Medical School Admission

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The following courses meet requirements for most medical schools, though individual school requirements may vary. Complete all required courses before taking the MCAT and applying for admission. Take all required courses during the fall and/or spring semesters at URI (not summer or online).

**CHEMISTRY**

General Chemistry, two semesters with lab:
- CHM 101 & 102 Lab (3+1 credits)
- CHM 112 & 114 Lab (3+1 credits)

Organic Chemistry, two semesters with lab:
- CHM 227 (3 credits)
- CHM 228 & 226 Lab (3+2 credits)

**PHYSICS**

Two semesters with lab:
- PHY 111 & 185 lab (3+1 credits)
- PHY 112 & 186 lab (3+1 credits)

The three course sequence, PHYS 203(H)-204(H)-205(H) with labs may be substituted.

**STATISTICS & MATH**

One semester of statistics is required. Some schools also require one semester of calculus:
- STA 307, 308, 409, or 411
  - And
- MTH 131 or 141 and/or MTH 132 or 142

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**

6 credits—one from each group below is recommended (some courses will have prerequisites).
- PSY 113, 232, 254, or 255
  - And
- SOC 100, 204, or 224

**ENGLISH**

Two semesters (6-8 credits).

Most English, Writing, and Literature Courses fulfill this requirement, with the exception of Poetry.

Selected Honors courses (HPR 112/125/325/326) also fulfill the requirement. Upper-level coursework is recommended when possible.

**BIOCHEMISTRY**

- CMB 311 or 311H (3 credits)

**BIOLOGY**

11-12 credits (including two lab courses) meet requirements at most medical schools. Some schools may have additional requirements:
- BIO 101 Principles of Biology & 103 Lab (3+1 credits)
- CMB 211 Microbiology & Lab (3+1 credits)
  - And either
- BIO 341 Cell Biology (3 credits) and/or BIO 352 Genetics (4 credits)

Other Academic Considerations

**Major.** “Pre-Health/Pre-Medical” is not a major at URI, and medical schools do not require or prefer any particular major. Students from any major can pursue the pre-medical curriculum in conjunction with their major and general education requirements.

**Breadth.** Your studies at URI should expose you to subjects beyond the sciences while building your writing and quantitative skills.

**Honors Program.** Pre-medical students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Honors Program.

**Course Load.** Take a reasonable course schedule each semester that you can successfully manage.

**Grades.** Successful applicants generally achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.
EXPERIENTIAL EXPECTATIONS

In addition to completing academic requirements, successful applicants to medical school participate in a variety of activities related to the competencies students are expected to have gained through their college studies and experiences. The Association of American Medical Colleges has developed a list of 15 such competencies that can be found on their Web site at:

https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/admissionsinitiative/competencies/

Through your activities, you should develop an understanding of medical practice along with the following competencies:

- Cultural competence
- Teamwork
- Oral communication
- Service orientation
- Social Skills
- Ethical responsibility to self and others
- Reliability and dependability
- Resilience and adaptability
- Capacity for improvement

The following chart gives examples of different types of activities that can help you develop one or more of the competencies medical school admission committees are looking for. The chart is intended as a guide, not a checklist:

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<tr>
<th>CLINICAL</th>
<th>SERVICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicants are expected to have learned about medical practice by spending time in a clinical setting. Common activities include (but are not limited to):</td>
<td>Because medicine is fundamentally a service profession, medical schools look for applicants who have demonstrated commitment to serving people. Common activities include (but are not limited to):</td>
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<td>- Volunteering in a hospital, clinic, hospice, or other setting where professionals are treating patients.</td>
<td>- Community service projects, clubs, and organizations.</td>
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<td>- Shadowing physicians and/or observing procedures.</td>
<td>- Volunteer teaching or tutoring on campus or in the community.</td>
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<td>- Working as a medical scribe.</td>
<td>- Assisting individuals with disabilities.</td>
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<td>- Volunteering or working as an EMT.</td>
<td>- Volunteering or working for a nonprofit organization domestically or abroad.</td>
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<th>LEADERSHIP</th>
<th>CULTURAL COMPETENCE</th>
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<td>Medical schools are especially interested in candidates who have demonstrated leadership in a variety of ways, and who have the interpersonal skills to work effectively with diverse practitioners and patients. Common activities include (but are not limited to):</td>
<td>As the population of the United States becomes increasingly diverse, physicians must be able to interact with patients with varied cultural norms as well as a broad range of experiences. Common activities include (but are not limited to):</td>
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<td>- Serving as an officer in a student club or organization.</td>
<td>- Courses or research that focus on minority groups, cross-cultural issues, or social equity/inequality.</td>
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<td>- Initiating significant group projects within a class or organization.</td>
<td>- Learning a language other than English.</td>
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<td>- Serving as captain of a varsity or club sports team.</td>
<td>- Studying, working, or volunteering abroad.</td>
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<td>- Promotion to a leadership position on a paid job.</td>
<td>- Participation in intercultural clubs or organizations.</td>
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<td>- Working as a course or laboratory teaching assistant.</td>
<td>- Courses or research on cross-cultural issues in health care or health care inequality.</td>
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<th>TEAMWORK</th>
<th>RESEARCH</th>
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<td>Physicians are part of the health care team and many medical schools emphasize a cooperative approach to learning. Common activities related to teamwork include (but are not limited to)</td>
<td>Medicine is based on science and constant assimilation of new knowledge applicable in clinical practice. Research activities often integrate knowledge you have learned in your various classes while giving you the opportunity to work closely with a faculty researcher. Common research activities include (but are not limited to):</td>
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<td>- Group projects within classes.</td>
<td>- Laboratory “bench” research.</td>
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<td>- Working as part of research team in a lab or other research setting.</td>
<td>- Clinical research.</td>
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<td>- Serving as a member of a student peer leadership group, e.g. resident advisors.</td>
<td>- Quantitative or qualitative public health research.</td>
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<td>- Playing on a sports team.</td>
<td>- Scholarship in disciplines not related to medicine or science.</td>
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<td>- A thesis project.</td>
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