

Pre-MEDICINE

Transfer Major Advisement

Students are responsible for the current major requirements. This guide sheet is based upon university course articulation and catalog information at the time of publication, and is subject to change without notice. It is advisable to consult with a counselor once a semester for any changes and review www.assist.org for new information.

There is no "Pre-Medicine" major at the university. Medical school admission requirements vary from school to school. Students are admitted to Medical School based on: their cumulative GPA; their GPA in course prerequisites required for medical school (science courses) during their baccalaureate program (and Master's program if they completed one); their scores on the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test); and their extra-curricular and research involvement. Experience, either volunteer or paid, in health related fields is usually given some extra credit. The academic reputation of the university from which students graduate is a small factor in the evaluation process.

There are five medical schools within the UC system: Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco. Please visit the UC website for additional information: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/health/schools.html>. The three private California medical schools are: University of Southern California (Keck School of Medicine), Stanford University School of Medicine, and Loma Linda University School of Medicine. For additional U.S. Medical Schools information please visit: www.aamc.org.

The student's major is not a factor provided that a good foundation in the sciences is evident from the transcript. The science preparation is also essential for achieving a good score on the MCAT. Students may select a major that is based on the Biological Sciences since many of the courses are the same as those required for admission. However, medical schools want the applicants to be well rounded educationally with good language and writing skills, and sufficient exposure to the social sciences and humanities. Students do not need to major in any particular major.

The competition for admission to medical school continues to be intense and only the applicants with excellent GPA's, very high MCAT scores and outstanding resumes are accepted.

Listed below are the prerequisite courses that are required for most schools and can be taken at Irvine Valley College to provide a science foundation for medicine. Also, regardless of the major chosen and the university selected, students should try to complete as many lower division general education courses as possible before transferring. See an IVC counselor for admission information pertaining to a particular university.

Recommended Science Courses:

1 year Intro Biology w/lab	BIO 6/6L, BIO 5
1 year General Chemistry	CHEM 1AB
1 year Organic Chemistry	CHEM 12AB
1 year Physics w/lab	PHYS (2AB) or (4AB preferred)

Additional Courses:

Mathematics	MATH 3AB*
Statistics	MATH 10
English/Writing	WR 1, 2
Social Sciences	8 units
Humanities	from a variety of disciplines

*Note: Some medical schools may not require an entire year of calculus.

From [UC Davis website](#) - 7/11/08

<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/medschool/education/prospective.html>

Becoming a doctor

Taking the Right Classes

Academic preparation for medical school begins with selecting courses that meet the premedical requirements as an undergraduate in college. Although each medical school independently decides upon its own premedical requirements course list, most schools will require the courses listed below. Note: various medical schools require some additional courses as well. For the most accurate list of courses required by individual schools, check with the school's admissions office or Web site. A good resource manual for obtaining this information is the most current edition of the Medical School Admission Requirements published by the Association of American Medical Colleges, www.aamc.org.
Premedical Requirements for Most U.S. Medical Schools

- 1 year of chemistry (with laboratory)
- 1 year of organic chemistry (with laboratory)
- 1 year of biology (with laboratory)
- 1 year of physics (with laboratory)
- 1 year of English
- 1 year of calculus*

*Note: Some medical schools may not require an entire year of calculus.

Also, some schools will require or strongly encourage additional coursework in the sciences or humanities. When choosing courses, be sure to seek the help of a premedical adviser in order to be sure that you are taking the correct course series, e.g. short calculus versus engineering calculus.

Choosing the Best Major

What is the best major for premedical students? The answer is: there is no best major. Choose a major that you find most interesting, challenging and satisfying. You should study subjects that you really enjoy, and avoid choosing a major because it might "look good" on your application. No points are given for the major that you choose, however, you will probably perform better in a major that captures your interests. Many students choose to major in the biological sciences because the requirements for a biology degree are very similar to medical school admission requirements. Don't be fooled, however. If you truly enjoy studying material outside of the sciences, i.e. humanities, social sciences, ethnic studies, foreign languages, etc., college will be the best time for you to study these subjects. If you decide to pursue a non-science major, then your strong performance in the premedical requirements will be crucial.

Important for Community College Students

If you complete all of your premedical requirements at community college, it may be in your best interest to take several upper-division science classes at the four-year institution to which you transfer. Performing well in upper-division science courses further demonstrates your ability to handle the rigorous science-based coursework found in medical school. If you are not a science major, it may still be important for you to take additional science courses beyond the minimum requirements to further support application to medical school.

For additional information about these and other universities' related disciplines please see:
ASSIST.org → EXPLORING MAJORS → MAJORS

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