Admission to medical school is highly competitive. The Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) is published annually by the Association of American Medical Colleges and is an excellent resource to help students interested in medical school.

Educational philosophies and goals, undergraduate course requirements, and other admissions requirements vary by medical schools. However, they all stress the importance of a strong background in science, communication skills, and a breadth of knowledge in social science and humanities. Medical school usually takes four years of college to obtain the M.D. degree of which two years are dedicated to basic sciences and two years to clinical rotations. Residency can last anywhere from three to five years for sufficient clinical training. Some schools offer joint degrees such as MD/PhD, MD/MPH, or MD/MBA.

## Lower Division Subjects Required by Most U.S. Medical Schools

| **Subject** | **Required Coursework** |
| --- | --- |
| One year of English | English 101 & English 102, 103 or Philosophy 5 |
| One year of Biology | Biology 6 & 7 |
| One year of Inorganic (General) Chemistry | Chemistry 101 & 102 |
| One year of Organic Chemistry | Chemistry 211 & 212 |
| One year of Physics | Physics 6 & 7 or Physics 66 & 67 or Physics 101 &102. Your undergraduate major may also determine your choice of Physics requirements. |
| One year of Math | Almost all schools require one year of Math. Some schools require one year of calculus, while others require statistics and calculus. Please refer to the MSAR for more information.  Your undergraduate major may also determine your choice of Math requirements. |

## Additional Subjects Recommended by Most U.S. Medical Schools

| **Subject** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Advanced course in biological science | Courses overlapping in subject matter (e.g. human anatomy) with those in the school of medicine are not recommended. However, basic or advanced courses in biological science (e.g. cellular physiology) are desirable. It is in your best interests to take several upper- division science classes at the four-year institution to which you transfer. Performing well in upper division science courses further demonstrates your ability to handle the rigorous science-based coursework found in medical school. Therefore, if you are not a science major, it is still important for you to take additional science courses beyond the minimum requirements to further support application to medical school. |
| Foreign language | Knowledge of a foreign language, specifically Spanish, is strongly recommended. |
| Humanities and Social Sciences | Medical schools like to see that you have taken a wide range of coursework and have a diverse educational background. It is recommended that you take several humanities and social science courses. See IGETC Area 3B and Area 4 for a list of courses offered at Pierce College. |
| Computer Science | Basic computer knowledge is necessary for almost all medical schools. Some may recommend Computer Science courses. See MSAR for more information. |
| Psychology | Some medical schools recommend taking Psychology courses. |

Note: All courses should be taken for a letter grade, not Credit/No Credit.

## Choosing an Undergraduate Major

“Pre-med” is not a major at universities. You should give careful consideration to your choice of major and select an area of study that interests you. Most medical schools do not require a specific degree in order to apply. Instead, they are looking for a well- rounded applicant who does well in the medical school admissions requirements. However, students should select an appropriate major that could lead to an alternative career, if necessary. The majority of entering medical students have four years of college completed and a baccalaureate degree. However, students with only three years of undergraduate coursework could be accepted. Students applying to medical school need to plan carefully and complete not only the medical school admissions requirements, but also the requirements for their undergraduate major and the general education required by the undergraduate transfer institution.

## Medical School Selection Criteria

## Most schools require that you apply through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). Visit their website (see recommended websites section below) and become familiar with the policies, procedures, and expected turnaround times. Read the FAQ section carefully on their website.

## Completion of the prerequisite coursework (prerequisite can be completed at Community Colleges)

## Bachelor’s Degree or 3 or more years of undergraduate coursework.

## GPA in terms of overall college grades and science grades are a major factor in the selection process. (Many medical schools select students with GPA’s of 3.5 or higher.)

## Score on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), a standardized, multiple-choice examination designed to assess problem solving, critical thinking, and writing skills in addition to the examinee's knowledge of science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine.

## Research experience/community service/leadership

## Letters of recommendation from science faculty, non-science faculty, and a supervisor from relevant clinical experience, research, or relevant work.

## Interviews with faculty from the institutions you apply to.

## Spanish language courses are recommended by most California medical schools.

## Recommended Websites

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| American Medical College Application Service | [students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/applying-medical-school-amcas/](https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/applying-medical-school-amcas/) |
| Aspiring Docs | [students-residents.aamc.org/choosing-medical-career/medical-careers/aspiring-docs/](https://students-residents.aamc.org/choosing-medical-career/medical-careers/aspiring-docs/) |
| Association of American Medical Colleges | [aamc.org/](https://www.aamc.org/) |
| MCAT information | [students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/](https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/) |
| MSAR information | [students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/deciding-where-apply/medical-school-admission-requirements/](https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/deciding-where-apply/medical-school-admission-requirements/) |
| Osteopathic Medicine | [aacom.org/](https://www.aacom.org/) |
| Volunteer Medical School Advising | [naahp.org/](http://www.naahp.org/) |

## Select Medical School Websites

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| Charles Drew Joint UCLA Program | [cdrewu.edu/](https://www.cdrewu.edu/) |
| Stanford University | [med.stanford.edu/](http://med.stanford.edu/) |
| UC Davis School of Medicine | [ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/medschool/index.html](https://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/medschool/index.html) |
| UC Irvine School of Medicine | [som.uci.edu/](http://www.som.uci.edu/) |
| UC Los Angeles Geffen School of Medicine | [medschool.ucla.edu/](https://medschool.ucla.edu/) |
| UC Riverside School of Medicine (Aug. 2013) | [medschool.ucr.edu/](https://medschool.ucr.edu/) |
| UC San Diego School of Medicine | [medschool.ucsd.edu/Pages/default.aspx](https://medschool.ucsd.edu/Pages/default.aspx) |
| UC San Francisco School of Medicine | [medschool.ucsf.edu/](https://medschool.ucsf.edu/) |
| USC Keck School of Medicine | [keck.usc.edu](http://keck.usc.edu) |

## Academic Preparation Programs

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| UCLA PREP | <https://medschool.ucla.edu/apply/prep> |
| Summer Medical and Dental Education Prep | [shpep.org/](http://www.shpep.org/) |

## Research Opportunities for Community College Students

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| UCLA Undergraduate Research Center/Center for Academic and Research Excellence | [ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/](http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/) |

## Clinical Experience

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| Saban Free Clinic/Los Angeles Free Clinic (hands-on experience) | [sabancommunityclinic.org/](https://www.sabancommunityclinic.org/) |
| Care Extenders Medical Internship | [uclahealth.org/volunteer/](https://www.uclahealth.org/volunteer/) |
| Cope Health Scholars | [copehealthscholars.org/](https://copehealthscholars.org/) |
| International Service Learning | <https://islonline.org/programs/program_med_students/> |

## Postbaccalaureate Programs

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| Postbaccalaureate Premedical Programs | [aamc.org/](https://www.aamc.org/) |

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up-to-date information. *Web site links are provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) and/or Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC) of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organization or individual. The Los Angeles Community College District and/or Los Angeles Pierce College bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.*