

Path to Medicine

Medical doctors are highly trained professionals who examine patients, order diagnostic tests, make diagnoses and prescribe medications. Doctors can specialize in a variety of areas including pediatrics, internal medicine, neurology, orthopedics, emergency medicine, and surgery.

Though many students interested in medicine pursue a major in COSAM, a student can earn a degree in any major and attend medical school if the correct prerequisites are taken. Prerequisites vary by medical school, so students should identify those that pertain to the schools that interest them.

Students can choose to pursue a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree and/or a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree. DOs integrate a holistic approach to working with and diagnosing patients, while MDs focus on making diagnoses based on patient symptoms. However, both MDs and DOs implement the same tools, treatments, and technologies to practice medicine. After graduating from medical school, both MDs and DOs specialize in residency programs for four to seven years under the supervision of attending physicians.

Medical school admissions committees are comprehensive in their review of applicants. In addition to metrics, medical schools are interested in the experiences that students have had during their undergraduate careers. It is important that students communicate effectively, participate in community service activities, shadow a variety of physicians, interact with people from diverse backgrounds, and develop skills in teamwork and leadership. Research and medically related experiences are also highly valued by admissions committees.

Preparation Checklist

- Research programs that interest you.
- Shadow a variety of physicians.
- Volunteer with an organization that you like.
- Gain clinical experience.
- Develop core competencies.
- Get involved on campus.
- Take prerequisite courses.
- Maintain a strong overall and science GPA.
- Conduct undergraduate research.
- Take the MCAT.



Common Prerequisites

- General Biology I & II and Labs
- General Chemistry I & II and Labs
- Organic Chemistry I & II and Labs
- Biochemistry
- Physics I & II
- Math & Statistics
- English Comp I & II
- Behavioral & Social Science (Psychology Recommended)



Metrics

- Minimum GPA: 3.0
- Average GPA: 3.7
- MD Average MCAT: 509
- DO Average MCAT: 504



Standardized Tests

- MCAT
- Casper
- PREview



Helpful Organizations

- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)