Admission to medical school is highly competitive. The Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) is published annually by the Association of American Medical Colleges and is an excellent resource to help students interested in medical school. Educational philosophies and goals, undergraduate course requirements, and other admissions requirements vary by medical schools. However, they all stress the importance of a strong background in science, communication skills, and a breadth of knowledge in social science and humanities. Medical school usually takes four years of college to obtain the M.D. degree of which two years are dedicated to basic sciences and two years to clinical rotations. Residency can last anywhere from three to five years for sufficient clinical training. Some schools offer joint degrees such as MD/PhD, MD/MPH, or MD/MBA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOWER DIVISION SUBJECTS REQUIRED BY MOST U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOLS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One year of English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year of Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year of Inorganic (General) Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>One year of Organic Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>One year of Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>One year of Math</td>
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<tr>
<th>ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS RECOMMENDED BY MOST U.S. MEDICAL SCHOOLS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry, Genetics, Physiology, and Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Pass/No Pass.

Choosing an Undergraduate Major

“Pre-med” is not a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. Most medical schools do not require a specific degree in order to apply. Instead, they are looking for a well-rounded applicant who does well in the medical school admissions requirements. However, students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary. The majority of entering medical students have four years of college completed and a baccalaureate degree. However, students with only three years of undergraduate coursework could be accepted. Students applying to medical school need to plan carefully and complete not only the medical school admissions requirements, but also the requirements for their undergraduate major and the general education required by the undergraduate transfer institution.

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check the MSAR and medical schools for the most up-to-date information.
Medical School Selection Criteria

- Most schools require that you apply through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). Visit their website (see recommended websites section below) and become familiar with the policies, procedures, and expected turnaround times. Read the FAQ section carefully on their website.
- Completion of the prerequisite coursework listed on front.
- Bachelor’s Degree or 3 or more years of undergraduate coursework.
- GPA is a major factor in the selection process. Both overall college grades and science grades are considered.
- Score on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), a standardized, multiple-choice examination designed to assess problem solving, critical thinking, and writing skills in addition to the examinee’s knowledge of science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine.
- Research experience/community service/leadership
- Letters of recommendation from science faculty, non-science faculty, and a supervisor from relevant clinical experience, research, or relevant work.
- Interviews with faculty at the institutions to where you apply.

Recommended Websites

- American Medical College Application Service - www.amcas.org
- Association of American Medical Colleges - www.aamc.org
- MCAT information - www.aamc.org/students/mcat/
- MSAR information - www.aamc.org/students/applying/msar.htm
- Osteopathic Medicine - http://aacom.org
- Volunteer Medical School Advising - www.naahp.org
- Aspiring Docs Organization - www.aspringdocs.org

Select Medical School Websites

- Charles Drew Joint UCLA Program - www.cdrewu.edu
- Stanford University - http://med.stanford.edu/
- UC Davis School of Medicine - http://som.ucdavis.edu
- UC Irvine College of Medicine - www.ucihs.uci.edu
- UC Los Angeles Geffen School of Medicine - www.medstudent.ucla.edu
- UC San Diego School of Medicine - http://medicine.ucsd.edu
- UC San Francisco School of Medicine - http://medschool.ucsf.edu/
- USC Keck School of Medicine - www.usc.edu/schools/medicine

Programs Affiliated with UCLA Geffen School of Medicine

- Charles Drew Joint UCLA Program - www.cdrewu.edu
- UC Riverside/ UCLA Thomas Haider Program - www.biomed.ucr.edu

Academic Preparation Programs

- UCLA PREP - www.medstudent.ucla.edu/prospective/premedical/?pgID=181
- Summer Medical & Dental Education Prep - www.smdep.org/start.htm

Research Opportunities for Community College Students

- UCLA Undergraduate Research Center/Center for Academic and Research Excellence - www.college.ucla.edu/urc-care/progbridge1.htm
- USC Edmondson Summer Fellowship Program - www.usc.edu/schools/medicine/departments/pathology/education/summer_fellowship/

Clinical Experience

- Los Angeles Free Clinic (hands-on experience) - www.lafreeclinic.org
- Care Extenders Medical Internship - http://sites.google.com/site.careextendersprogram/

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