

Pre-Med Quick Facts



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Pre-Health Advising Office

Students prepare for a career in medicine by building credentials in scholarship, leadership, humanitarian/community service, and shadowing in the various settings of the profession. There is **no “best” major** for pre-medical students. Instead, students are encouraged to pursue majors in which they are most interested and in which they believe they will excel.

Average Matriculant Numbers

- Overall GPA: 3.7
- Science GPA: 3.7
- MCAT: 510; ~85th Percentile

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

Required Pre-MCAT

Biology (BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L)
General Chemistry (CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L)
Organic Chemistry (Only CHEM 2211/L needed)
Physics (PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212)
Biochemistry (BCMB 3100 or BCMB 4020)

The MCAT is required for admission into medical school and is offered multiple times per year at a cost of \$310. Students should plan to take the exam only once. Retakes are allowed if a desired score is not achieved on the first attempt, but they are limited. Scores are released a month after the exam date.

Recommended Pre-MCAT

Physiology (VPHY 3100, PMCY 3000, CBIO 3710)
Genetics (GENE 3200)
Statistics (STAT 2000 or BIOS 2010)
Psychology (PSYC 1101)
Sociology (SOCI 1101)

If students have time in their schedules, they should consider taking some of the recommended pre-MCAT courses. However, students do not need to go out of their way to complete these courses prior to taking the MCAT.

Commercial prep courses are not required to perform well on the MCAT, but they can provide structure for studying.

Required Courses and GPA Expectations

DISCLAIMER: This is not a definitive list of the classes you will need every school. Always check with the individual schools to see their specific requirements. For example, **Medical College of Georgia** requires Biochemistry (BCMB 3100) and Statistics (STAT 2000 or BIOS 2010) but not CHEM 2212.

Students who wish to enter a medical program will require strong science and overall GPAs. Admissions committees also look for trends on a student’s transcript—so all is not lost if a student stumbles in their first semester or two, but then shows substantial improvement each subsequent year. However, they will also notice negative trends such as if a student is consistently withdrawing from or performing poorly in hard sciences or is completing courses away from UGA. While an instance or two is not a deal-breaker, a pattern of behavior should be avoided. Students must demonstrate the ability to handle difficult scientific content.

Science GPA Calculations (MD v. DO)

M.D. programs via the AMCAS application use the **BCMP** GPA, which takes into account biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics courses. All attempts at a course will be included in the GPA calculation.

D.O. programs via the AACOMAS application use the **BCP** GPA, which only includes biology, chemistry, and physics courses. As of the 2017 application cycle, all attempts at a course will be included in the GPA calculation.

Typical Medical Pre-Requisites

Biology (BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L)
General Chemistry (CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L)
Organic Chemistry (CHEM 2211/L & 2212/L)
Physics (PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212)

Shadowing

Students are expected to spend time shadowing a physician to experience the “doctor/patient” interaction. Specifically, this means *hands-off observation only*. There is no specific hour requirement. Students should aim for getting a variety of experiences with physicians in various fields. Ideally, students should build a good relationship with at least one M.D. or D.O. so that they will be able to request a letter of evaluation.

prehealth.uga.edu

Undergraduate Research

While there are many benefits to getting involved in undergraduate research, it is not required for admission into most medical schools. Therefore, if a student were not interested in research, they would be better served dedicating that time to other activities such as volunteering or shadowing. Students interested in research should plan to dedicate at least a year to a specific project or research lab. Students hoping to enter a M.D./Ph.D. program will need to be substantially more involved.

Volunteering

Volunteering is a large portion of the application that should not be neglected. Medical schools are looking for students who not only demonstrate that they can manage rigorous courses while staying busy, but also those who are compassionate, enjoy working with people and are dedicated to serving the community. Volunteering can be done in a clinical setting such as a hospital or hospice, but it can also be done with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Humane Society, or anything else that the student is passionate about. Medical schools are looking for students that show depth of commitment and substantial involvement and leadership in the community.

Letters of Evaluation

Most medical schools require at least three letters of evaluation. Two letters should come from hard science faculty members. Research mentors do not always count for this letter since some schools draw a distinction between mentorship and classroom instruction. At UGA, it can be difficult to build a close relationship with faculty since the introductory science courses are usually large lecture classes. Students must be mindful of this and do their best to foster a good enough relationship to be able to request a letter. The third letter should come from a non-science faculty member. A fourth letter from an M.D. or D.O. is strongly encouraged. Additional letters may come from whoever will write the most compelling letter (research mentor, volunteer coordinator, other faculty, employer, etc.). Most students include 4-6 letters.

Medical School Application Timeline

Junior Year	
Fall	Shadow/Volunteer/Research and register for Spring MCAT dates in October
Jan-May	Study for MCAT
Feb/March/April	Ask for Letters of Evaluation (give letter-writers at least 1-month to compose) Write Personal Statement
April/May/June	Take MCAT
May	Begin completing AMCAS Application
Summer	
June	Submit AMCAS Application (submit early as possible—even if MCAT score or LOEs are not received)
June/July	Prepare for Secondary Applications (look online for previous year's questions)
July/August	Complete Secondary Applications (within 2 weeks of receiving each application)
Senior Year	
Fall	Interview (beginning late August/early September through Spring) Shadow/Volunteer/Research
Spring	Graduate