

PRE-MEDICAL



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL | *Courses and MCAT*

Course requirements for medical schools vary widely. For example, some schools require calculus and others do not. Most programs prefer students with broad, well-rounded backgrounds and value a liberal arts education. A science major is not necessarily required for professional programs; in fact, a major or minor in the arts, humanities, or social sciences may be attractive to some medical schools. However, you must balance the requirements of your major with those of medical school admissions and take a wide variety of science courses. Careful planning is essential to avoid scheduling conflicts.

It is recommended that you investigate the particular requirements of medical schools to which you are interested in applying. These can be found

at aamc.org. Regardless of a school's particular course requirements, students applying to medical school programs must take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). The MCAT requires specific knowledge content that you need to obtain from your courses here at Hollins. The content categories are:

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

Information about the exam and complete content description can be found at aamc.org.

GENERAL COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

to *most* medical schools, and the courses at Hollins that satisfy them

Two semesters of General Chemistry	CHEM 101/102 or 105/214
Two semesters of Organic Chemistry	CHEM 221/222
One semester of Biochemistry	BIOL/CHEM 351
Two semesters of General Biology	BIOL 220/236
Two semesters of Introductory Physics	PHYS 151/152 or 201/202

In addition, many schools require the following. These courses are also necessary to sufficiently prepare for the MCAT.

Precalculus or Calculus	MATH 140 or 241/242
Intro to Statistics or Research Statistics	STAT 140 or PSY 208
Intro to Psychology	PSY 141
Intro to Sociology	SOC 110/113

Many schools strongly recommend some combination of the following. These courses may depend upon your intended medical specialty.

Advanced Biochemistry	BIOL/CHEM 352
Genetics.....	BIOL 314
Epigenetics	BIOL 350
Microbiology.....	BIOL 312
Comparative Anatomy	BIOL 315
Immunology.....	BIOL 332
Biological Psychology.....	BIOL/PSY 317
Abnormal Psychology	PSY 342

APPLYING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL

It is imperative that you take the MCAT in your third year if you are planning to enter medical school following graduation from Hollins. Dates for the exam typically run from December through July, but it is advised that you take the exam by May 1. It takes one month to receive your score. Information about dates, locations, and fees can be found at aamc.org.

Official medical school application deadlines vary but are typically in October or November. However, it is **strongly** advised that you apply in early June of your third year. Again, this requires that you take the MCAT by May 1. Medical schools accept applications on a rolling basis and the earlier you apply the better your chances of being accepted.

In addition to transcripts and test scores, you will need letters of recommendation from your professors. You must request these from professors who can honestly comment on your potential to successfully navigate a medical program. The pre-health advisor will coordinate the collection and collation of the letters and their submission. Most medical schools use the American College Medical Application Service (AMCAS) system for recommendation letter submission. Information about AMCAS, participating colleges, fees, and deadlines can be found at aamc.org.

If you are not able to get into medical school on the first attempt, it may be useful to consider a medical master's post-baccalaureate program. Information about these programs can be found at aamc.org.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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