

# IUPUI University College

## Information for Pre Med Students

The following pre-med courses are the minimum required by medical schools:

- General Chemistry - two semesters each of lecture & lab  
CHEM-C 105 & C 125 Principles of Chemistry I  
(P: high school chemistry and 2 years high school algebra)

*and*

CHEM-C 106 & C 126 Principles of Chemistry II  
(P: CHEM C 105 & C 125)

- Organic Chemistry\* - two semesters lecture and minimum one semester lab

CHEM-C 341 Organic Chemistry Lecture I  
(P: CHEM-C 106)

*and*

CHEM-C 343 Organic Chemistry Laboratory I  
(P: CHEM-C 341)  
CHEM-C 342 Organic Chemistry Lecture II  
(P: CHEM-C 341)

\*NOTE: CHEM-C 344 Organic Chemistry Laboratory II is not required by IU School of Medicine, but may be by other medical schools.

- Biology - two semesters with lab

BIOL-K 101 Concepts of Biology I  
(P: high school or college chemistry)

*and*

BIOL-K 103 Concepts of Biology II  
(P: BIOL-K 101)

- Biochemistry

BIOL-K 483 OR CHEM-C 484 & C 485  
(P: CHEM-C 342)

- Physics - two semesters with lab

PHYS-P 201 General Physics I  
(P: MATH 15900 or equivalent)

*and*

PHYS-P 202 General Physics II  
(P: PHYS-P 201)

- Psychology/Sociology/Behavioral Science  
Two semesters

In addition to satisfying coursework requirements, applicants must present the following credentials in order to be considered for admission to medical school:

- Bachelor's degree in any major
- Better than average grades in all courses
- Better than average scores on the Medical College

Admissions Test (MCAT)

- Favorable faculty recommendations
- Positive impressions in a personal interview
- Exploration of medicine through shadowing physicians, or work, or observation in a clinical setting
- Involvement in extracurricular activities, including community service or volunteerism

Many medical schools have additional requirements. If you have a specific school in mind other than Indiana University Medical School, it would be helpful to check the Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR) book located in the reference section of most libraries.

### HOW MEDICAL SCHOOLS SELECT STUDENTS

The most important standards for admission to medical school are the applicant's grade point average and the MCAT scores. Medical schools are concerned with the quality of the applicant's work as well as the pattern of work. Because pre-med is not a major and students generally do their best when they do things they like, we recommend that you choose a major that matches your intellectual interests. It is not uncommon for pre-med students to major in disciplines outside of the sciences.

In addition to your core and major requirements, you may have a number of elective courses to choose. The number of these electives will vary depending on the school from which you are seeking a degree. Electives are important because you can use them to obtain a second major, to supplement your primary major, or to explore other interests. Careful selection of electives, with help from your advisor, will better prepare you for medical school.

A well-considered career decision is also vital. By immersing yourself in community service and health related volunteer opportunities, you are able to see more clearly the interpersonal qualities needed to be an effective resource for patients. Reflecting on and writing about these experiences deepens their value and better prepares you for your application to medical school, your training and your career.

Although the Indiana University School of Medicine does not require a certain GPA for application, it is in your best interest to achieve at least a 3.2 GPA. Indiana residents with a cumulative 3.2 science and overall GPA, and a 26 MCAT with no individual score below 7 are eligible for an interview. Students who have below a 3.0 GPA may be considered on an individual basis.

## THE MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TEST (MCAT)

You should complete all of the required courses for medical school before taking the MCAT. The MCAT should be taken by the spring of the year you intend to start your application. How you plan your academic program, select your courses, use resources, and prepare yourself can determine how well you will do on the MCAT. The MCAT is a standardized, multiple choice exam covering fundamental knowledge, critical thinking, and problem solving in biology, basic inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry and physics. A verbal reasoning section examines critical thinking and problem solving in the humanities, social and natural sciences, and technology. The Writing Sample Section will be removed to make room for a voluntary Trial Section in 2013 and 2014. Beginning 2015, the exam will be re-formatted. Biochemistry content will be added and it will include social science and humanities competency as well as the current critical thinking and problem solving. Students under the premedical option are encouraged to develop an academic plan which will fit the individual's preparedness and goals; this should be done in consultation with an academic or health professions adviser. Whatever major is selected, students should plan to take upper level biology courses beyond the required classes in areas of interest. The primary application to medical school should be submitted in early summer.

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

A significant factor in evaluating medical school applicants is the quality of recommendation letters from faculty members. It is not advisable to wait until the time of application to medical school to ask for letters of recommendation. If you do well in a course in which the professor is familiar with you and your work, ask him/her she/he to write a letter of evaluation on your behalf, soon after the class ends. Set up your application account with AMCAS (American Medical Colleges Application Service) and arrange to have a letter of evaluation request sent to your writer. Collecting letters as you go not only saves time during the application process, but also ensures your professors fully remember you and your achievements.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Or contact an advisor:  
University College  
(317) 274-4856