

THE PRE-MEDICAL PROGRAM OF STUDY AT AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

Aspiring to become a physician is a challenging and exciting career choice. Your undergraduate pre-professional preparation will be a key element in your overall comprehensive master plan for success (i.e., **ACCEPTANCE**). You should be aware that competition for admission to medical schools is very intense. Fewer than 1 in 12 applicants to the Medical College of Georgia are admitted each year. And each year the number of applicants increases while the number of positions remains constant at 230. Thus, competition for admission is becoming even more intense. Admission to some other medical schools is not as difficult, but all are highly competitive.

SELECTION OF A MAJOR

Pre-medicine is not a degree at AU but rather a pre-professional intention. Medical schools would like to admit applicants possessing widely varying interests and with majors in different fields. All medical schools profess that applicants should have a “broad education,” by which they mean:

1. strong foundation in natural sciences - biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics
2. highly developed communication skills - the use and understanding of written and spoken language
3. a solid background in sociology, psychology, and the humanities

Within this broad framework, a student is free to major in whatever subject or subjects they may find most interesting and challenging, and in which they perform best. The AAMC states that there is no “best” major. Data examining the MCAT scores and GPAs for applicants and matriculants to U.S. Medical schools in 2017-2018 show that students from a variety of majors are accepted to medical school, provided they have met the basic science prerequisites. In addition, there was little difference in the MCAT (3.9) scores or GPA (0.06) among students with different majors that matriculated into medical school.

Medical schools claim that the discipline in which a student majors does not influence directly their acceptance into medical school. However, many medical schools urge students who major outside of the natural sciences to be sure to take more than just the minimum number of science courses required for admission. The GPA in science courses is one of the criteria that is evaluated by admissions committees. Thus, it should be emphasized that non-science majors, even more so than science majors, cannot afford poor grades in their science courses. Science majors take many more science courses than non-science majors, therefore they have a greater opportunity to improve their science GPA if they do suffer one poor grade. It should be stressed that the final responsibility for planning the academic program rests with the student and not with an advisor.

PRE-MEDICAL ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Required Courses (MCG[†]):

- 1 year of college* biology with labs
- 1 year English
- 1 semester of probability or statistics
- 1 year physics with labs
- 2 years of college* chemistry including at least 3 semesters with lab (at least one semester must be Organic with lab and one semester must be Biochemistry)

**This refers to courses taken in college. AP credits do not count toward the requirement.*

†These are MCG requirements, but they are typical and sufficient for most medical schools.

***The MCAT includes a section on the Psychological and Social Foundations of Behavior.*

Recommended classes:

*sociology (strongly**)
psychology (strongly**)
cell biology
genetics
microbiology
anatomy and physiology
calculus
research experience*

2017 MCG stats:

Average Overall GPA = 3.7

Average Science GPA = 3.7

Average MCAT = 510

Interested students are advised to speak with a pre-med advisor to create an academic plan to help meet these requirements, and to discuss other criteria evaluated by medical school admissions committees. Additional information can be found at <http://spots.gru.edu/smyers1/Premedical%20Information.htm>.