

MEDICINE

(ALLOPATHIC)

USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Office of Pre-Health Advisement

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ADVISING SHEET

Medicine is both an art and science. A physician's responsibilities cover a wide range of functions in the maintenance of health and the treatment of disease, including caring for patients with both acute and chronic conditions and promoting preventative approaches involving substantial patient education. These include diagnosing disease, supervising the care of patients, prescribing medications & other treatments, and participating in the improved delivery of health care. Admission to medical school is highly competitive. A degree in medicine requires four years of academic study of which two years are dedicated to the sciences and two years to clinical rotations.



Upon graduation, students enter residency programs that can last three to eight years depending on the medical specialty you choose to pursue. Training in family practice, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics can take three years; general surgery requires five years; and subspecialty training in disciplines such as plastic or neurological surgery may involve another two or three years. In addition, some medical schools offer joint degrees: MD/PHD, MD/MPH, MD/JD, or MD/MBA.

COMMON PRE-MED PREREQUISITE COURSES

Biology	One year of coursework with lab	BISC 120L & BISC 220L	OR	BISC 121L & BISC 221L
Chemistry	One year of coursework with lab	CHEM 105aL & CHEM 105bL	OR	CHEM115aL & CHEM115bL
Organic Chemistry	One year of coursework with lab	CHEM 322aL & CHEM 322bL	OR	CHEM 325aL & CHEM 325bL
Physics	One year of coursework with lab. <i>Please note: Undergraduate major may determine physics requirement.</i>	PHYS 135aLg & PHYS 135bL	OR	PHYS 151L & PHYS 152L
Mathematics	At least one semester of Math is generally required. Some schools require no math, whereas some require calculus, while others require calculus & statistics. <i>Statistics is highly recommended for the MCAT.</i>	Calculus: MATH 125g and/or MATH 126 Statistics: MATH 208x, BISC 305, HP 340, PSYC 274g or equivalent		
Biochemistry	One semester is strongly recommended but may be required by other Medical Schools. <i>Biochemistry is highly recommended for the MCAT.</i>	BISC 330L for science majors CHEM 350g (Fall) for non-science majors BISC 312 (Spring) for non-science majors		
English	One year is required for most medical schools in the country.	WRIT 150 and WRIT 340		
Social and Behavioral Science	Introductory psychology and sociology are <i>highly recommended for the MCAT.</i>	PSYC 100g and SOC 200gm, or SOC 210g, or SOC 242g, or SOC 360m, or SOC 475		

Additional subjects recommended by some U.S. Medical Schools. Please refer to the MSAR for specific information.

Molecular Biology, Genetics, Physiology, Microbiology	Advanced level sciences courses are desirable. Performing well in upper division sciences further demonstrates your ability to handle the rigorous science based curriculum found in medical school. Note: Physiology is recommended to prepare you for the MCAT.	BISC 320L, BISC 325, BISC 307L, BISC 300L, etc.		
Research Methods	A course in Scientific Inquiry and Reasoning Skills, which covers statistical analysis and design of research endeavors.	PSYC 240xg		
Foreign Language	Knowledge of a foreign language, specifically Spanish, is highly recommended by some schools.	Foreign language courses		

NOTE for the MCAT: In the past, medical schools have had a relatively simple set of required courses, which included: 2 semesters each of general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology and physics (each with corresponding labs), and English. A few schools also required/recommended biochemistry, math and/or statistics, or additional biology courses. However, the MCAT will require students to have, in addition to the above courses, a background in biochemistry, statistics, and introductory psychology and sociology

USCDornsife

Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Office of Pre-Health Advisement

University of Southern
California
Office of Pre-Health
Advisement
3641 Watt Way, HNB 120
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Tel: (213) 740-4844
Fax: (213) 740-5653

E-Mail:
prehealth@dornsife.usc.edu

Website:
<http://dornsife.usc.edu/pre-health>



Like us on FACEBOOK &
Instagram
[@USCPREHEALTH](#)

APPLICATION TIMELINE

The following outlines a **general** application timeline from pre-application to matriculation for any given application year

JANUARY

Purchase the online Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)

Research & request Medical school information

Consider enrolling in an MCAT prep course

Attend USC Application workshops

Apply for (AAMC) Fee Assistance Program if qualified.

Request letters of evaluation from evaluators

FEBRUARY

Register for the MCAT

Begin drafting personal statement

MARCH

Follow-up with letters of evaluation

APRIL-MAY

Take an MCAT at the latest in April, May or June.

Initiate primary AMCAS application

JUNE

Submit primary AMCAS application

Send official transcripts from all institutions attended.

April-June-last recommended MCAT sitting

JULY

Secondary/supplemental AMCAS application begin. Complete within 1-2 weeks within receiving them (ongoing).

AUGUST

By August 1st: Letters of Evaluation (LOE) should be submitted.

Secondary/supplemental applications (cont'd.)

Verify individual school deadlines

SEPTEMBER—DECEMBER

Secondary/supplemental applications (cont'd.)

Interviews/visit schools

October 15: First acceptances sent out by medical schools.

JANUARY—APRIL

Interviews/visit schools

MAY

May 15th: Last date to hold multiple acceptances.

MAY—JULY

Submit final transcripts

JULY-SEPTEMBER

Medical school begins, depending on school.

RESOURCES

AspiringDocs.org
[Association of American Medical Colleges \(AAMC\)](#)
[AAMC Applicants and Matriculates Data](#)
[AAMC Fee Assistance Program](#)
[AAMC Today Facebook page](#)
[AAMC Resources](#)
[American Medical College Application Service](#)
[Medical School Admission Requirements \(MSAR\)](#)
[MCAT 2019 Content](#)

This information is not comprehensive and should not be used as your only advising tool. Research each school and the MSAR for a complete list of requirements.