



MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to medical school is highly competitive. We highly recommend you seek pre-medical advisement to 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.

Admissions requirements and other qualifications vary for each medical school. However, they ALL stress the importance of a strong foundation in the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics) and humanities. Additionally, a range of highly developed competencies are desired. These *core competencies are grouped as follows:

Paraprofessional	Thinking and Reasoning	Science Competencies
Service Orientation	Critical Thinking	Living Systems
Social Skills	Quantitative Reasoning	Human Behavior
Cultural	Scientific Inquiry	
Teamwork	Written Communication	
Oral Communication		
Ethical Responsibility		
Reliability/Dependability		
Resilience & Adaptability		
Capacity for Improvement		

* For details on [Core Competencies](#), please visit [AAMC](#)

How Much Education Does It Take?

It typically takes 11-16 years to complete your education. Most medical students have four to five years of undergraduate college **and** a baccalaureate degree. This is followed by four years of medical school (M.D.), and three to eight years additional training in residency depending on specialty.

Note: 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.

***Some medical schools accept AP Exams for subject requirements, some accept AP exams with stipulations, and some do not accept them. Students must check with the school's admission website for applicability.**

Subjects required by most U.S. Medical Schools. Check MSAR for each school.	
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 110, 120, 130(recommended)
One year of Calculus	<p>Almost all schools require one year of Mathematic.</p> <p>NOTE: some schools specify one year of calculus specifically: Math 190 & 191. Please refer to the MSAR for more information.</p> <p>Your undergraduate major may also determine your choice of math requirement.</p>
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

Basic computer knowledge is necessary for almost all medical schools. Many recommend Computer Science courses -See *MSAR* for more information.

What Major Do I Choose?

Carefully consider your choices and select a major that interests you, while providing 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 with the sole assumption that it increases your chance for acceptance to medical school is not in your best interest. If you are undecided about your choice of undergraduate major, we encourage you to discuss this with your ECC academic or career counselor.

What is the 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.
- **GPA (grade point average)**. College grades, particularly science grades, will receive *considerable* attention in the ~~primary~~ review. Most schools assess both the science and overall GPA.
- **Medical School Admission Test (MCAT)**, a standardized exam, is required by

almost all schools. The MCAT covers 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.

- **Letters of Recommendation.** Many programs require at least 3 letters of recommendation, although more may be recommended or required. Two letters must come from science faculty and one from a non-science recommender. Students must verify with programs whether letters from social science, kinesiology, or other faculty count as science faculty.
- **Clinical Experience** - It is important to show a genuine commitment to helping and serving others. Seek opportunities to work with patients, for example, nursing homes, hospice centers, rehabilitation centers, and clinics. Shadowing a doctor is also a great way to do this as well.
- **Research Experience.** Working in a research setting can help students be more competitive.
- **Community Service/Leadership.** Depth of experience is preferred, so find activities and ways to get involved that are important to you, and you can commit to over a period.

RESOURCES:

[Medical College Admissions Test](#)

[Association of American College \(AAMC\)](#)

[AAMC – Anatomy of an Applicant](#)

In addition to the resources above, you are encouraged to use the materials available in [ECC's Career Center](#) and/or [Transfer Center](#) to learn more about the medical school admission process.

Postbaccalaureate Students

Also known as “post-bac”, these programs begin after an undergraduate degree. El Camino College offers an unstructured setting for post-bac students to complete undergraduate pre-med requirements at their own pace, even while working part or full time. All students are encouraged to submit a college application early. Students must clear prerequisite courses by providing college transcripts and/or taking ECC placement survey/test.