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 on-line).

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)

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

ENGLISH
Two semesters (6-8 credits).
Most English, Writing, and Literature Courses fulfill this requirement, with the exception of Poetry.
Selected Honors courses (HPR 142 and 344) also fulfill the requirement. Upper-level coursework is recommended when possible.

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

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

BIODESIGN

11-12 credits (including two lab courses) meet requirements at most medical schools. Some schools may have additional requirements:

- BIO 101 Principles of Biology & BIO 103 Lab (3+1 credits)
- CMB 211 Microbiology (4 credits). For CELS and Nutrition Majors only
  OR
- CMB 201 Medical Microbiology (4 credits). For all other majors
  Pre-reqs for both: one semester of biology & one year of chemistry
  And either
- BIO 341 Cell Biology (3 credits)
  Pre-reqs: one semester of biology and one semester of organic chem
  OR
- BIO 352 Genetics (4 credits)
  Pre-reqs: BIO 101 and BIO 102

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

Successful med school applicants participate in a variety of activities related to the competencies students are expected to develop through their college studies and experiences. The Association of American Medical Colleges has created a list of 15 such competencies:

**INTRAPERSONAL COMPETENCIES**
- Ethical Responsibilities to Self and Others
- Reliability and Dependability
- Resilience and Adaptability
- Capacity for Improvement

**INTERPERSONAL COMPETENCIES**
- Service Orientation
- Social Skills
- Cultural Competence
- Teamwork
- Oral Communication

**THINKING AND REASONING COMPETENCIES**
- Critical Thinking
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Scientific Inquiry
- Written Communication

**SCIENCE COMPETENCIES**
- Living Systems
- Human Behavior

Learn more at the AAMC web site: [www.staging.aamc.org/initiatives/admissionsinitiative/competencies/](http://www.staging.aamc.org/initiatives/admissionsinitiative/competencies/)

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:

**CLINICAL**
Applicants are expected to have learned about medical practice by spending time in a clinical setting. Common activities include (but are not limited to):
- Volunteering in a hospital, clinic, or other setting where professionals are treating patients.
- Shadowing physicians and/or observing procedures.
- Working as a medical scribe.
- Volunteering or working as an EMT.
- Serving as a medical translator.

**SERVICE**
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):
- Community service projects, clubs, and organizations.
- Volunteer teaching or tutoring on campus or in the community.
- Assisting individuals with disabilities.
- Volunteering or working for a nonprofit organization domestically or abroad.

**LEADERSHIP**
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):
- Serving as an officer in a club or organization.
- Initiating significant group projects within a class or organization.
- Serving as captain of a varsity or club sports team.
- Promotion to a leadership position on a paid job.
- Working as a course or laboratory TA.

**CULTURAL COMPETENCE**
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):
- Courses or research that focus on minority groups, cross-cultural issues, or social equity/inequality.
- Learning a language other than English.
- Studying, working, or volunteering abroad.
- Participation in intercultural clubs or organizations.
- Courses or research on cross-cultural issues in health care or health care inequality.

**TEAMWORK**
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)
- Group projects within classes.
- Working as part of research team in a lab or other research setting.
- Peer leadership, e.g. resident advisors.
- Playing on a sports team.

**RESEARCH**
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):
- Laboratory “bench” research.
- Clinical research.
- Quantitative or qualitative public health research.
- Scholarship in disciplines not related to medicine or science.
- A thesis project.

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