

## SO YOU WANT TO BE A DOCTOR?

For many, the pursuit of a career in medicine has been a longstanding aspiration. Some students enter college having known for many years of their desire to earn a medical degree. Other students come to the same realization much later in their academic careers.

There are two types of medical training programs that you can complete in order to become a practicing physician: allopathic medicine (MD) and osteopathic medicine (DO).

### PREREQUISITES:

NOTE: THERE ARE GENERAL PREREQUISITE COURSES THAT ALL MEDICAL SCHOOLS REQUIRE FOR ADMISSION; HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER COURSES THAT ARE NOT REQUIRED BY MEDICAL SCHOOLS, BUT ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITES OF THE SCHOOLS THAT YOU ARE MOST INTERESTED TO OBTAIN A CURRENT LIST OF UNDERGRADUATE REQUIREMENTS.

<b>Listed below are the courses at the University of Dubuque that students must complete to meet the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine's prerequisite course requirements for admission.</b>	
<b>Physics (8 credits)</b>	PHY 151 (MATH 112 is a prerequisite for this course.) and PHY 152
<b>Math*</b>	MATH 150 and/or MATH 230*
<b>Chemistry (8 credits)</b>	CHM 111 (MATH 112 is a prerequisite for this course.) and CHM 112
<b>Organic Chemistry (8 credits)</b>	CHM 221 (CHM 112 is a prerequisite for this course.) and CHM 222 (CHM 221 is a prerequisite for this course.)
<b>Biochemistry (4 credits)</b>	CHM 331 (CHM 222 is a prerequisite for this course.) *CHM 332 is Highly Recommended.
<b>Biological Sciences (8 credits)</b>	BIO 135 and at least 1 advanced BIO course such as Molecular, Cell, Micro., or Genetics.
<b>English (2 Courses)</b>	ENG 101 and ENG 112
<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences, Humanities (4 Courses)</b>	PSY 110, PSY 220/223/227, SOC 111, 1 Additional SB or HU course. (Candidates are encouraged to complete this requirement with courses that have a writing component.)
<i>If you choose not to major in one of the natural sciences, you may wish to include one or two additional science electives in your program of study if your schedule permits.</i>	
<i>*Math requirements may vary by school. UD students must take at least MATH 112 in order to take PHY 151/152, and Biology majors must take either MATH 150 or EVS 230. Competitive applicants will likely have taken an advanced math course, such as MATH 150 AND a Statistics course.</i>	

### EXAM AND GPA:

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT): The MCAT is a standardized examination that consists of multiple choice sections that assess your knowledge of natural and behavioral sciences. Starting in January 2015 (in addition to concepts from biology, general and organic chemistry, and physics that were tested in the past) the MCAT will also include material from biochemistry, basic research and statistics, and psychology and sociology concepts. Visit the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) website for more information regarding the MCAT.

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** Minimum GPA requirements vary from program to program, but MOST competitive applicants have a minimum 3.5 GPA overall and in their science courses.

## TIMELINE:

### Freshman Year:

- Connect with a Health Professions Advisor or Faculty Member.
- Start taking basic sciences (See chart above).
- Think about possible majors (Study what you love).
- Begin getting involved with volunteer opportunities (campus and community).
- Start medical experience (EMT, Scribe, Shadowing, etc).
- Look into getting involved in undergraduate research and talk to professors.
- Go to your professor's office hours.
- Join some student organizations.

### Sophomore Year:

- Continue with next sequence of courses.
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities (Medical, volunteer, etc).
- Begin to think about becoming an officer in your organizations.
- Begin research on professional schools, their requirements, and assess your competitiveness.
- Investigate MCAT preparation options.
- Identify MD or DO programs you are interested in.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** Keep working on the things you established your first year!!

### Junior Year:

- Talk to Health Professions advisor or faculty member to narrow program options and assess competitiveness (Fall semester).
- Register for the MCAT (Fall Semester).
- Study for MCAT and take MCAT(Spring/Summer).
- Identify 3 individuals to write letters of recommendation (Spring Semester).
- Complete Application (AMCAS and AACOMAS) (Spring Semester-Summer).
- Schedule a mock interview with Career Services.
- Keep working on the things you have established thus far.

### Senior Year:

- Submit Application(s) if you haven't already (Fall semester).
- Wait to be contacted for interview from medical schools.
- Continue with activities and professional experiences/shadowing.
- Talk with an advisor about Plan B if necessary.
- Finish degree requirements and GRADUATE!

## RESOURCES:

Association of American Medical Colleges Application Service (AMCAS) [Click Here](#)

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) [Click Here](#)

Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR) [Click Here](#)

Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) Registration [Click Here](#)