



Health Professions Student Center

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



Pre-Medicine

Physicians lead trusted healthcare teams and provide quality care for patients of all ages—from newborns to the very oldest citizens. Compassion, empathy, a strong mind for science, and the ability to remain calm in a crisis are all important qualities for success. Doctors can serve as general practitioners or specialize in a unique medical field such as internal medicine, surgery, cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, gerontology, emergency medicine, dermatology, and many more.

Explore Your Options

Pre-medicine is not an undergraduate degree. The academic prerequisites for professional school may be combined with any field of study. You may pursue any undergraduate major that interests you, and in which you have a desire to succeed, and still qualify for medical school.

WSU students majoring in subjects from art to zoology have gone on to earn advanced degrees at professional schools all over the country.

And at WSU you are not locked into a major. If your interests change, we'll work with you to revise your goals and your academic plan.

Programs leading to an MD or DO require a core set of science and general education courses be completed prior to admission (see reverse for course listing). On average, after earning your bachelor's degree, you'll spend another four years completing your MD or DO studies, followed by several years of clinical residency.

Enrolling as an undergraduate at WSU does not lead directly to any professional medical school. Normally, you will begin the complex application process during your junior year.



The Cougar Advantage

The pre-medicine preparation track at WSU is one of the most comprehensive in the country. The Health Professions Student Center provides opportunities and resources to help you discover the path that is best for you.

Your Health Professions specialist can guide you through the nuances of preparing for a career in medicine:

- Course selection
- Essay writing workshops
- Resume reviews
- Practice interviews
- MCAT preparation
- Requesting recommendation letters
- Networking and volunteering
- Gaining medical experience
- Reviewing application criteria
- Selecting professional schools

Meeting with both your HPSC specialist and your academic advisor at least once a semester will maximize the combined support and expertise available to you.



Peer Support

With more than 300 active student clubs on campus, you're bound to find one that fits your style.

Numerous health professions student clubs can provide you with an academic and social support system and opportunities to get involved in community service projects, gain leadership experience, meet current healthcare professionals, and build your personal portfolio. Clubs include the WSU Pre-Health Club, the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS) at WSU, Alpha Epsilon Delta (pre-medicine honor society) and the American Medical Student Association.

Learn more at cas.wsu.edu/health/students/clubs.html.

✓ Preparing for Medical School

No matter which specialty you wish to pursue, all medical school applications are extremely competitive. Long before you begin to fill out the paperwork, you will need to work diligently to build a portfolio showcasing your academic success, personal achievements, medical experience, career goals, and your compassionate character.

Your academic success is an important factor in the application process. Specifics vary from school to school, but most medical programs expect a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher.

Medical admissions committees will consider your entire portfolio, including:

- MCAT scores
- Evidence of compassion and empathy for the sick, elderly, injured, or disabled
- Personal integrity and high ethical standards
- Strong English speaking and writing skills
- Volunteer participation that involves compassion for your fellow human beings, such as coaching, teaching, working on blood drives, in a soup kitchen, at a food bank, or on charity fundraisers, and many other possibilities
- Evidence of personal leadership, either with organizations or through life experiences
- Additional language skills and/or cultural knowledge, including study abroad or international experience
- Significant time spent job-shadowing physicians



Common Medical School Prerequisite Courses

These courses may be taken concurrently with classes required for your chosen major at WSU.

Biology (8)

BIOL 106 Introductory Biology (organismal)

BIOL 107 Introductory Biology (cell biology and genetics)

Chemistry* (12)

Non-science majors

CHEM 101 Introduction to Chemistry

CHEM 102 Chemistry Related to Life Sciences
(organic & biochemistry)

Science majors

CHEM 105 Principles of Chemistry I

CHEM 106 Principles of Chemistry II

Both science and non-science majors

CHEM 345 Organic Chemistry I

Molecular Biosciences(4)

MBIOS 303 Introductory Biochemistry

Physics* (4)

PHYSICS 101 & 102 General Physics

or

PHYSICS 201 & 202 Physics for Scientists and Engineers

Social Sciences

PSYCH 105 Introductory Psychology

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology

or

SOC 102 Social Problems

Recommended

A few medical schools require these courses.

Biology

BIOL/MBIOS 301 General Genetics

BIOL 315 Gross and Microanatomy

English

ENGL 301 Writing and Rhetorical Conventions

or

ENGL 402 Technical and Professional Writing

Molecular Biosciences

MBIOS 304 Microbiology and Molecular Biology Laboratory

MBIOS 305 General Microbiology

MBIOS 401 Cell Biology

Philosophy

PHIL 365 Biomedical Ethics

* Students must meet WSU math standards to enroll.

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502 Center for Undergraduate Education (CUE)



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