



## MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to medical school has always been highly competitive. You are advised to seek pre-medical advisement and discuss the many factors that are evaluated for selection to medical school. The *Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)*, published annually and online by the Association of American Medical Colleges, is an excellent source book to help students approach their goals realistically. It is available for use in ECC's Career/ Transfer Center.

Educational philosophies and goals, specific undergraduate course requirements, and other qualifications for admission vary among the nation's medical schools. However, they all stress the importance of a strong foundation in the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics), highly developed communication skills, and a breadth of social sciences and humanities. The majority of entering medical students have four years of college and a baccalaureate degree. Medical school usually takes four years after college to obtain the M. D. degree. Each school's specific requirements are detailed in the *MSAR*.

**Students who are planning to apply to medical school need to complete the requirements of their undergraduate major, general education required of the transfer institution, and the subjects required by the medical school.**

**\*\*AP Exams used on the subject requirements listed below is different at each medical school, students should check with the school's admission website for applicability.**

Subjects required by most U.S. Medical Schools	
One year of Inorganic (General) Chemistry	Chemistry 1A & 1B
One year of Organic Chemistry	Chemistry 7A & 7B
One year of English	English 1A & 1B or 1C
One year of Biology	Biology 101, 102, 103(recommended)
One year of Calculus	Almost all schools require one year of Mathematics; some schools require one year of calculus, Math 190 & 191  Please refer to the <i>MSAR</i> for more information. Your undergraduate major may also determine your choice of Math requirements.
One year of Physics	Physics 3A & 3B or Physics 2A & 2B

Highly Recommended Courses	Math 150 or Psychology 109A or Sociology 109A; Psychology 101; Sociology 101
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Basic computer knowledge is necessary for almost all medical schools. Many recommend Computer Science courses -See **MSAR** for more information.

### **Choosing an undergraduate major:**

You should give careful consideration to your choice of an undergraduate major and select a major area of study that interests you and that will provide a foundation necessary for the pursuit of career alternatives. "Pre-med" is not a major at universities. While many successful applicants major in one of the biological or physical sciences, a science major is NOT required for admission to medical school. They do, however, need to know that you can handle the rigors of science-intensive medical school coursework. The selection of a major only with the assumption that it will increase your chance for acceptance to medical school is not in your best interest. If you are undecided about your choice of undergraduate major, you are encouraged to discuss this with your ECC academic or career counselor.

### **Selection Process:**

Medical schools review candidate qualifications in the following areas: personal qualifications, academic qualifications, communication skills, and motivation.

- Bachelor's Degree or 3 or more years of undergraduate course work.
- Medical schools look for evidence of traits such as leadership, social maturity, purpose, motivation, initiative, curiosity, common sense, perseverance, commitment to serving others, and breadth of interests.
- College grades, particularly science grades, will receive considerable attention in the preliminary review. Most schools access your science **GPA** (grade point average) and your overall GPA. Recommendations from faculty are also important.
- The **Medical School Admission Test (MCAT)**, a standardized exam, is required by almost all schools. The MCAT will cover four sections: Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems; Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems; Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior; & Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills  
The MCAT is designed to test proficiency in the basic sciences as well as general problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication skills.
- Anyone considering a career as a physician must be able to relate to people effectively and develop strong interpersonal skills.
- **Clinical Experience** - It is important to show a genuine commitment to helping and serving others. If you can, explore settings that will provide an opportunity to work with ill patients such as settings like nursing homes, hospice centers, rehabilitation centers, and clinics.
- Letters of Recommendation
- Research Experience/Community Service/Leadership

You are also encouraged to use the materials available in ECC's Career/Transfer Center and the Internet to learn more about the medical school admission process.

**Recommended Web Sites:**

[www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org) - Check Student, Applicant and Advisor Information; AAMC Publications [www.review.com/medical/](http://www.review.com/medical/) - The Princeton Online Review provides comprehensive information for acceptance to medical school.

**Postbaccalaureate Students:**

El Camino College offers an unstructured setting for post-baccalaureate students to complete undergraduate premedical courses at their own pace, even while working part-time or full-time jobs. All students are encouraged to submit a college application early because registration is based on a first-come, first-service basis. Students must clear appropriate prerequisites to courses by bringing in college transcripts and/or taking ECC placement tests. Medical School Admissions committees are interested in the process and experience that led to the applicant's choice of medicine as a career goal.

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