

Pre-Medicine

Medical School Prerequisites

A specific major is not required for admission into medical school. Students are advised to major in a discipline they are both most interested and able to excel in.

A recent change in the MCAT prompted many medical schools to require the following courses for admission:

<i>Prerequisite (AAMC 2015)</i>	<i>Prerequisites for the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine (2015 Cycle)</i>	<i>Course Equivalent at Cornell College</i>
1 year of English	2 courses (to include composition and literature)	ENG 111 (1 st Year Writing Course) & 1 additional writing course within the English department
Statistics*	N/A	STA 201 (Statistical Methods I)
1 year of general Biology with lab*	A complete introductory course in the principles of Biology with the appropriate labs and an Advanced Biology course. Recommended Advanced Biology Courses: Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology, Human Physiology, Genetics, or Microbiology.	BIO 141 (Foundations: Cellular Biology) & BIO 142 (Foundations: Organismal Biology)
1 year of General Chemistry with lab*	A minimum of 2 years of Chemistry to include General and Organic both with labs, and Biochemistry.	CHE 121 (Chemical Principles I) & CHE 122 (Chemical Principles II)
1 year of Organic Chemistry with lab*		CHE 225 (Organic Chemistry I Lecture) & CHE 326 (Organic Chemistry II Lecture) & CHE 327 (Organic Chemistry Laboratory)
1 semester of Biochemistry*		CHE 334 (Biochemistry)
1 year of Physics with lab (does not need to be calculus-based)*		2 introductory Physics courses with lab
1 semester of introductory Psychology*	4 courses. Recommended courses: Behavioral Psychology, Foreign Language, and other courses that encourage a greater appreciation for diversity and cultural competency. At least 1 course should include a writing component.	PSY 161 (Fundamentals of Psychological Science)
1 semester of introductory Sociology*		SOC 101 (Sociological Thinking)

*Course content tested on [MCAT 2015](#)

The following courses at Cornell College are prerequisites for some of the aforementioned AAMC prerequisites and many medical schools:

BIO 205 (Cellular and Molecular Biology)

BIO 315 (Genetics)

BIO 329 (Human Anatomy & Physiology I)

BIO 330 (Human Anatomy & Physiology II)

Note: Most medical schools require additional courses than those stated by the AAMC to be considered for admission. Work with the Associate Director of Dimensions to explore program-specific prerequisites *early* to ensure you have time to satisfy courses needed before graduation. Be sure your Faculty Advisor is aware that you are Pre-Medicine. It is strongly recommended that you meet with your Faculty Advisor and [Dimensions staff](#) regularly to ensure you are meeting the requirements for both your major and medical school in the proper sequence.

AP Credit

Many medical schools will not accept AP credit as fulfillment of a prerequisite. If you enter Cornell College with AP credit, closely check the requirements of the medical schools of which you intend to apply. Some schools will accept AP credit for Calculus, Chemistry, or Biology *only* if an additional course of advanced study is taken.

Community College Credit

Medical schools prefer that applicants take all prerequisites at a 4-year institution. Students interested in earning credit at a community college should meet with their Faculty Advisor and the Associate Director of Dimensions *before* registration.

Cornell College Pre-Medicine Sample 4-Year Timeline* (On MCAT exam)

Year in School	Cornell College Course	Additional Information
First Year	FYS CHE 121 CHE 122 BIO 141 BIO 142 ENG 111 1 additional English writing course	Your top priorities are becoming acquainted with your new surroundings, living arrangements, and course requirements. Students are strongly encouraged to get involved in co-curricular activities they are interested in or passionate about. (Activities do not all need to be medical-related.) New students should meet with the Associate Director of Dimensions at least once during their first year on campus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many students will begin exploring opportunities to shadow healthcare professionals, volunteer in the community, and take part in student organizations. Hours spent in co-curricular activities should be tracked for the medical school application. • Students are encouraged to start thinking about summer as early as October**. • Students should review professional resources from this document and the Dimensions website to familiarize themselves with medicine and the medical field. • Attend relevant Dimensions Pre-Health Workshops.
Second Year	PSY 161 STA 201 CHE 225 CHE 326 CHE 327 BIO 205 BIO 315	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to work closely with faculty members on research and other projects outside of class. Narrow down co-curricular involvement to experiences that are most meaningful to you and that you are most passionate about (even if it's not healthcare related.) Move up to leadership positions or take on more responsibility in co-curricular activities. • Start looking at medical schools more closely to identify unique requirements of schools you are interested in. Read in detail about the medical school application cycles, the MCAT, and the Cornell College Health Professions Committee. • Attend relevant Dimensions Pre-Health Workshops.
Third Year	CHE 202 PHY 141 PHY 142 CHE 334 BIO 329 PSY 282 SOC101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work up to leadership positions or take on more responsibilities in co-curricular activities. Continue to shadow in the medical field and volunteer in the community. • Be sure you've completed at least the minimum amount of shadowing hours required by medical schools you plan to apply to. • Register for MCAT and prepare by taking several full-length practice exams. (Dimensions can help you identify MCAT prep resources.) Students should sit for the MCAT in April, May or June of their third year on campus if they plan to apply to start a medical school immediately following graduation. • Prepare for Health Professions Committee if you intend to enter medical school immediately following graduation. Application deadlines should be verified with the Associate Director of Dimensions before the end of your junior year. (Example: Health Profession Committee applications are due summer 2016 if you hope to start medical school fall 2017.) • Attend relevant Dimensions Pre-Health Workshops.
Fourth Year	BIO 326 BIO 330 Complete graduation major/minor requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete secondary applications and on-campus interviews. • Attend relevant Dimensions Pre-Health Workshops.

*You should always begin with the course most aligned with your current ability. It is better to start a few courses back and earn an "A" than to jump right into the prerequisite course and earn a "B" or "C". This sample timeline includes many required, recommended, and prerequisite courses for medical school. Always consult specific MD/DO program prerequisites and with your Faculty Advisor before making course selections.

****Pre-Medicine students hoping to enter medical school immediately after graduation are strongly encouraged to use their summers wisely in preparation for MD/DO programs. This includes conducting research, volunteering in the community, shadowing or interning in the field of medicine, and/or working in the healthcare field.**