Minimum Required Coursework for Medical School Admission. Most medical schools in the U.S. require a minimum of one year of English composition, one year of general chemistry, one year of organic chemistry, one year of general biology, and one year of physics - all with lab components. Some schools also require up to a year of college level mathematics; others require additional upper division biology courses and/or coursework in the social sciences.

Because the admission requirements for different schools vary, and because the admission requirements may change, students must investigate the different schools available and make themselves aware of the particular requirements for the programs in which they are interested.

AP, IB, and CLEP Credit to Fulfill Science Prerequisites. An increasing number of medical schools (including Mercer University School of Medicine) do not accept AP, IB, or CLEP credit to fulfill the core science prerequisites. Students who use such credit to fulfill a degree requirement for a core science will still need to complete two semesters of that science in college to fulfill the admission requirement for medical school (e.g., a student who uses AP credit to fulfill CHM 111 must then take CHM 112 and CHM 311 or 241). In most cases, it is in the student’s best interest to decline AP, IB, or CLEP credit for general chemistry, general biology, and physics, and take the actual college courses instead.

Online Science Coursework. Most medical schools do not accept online coursework for the core science requirements. Note that the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University does not accept biochemistry if taken online, even if they do not require the laboratory component of that class.

Medical School Matriculation Without a Bachelor’s Degree. Some medical schools do not require a bachelor’s degree for admission, but instead require completion of a minimum of 90 credit hours of pre-medical coursework. However, students should realize that such early admission to medical schools is fairly rare, because it requires that an applicant take the MCAT and apply to medical school at the end of their second year of undergraduate study rather than at the end of their third year. Building a strong application in this short time frame is more difficult, so students interested in this option are encouraged to have a back-up plan in place for completing a bachelor’s degree in case early acceptance is not achieved.

Mercer Coursework Fulfilling Medical School Admission Requirements/ Recommendations

1. English Composition: 
   - CLAS, CHP, TSM, SSBE students: INT 101/GBK 101 and INT 201/GBK 202
   - EGR students: Usually TCO 141 and EGR 107 meet this requirement; confirm with target schools.

2. General Chemistry: CHM 111 and CHM 112
   Note: CHM 111 is only offered in the spring; CHM 112 is only offered in the fall; CHM 115 may substitute for CHM 111 and 112, but if the student’s target med schools require 8 hr of general chemistry, the student should take CHM 241 to complement CHM 115.

3. Introductory Physics: PHY 141 and PHY 142 or PHY 161 and PHY 162
   Note: Most medical schools do not prefer one of these series over the other.

4. Introductory Biology: BIO 211 and BIO 212
   Note: BIO 211 is only offered in the spring; BIO 212 is only offered in the fall.

5. Organic Chemistry: CHM 221 and CHM 222
   Note: CHM 221 is only offered in the fall; CHM 222 is only offered in the spring.

   Note: The pre-reqs for BMB 465 are successful completion of CHM 222 and BIO 212.

7. Mathematics: STA 126 and/or MAT 191
   Note: check target medical schools’ requirements, as this varies widely!

8. Social Sciences: PSY 101 and SOC 101 (or upper division PSY that focuses on group psychology)
   Note: check target medical schools’ requirements, as this varies widely!

9. Additional Biology Coursework: 
   Recommended: Genetics (BIO 310), Eukaryotic Cell Biology (BIO 460/L), Development (BIO 450/L); Biochemistry II (BMB 466).

Students interested in Mercer University School of Medicine should consult their website for their specific admission requirements: https://medicine.mercer.edu/