

Academic Preparation for Medical School

Minimum Required Coursework for Medical School Admission. Most medical schools in the U.S. require a minimum of one year of college credit for 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. For specific information about admission prerequisites for the various medical schools in the United States, Mercer advisors recommend that pre-medical students access the AAMC's Medical School Admission Requirements (allopathic medical schools), the DO Explorer (osteopathic medical schools), and/or the directory of TMDSAS (Texas professional schools) in the year they plan to apply. See the document, Applying to Medical Schools, on the GPS Pre-medical Track Page.

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 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. Many medical schools relaxed the requirement for "in-person" science courses for students at institutions that did not offer students a choice due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but most medical schools have returned to requiring "in person" lab coursework.

Pass/ Fail Grading Options. Although many medical schools relaxed the requirement for graded prerequisite coursework for students due to the pandemic, medical schools have returned to the policy of accepting only prerequisite courses taken for a letter grade.

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 premedical 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 Common Medical School Admission Requirements

Prerequisite	Mercer Courses That Fulfill This
English Composition	<u>CLAS, CHP, TSM, SHSB students</u> : INT 101/ GBK 101 and INT 201/ GBK 202; <u>EGR students</u> : Usually TCO 141 and EGR 107 meet this requirement; students should confirm with target schools.
General Chemistry	CHM 111 and CHM 112 Note: CHM 111 is only offered in the fall; CHM 112 is only offered in the spring; CHM 111 and 112 are also often offered in summer semesters.
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. PHY is occasionally offered in summer semesters, but students are advised to not take lab courses like physics online.
Introductory Biology	BIO 171 and BIO 172 Note: BIO 171 is normally offered in the fall, and 172 in the spring; BIO 171 and 172 are often offered in summer semesters.
Organic Chemistry	CHM 221 and CHM 321 Note: CHM 221 is only offered in the fall; CHM 321 is only offered in the spring. CHM 221 and 321 are often offered in summer semesters.
Biochemistry	BMB 465 (lab is not usually required) Note: The prereqs for BMB 465 are successful completion of CHM 321 and BIO 172. BMB 465 is sometimes offered in summer as an online option, but students should be aware that some medical schools may not accept online science courses.
Mathematics	STA 126 and/or MAT 191? Note: Many medical schools do not have a specific math requirement. Those that do have a math requirement often require “one year of college math”, so we recommend taking the math required for your degree, then checking your target medical schools’ requirements to see if you need more.
Social Sciences	PSY 101 and SOC 101 or an upper division PSY that focuses on group psychology Note: Most medical schools do not require these classes as prerequisites, but these topics are on the MCAT.
Additional Biology Coursework Often Recommended	Genetics (BIO 280), Eukaryotic Cell Biology (BIO 460/L), Development (BIO 450/L); Biochemistry II (BMB 466)