

Pre-Medicine

The William J. and Marian A. Klish
Health Careers Center
Connecting students to possibilities

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

Pre-Medicine is a program of study, not an academic major. Medical school admissions committees consider applicants from a wide variety of academic backgrounds, as long as they have completed the core group of pre-med courses, including the basic preparatory work for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). In other words, there is no “official” pre-med major. A student’s major should be one that the student enjoys and will support an alternative career. Demonstrated ability in the sciences is of greater importance to admissions committees than the chosen major or the number of science courses taken. There are 136 allopathic medical schools (MD) and 26 osteopathic medical schools (DO) in the United States, each taking four years to complete. The first two years consist of classroom and laboratory work in the basic sciences; the final two years are devoted to clinical training. MDs and DOs enter a residency program of three or more years directly after medical school to gain advanced clinical training in their specialty.

Admission Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree with any major from an accredited institution
- Completion of all prerequisite courses
- Competitive overall and science GPAs (3.7 overall average for those accepted)
- Competitive Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) score
- Healthcare experience and/or shadowing
- Letters of recommendation
- Completed application with American Medical College Application Service (AAMCAS) or American Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS)
- Face-to-face interview

Required Pre-Medicine Courses: (Admission requirements and prerequisites may differ from school to school so it is important to check with schools for specific requirements.)

Courses	Required Credits	Suggested UWEC Courses
English	2 semesters	WRIT 116 (5cr) & addl writing intensive course
Mathematics	Trigonometry, Calculus and Statistics	MATH 109 [+ MATH 112 or 113 & 114] and MATH 246
Inorganic chemistry	2 semesters w/lab	CHEM 105 & CHEM 106 & CHEM 109 (8-9cr) or CHEM 115* (6cr)
Organic chemistry	2 semesters w/lab	CHEM 325 & 326 (8cr)
Biochemistry	1 semester	CHEM 352 (4cr) or CHEM 452 (3cr)
Physics	2 semesters w/lab	PHYS 211 & 212 (9cr) or PHYS 231 & 232 (10cr)
Biology	2 semesters w/lab	BIOL 221 & 222 & 223 (9cr)

*CHEM 115 requires a strong background in high school math and chemistry

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT): This standardized exam is required for admission to nearly all MD and DO schools. The exam consists of 4 parts: (1) Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems, (2) Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems, (3) Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior, and (4) Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills. It is taken in the spring semester or summer following the junior or senior year. More information on the MCAT: www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/.

Strongly Recommended Courses: Many students find the following courses to be helpful in medical school courses and in achieving competitive scores on the MCAT:

Biol 323 Genetics and Biol 324 Lab	Biol 361 Biology of Microorganisms	Phil 306 Ethics of Health Care
Biol 305 Molecular and Cell Biology	Biol 380 Endocrinology	Psychology and Sociology courses
Biol 317 Animal Physiology	Biol 402 Topics in Virology & Immunology	Courses in languages, communications, literature, history, philosophy, music, art
Biol 319 Animal Form and Function	Biol 470 Neurobiology	

Non-Academic Considerations: Applicants must obtain experience in healthcare. Seek out health-related experiences, job shadowing and volunteering opportunities early!

Suggested Pre-Medicine Curriculum:

The following program is suggested for a student in any major and is designed to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) in the junior year. It is important that students work with a pre-med advisor each semester. For more information look at the [AAMC Timeline](#)

Freshman year – Fall Biol 221 Chem 105+106 or 115* Math 109, 112, 113, or 114** Psyc 100 or Soc 101	Freshman year – Spring Biol 222/223 Chem 109 or 115* Math 112, 113, or 114** Writ 116
Sophomore year – Fall Chem 325 Math 246 Biol 300-level Psyc 100 or Soc 101	Sophomore year – Spring Chem 326 Biol 300-level LE & Major courses
Junior year – Fall Phys 211 or 231 Chem 352 or 452 LE & Major courses (Start preparing for MCAT)	Junior year – Spring Phys 212 or 232 LE & Major courses Engl elective (Take MCAT in spring/summer and complete AMCAS [MD] or AACOMAS [DO] application in May-June)
Senior year – Fall Complete Major/Minor/LE Additional recommended courses	Senior year – Spring Complete Major/Minor/LE Additional recommended courses

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** Beginning course in mathematics depends on UWEC Mathematics Placement Exam score

UWEC Pre-Medical Advisors

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See a Life & Health Science Advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center

More Information:

- University of Wisconsin School of Medicine www.med.wisc.edu
- Medical College of Wisconsin www.mcw.edu
- University of Minnesota Medical School www.med.umn.edu
- Mayo Medical School (MN) www.mayo.edu/mms/
- For a list of all DO schools: www.aacom.org
- For a list of all MD schools: www.aamc.org

Visit the *Health Careers Center* in Schofield Hall 30
 or go to uwec.ly/hcc.

Join the *Pre-Professional Health Club* to learn more about
 healthcare, professional school applications, shadowing
 opportunities, and medical schools.

SCAN ME

