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## Medical School Fact Sheet

### What medical degree can I earn?

M.D. = Doctor of Allopathic Medicine      **OR**      D.O. = Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

M.D. and D.O. physicians can practice in the same specialty areas; both can practice internationally. Explore the fit of each philosophy in your preparation for medical school application.

- In 2014, there were 49,480 applicants nationally for M.D. programs and 20,344 applicants matriculated.
- In 2014, there were 17,944 applicants for D.O. programs and 6,192 accepted applicants matriculated.

### Where can I find additional information about M.D. and D.O.?

- **Association of American Medical Colleges** (M.D. applicants) [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)
  - You can also follow @AAMCPreMed on Twitter, and "like" AAMC Pre-Med on Facebook!
- **American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine** (D.O. applicants) [www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)
  - You can also follow @AACOMunities on Twitter, and "like" AACOM on Facebook!

**YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY MAJOR YOU WOULD LIKE AS LONG AS YOU FULFILL THE PREREQUISITES FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL.**

### **The following courses are strongly recommended as preparation for the MCAT and Medical School:**

BIO 120: General Biology I	PHY 221: General Physics II
BIO 355: Human Genetics or	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I
BIO 375/376 Plant, Animal & Human Genetics w/Lab	CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II
BMS 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 241: Organic Chem for Life Sciences I
BMS 309: Laboratory in Human Anatomy (Cadaver)	CHM 242: Organic Chem for Life Sciences II
BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab	CHM 461: Biochemistry I
BMS 290/291: Human Physiology w/lab	PSY 101: Introductory Psychology
PHY 220: General Physics I	SOC 201: Introduction to Sociology

#### **Other suggested courses:**

BIO 328, CMB 405, BMS 450, BMS 410, CIS 150, COM 201, STA 215, more PSY/SOC courses

*Please note that prerequisites may vary from school to school. Research to make sure that you have met the prerequisites for the medical schools to which you intend to apply. See your faculty advisor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center for assistance in choosing elective courses.*

**Prerequisite courses typically require a C or better grade.**

### **MCAT**

Applicants traditionally take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) at least one year before starting medical school. For MCATs taken prior to March 2015, a score of 1-15 is given for Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, and Biological Sciences. The total maximum score is 45. The 2014 national average MCAT Score for M.D. matriculants was **31.4**. For D.O. schools it was **27.21**.

Starting in April 2015, the MCAT will consist of four sections, each scored 118-132 (midpoint 125):

-Chemical & Physical Foundations of Biological Sciences  
-Critical Analysis & Reasoning Skills  
-Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems  
-Psychological, Social, & Biological Foundations of Behavior

A total score will be calculated, ranging from **472 to 528 (midpoint 500)**. Percentile ranks will be reported as well.

### **GPA**

To be considered for admission to medical school, a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA of 3.0 is typically required.

**For M.D. admission**, a separate science GPA is calculated based on Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math (*BCPM*). All attempts of each course are counted in GPA calculations if a student has repeated courses.

**For D.O. admission**, a separate science GPA is calculated on Biology, Chemistry, and Physics (no math; *BCP*). Only the most recent attempt of a course is counted in GPA calculations if a student has repeated courses.

**For both M.D. and D.O.**, a non-science GPA is also calculated, and trends in the GPA are considered as well. **The national averages** for medical school matriculants in 2014 are as follows:

- **M.D.= 3.69** overall GPA and **3.63** BCPM GPA
- **D.O.= 3.51** overall GPA and **3.39** BCP GPA

## Besides a strong GPA and MCAT score, medical schools look for the following:

- ✓ Medically related Clinical Volunteer/Work Experiences (i.e. physician shadowing, volunteering or working at local hospitals, clinics, hospices, nursing homes, etc.) as demonstration of your motivation for a career in medicine
  - <http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/pre-professional-programs-14.htm> has a list of shadowing locations
- ✓ Extracurricular and Leadership Activities: [www.orgsync.com](http://www.orgsync.com) –sign up and create your profile today to begin searching for organizations to join at GVSU!
  - Pre-Medical Club, Pre-MD/PhD Club, Pre-SOMA (Students of Osteopathic Medicine Association), and other clubs of interest
- ✓ Community service [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service) (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates!)
- ✓ Research experience [www.gvsu.edu/ours](http://www.gvsu.edu/ours); Departmental Websites: Listing of research by faculty member and discipline
- ✓ Strong letters of recommendation
- ✓ Your ability to pass a criminal background check (CBC). Medical schools will conduct a CBC before allowing admitted students to begin medical school. For more information on CBCs, visit this link (the article is about dental school, but it applies to medical school as well):  
[http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/issues/news/Article/274/Criminal\\_Background\\_Check\\_But\\_Im\\_Not\\_A\\_Criminal](http://explorehealthcareers.org/en/issues/news/Article/274/Criminal_Background_Check_But_Im_Not_A_Criminal)

**For more information on the Core Competencies medical schools are looking for in applicants, visit this link:** <https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/admissionsinitiative/competencies/>

*Two Certificate programs at GVSU that can help you attain these core competencies are Medical and Health Humanities and one in Intercultural Training.*

\* **Keep a journal** of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application (you can use the “Service Tracker” at [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service) if you’d like!). Include dates, hours, supervisors, and what you took away from the experience. This can also include awards and honors. Remember that while participating in various activities, you are a GVSU ambassador and should act professionally.

## Want more information?

- **Subscribe to the Pre-med listserv to continue to receive helpful information while you are at GVSU**  
To subscribe: **please make sure to use PLAIN text, not HTML! It doesn’t always work with your phone!**
  1. Email [listserv@listserv.gvsu.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.gvsu.edu)
  2. In the body of the email (leave the subject line blank) write: *Subscribe premed20XX*  
(NOTE 1: **there is no space in the address; NOTE 2: 20XX: Use the year you hope to begin medical school**)
  3. Send the email. You will receive a response that includes a welcome message and instructions.
- The **AAMC Pre-med Navigator** is a monthly email that includes relevant information, resources, tools, tips, and important dates for pre-med students at every stage of their journey to medical school. Learn more and subscribe here: <http://students-residents.aamc.org/navigator>
- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor
- Reference <https://students-residents.aamc.org/choosing-medical-career/medical-school-101/getting-medical-school/> to see a suggested timeline and other tips on Getting Into Medical School
- Plan to also attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center to assist you through this process while at GVSU. Log on to your Blackboard site and click on CLAS Academic Advising Center under My Organizations to view recordings of previous workshops.

Sample Medical School Curriculum	
Years 1 & 2	Instruction in: anatomy, biochemistry, genetics, physiology, cell biology, microbiology, immunology, neurosciences, pathology, pharmacology Clinical skills. Board exams (USMLE for M.D. or COMLEX for D.O.) are taken after the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year.
Years 3 & 4	Clerkships/Rotations (family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, psychiatry, surgery, electives)
Post-Graduation	Residency/Internships/Fellowships: Time varies with specialty

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