

## Pre-Medical Scheduling and Timelines

**Scheduling of Medical School Prerequisites.** Pre-medical students should complete the core pre-medical science requirements before taking the MCAT. This can be accomplished in different ways, with the two most popular schedules shown in Table 1 below. These plans chart the minimum science coursework for students on a pre-medical track over the four years that students are expected to be at Mercer University. Pre-medical students must check the admission requirements of the individual medical schools to which they are likely to apply and to adjust their personal plans accordingly. Mercer University advisors recommend that during their first year, students create a personalized plan that includes the requirements of their major(s) and minor(s) and the admission requirements of their target schools, and takes into account initial math placement. When creating their own 4-year plans, students should review the published lists of course offerings and consult the University catalog for information about course prerequisites and offering frequency.

**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 ask the registrar to assign a lower level course credit for their AP, IB, or CLEP credit for general chemistry, general biology, and physics, and take the actual introductory college courses instead.**

**Table 1. Scheduling of Science Prerequisites**

**A. Math Index 980+**

| Year | Fall   | Spring   | Summer  |
|------|--|--|---|
| 1    | CHM 111<br>BIO 171   | CHM 112<br>BIO 172   | Shadowing or other appropriate extracurricular experience   |
| 2    | CHM 221<br>BIO 260 or 280 (if required by major)                   | CHM 222<br>BIO 260 or 280 (if required by major)                   | Shadowing or other appropriate extracurricular experience   |
| 3    | PHY 141<br>BMB 465 or other BIO<br>Prepare for MCAT & Application? | PHY 142<br>BMB 465 or other BIO<br>Prepare for MCAT & Application? | Shadowing or other appropriate extracurricular experience<br>Take MCAT by mid-June? Submit CAS June 1-mid-July? |
| 4    | Prepare for MCAT & Application?                                    | Complete degree<br>Prepare for MCAT & Application?                 | Take MCAT by mid-June?<br>Submit CAS June 1-mid-July?   |

**B. Math Index Below 980**

| Year | Fall   | Spring   | Summer  |
|------|--|--|---|
| 1    | MAT 095 or 133   | MAT 133 or math for major  | Shadowing or other appropriate extracurricular experience |
| 2    | CHM 111<br>BIO 171   | CHM 112<br>BIO 172   | Shadowing or other appropriate extracurricular experience |
| 3    | CHM 221<br>BIO 260 or 280 (if required by major)                   | CHM 222<br>BIO 260 or 280 (if required by major)                   | Shadowing or other appropriate extracurricular experience |
| 4    | BMB 465 or other BIO<br>PHY 141<br>Prepare for MCAT & Application? | BMB 465 or other BIO<br>PHY 142<br>Prepare for MCAT & Application? | Take MCAT by mid-June? Submit CAS June 1-mid-July?        |