing as soon as possible. This experience demonstrates that you understand the profession, but there is no specific hour requirement. While it is helpful to shadow a specialty that you are interested in, any physician shadowing is better than none. You should try to get a variety of experiences with physicians in various fields in order to have an understanding of the breadth of the medical profession. Ideally, you should build a good relationship with at least one M.D. or D.O. so that you may request a letter of evaluation. Shadowing means *hands-off observation only*.

Typical Medical Pre-Requisites

Biology BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L

General Chemistry CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L

Organic Chemistry CHEM 2211/L & 2212/L

Physics PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212

Biochemistry BCMB 3100 or BCMB 4010 & 4020

Volunteering & Research

Volunteering is an important part of the application that you should not neglect. Medical schools want to see depth of commitment and substantial involvement and leadership in the community. They are looking for students who not only demonstrate that they can perform well in rigorous courses, but also those who are compassionate, enjoy working with people and are dedicated to serving the community. Volunteering can be done in a clinical setting such as a hospital or hospice, but it can also be done with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Humane Society, or anything else that you are passionate about.

There are many benefits to getting involved in undergraduate **research**, and the majority of successful applicants to medical school do have research experience. You are highly encouraged to pursue research opportunities as early as freshman and sophomore year. You should plan to dedicate at least a year to a specific project or lab, and you must be able to discuss your research at various levels (“elevator speech” and in-depth). If you want to enter an M.D./Ph.D. program, you will need to be substantially more involved in research during your undergraduate career.

If you are not interested in research at all, you would be better served dedicating your time to other activities which you are passionate about such as volunteering or shadowing.

Letters of Evaluation

Most medical schools require at least three letters of evaluation, but specific requirements do vary between schools. Ideally, you should try to get two letters from hard science faculty since this is a common requirement. Research mentors do not always count for these letters since some schools draw a distinction between mentorship and classroom instruction. Regardless, you should always plan to include a letter from your research mentor.

At UGA, it can be difficult to build a close relationship with faculty since many of the science courses are large lectures. You must be mindful of this and do your best to foster a strong relationship with faculty to be able to request a letter.

A letter from an M.D. or D.O. is strongly encouraged as is a letter from a non-science faculty member. For additional letters, ask someone who will write the most compelling letter (volunteer coordinator, other faculty, employer, etc.). Most students include 4-6 letters in their application, but you are allowed a maximum of 10 for M.D. and 6 for D.O.

Medical School Application Timeline

Freshman & Sophomore Year	
Build credentials for medical school: shadow, volunteer, do research, build relationships with faculty, etc. Do not wait until junior year to begin!	
Junior Year	
Fall	Continue shadowing, doing research, volunteering, etc. Register for Spring MCAT dates in October.
Jan - May	Study for the MCAT
Feb/March/April	Write Personal Statement Ask for Letters of Evaluation (give letter-writers at least a month to compose)
April/May/June	Take MCAT
May	Begin completing AMCAS or AACOMAS application
Summer	
June	Submit AMCAS/AACOMAS (submit as soon as possible – even if MCAT score or LOEs are not in)
June/July	Prepare for secondary applications (look online for previous year’s questions)
July/August	Complete secondary applications (within 2 weeks of receiving them)
Senior Year	
Fall	Interview (beginning late August/early September through Spring) Continue shadowing, doing research, volunteering, etc.
Spring	Graduate