

# Pre-Med Tip Sheet

2018-2019

## General Requirements for Medical School

### Courses & MCAT

Course requirements for medical schools vary widely. For example, some schools require calculus and others do not. Some do not require specific courses at all, but instead look for a broad and well-rounded background

It is recommended that you investigate the particular requirements of medical schools to which you are interested in applying. These can be found at

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/choosing-medical-career/article/required-premedical-coursework-and-competencies/>

Regardless of a school's particular course requirements, students applying to medical school programs must take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). The MCAT requires specific knowledge content that you need to obtain from your courses here at Hollins. The content categories are

- *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*

Information about the exam and complete content description can be found at

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/>

The following are *general* coursework requirements for admission to *most* medical schools, and the courses at Hollins that satisfy them

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ○ 2 semesters of General Chemistry    | CHEM 101/102 or 105/214 |
| ○ 2 semesters of Organic Chemistry    | CHEM 221/222            |
| ○ 1 semester of Biochemistry          | BIOL/CHEM 351           |
| ○ 2 semesters of General Biology      | BIOL 220/236            |
| ○ 2 semesters of Introductory Physics | PHYS 151/152 or 201/202 |

In addition, many schools require the following; these courses are also necessary to sufficiently prepare for the MCAT

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|--|---------------------|
| ○ Pre-calculus or Calculus                   | MATH 140 or 241/242 |
| ○ Intro to Statistics or Research Statistics | STAT 140 or PSY 208 |
| ○ Intro to Psychology                        | PSY 141             |
| ○ Intro to Sociology                         | SOC 110/113         |

Many schools strongly recommend some combination of the following. These courses may depend upon your intended medical specialty

Advanced Biochemistry	BIOL/CHEM 352	Comparative Anatomy	BIOL 315
Genetics	BIOL 314	Immunology	BIOL 332
Epigenetics	BIOL 350	Biological Psychology	BIOL/PSY 317
Microbiology	BIOL 312	Abnormal Psychology	PSY 342

## Applying to Medical School

It is imperative that you take the MCAT in your 3<sup>rd</sup> year if you are planning to enter medical school following graduation from Hollins. Dates for the exam typically run from December through July, but it is advised that you take the exam by May 1. It takes one month to receive your score! Information about dates, locations, and fees can be found at

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/>

Official medical school application deadlines vary but are typically in October or November. However, it is *strongly* advised that you apply in early June of your 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Again, this requires that you take the MCAT by May 1! Medical schools accept applications on a rolling basis and the earlier you apply the better your chances of being accepted.

In addition to transcripts and test scores, you will need letters of recommendation from your professors. You must request these from professors who can honestly comment on your potential to successfully navigate a medical program. The pre-health advisor will coordinate the collection and collation of the letters and their submission. Most medical schools use the American College Medical Application Service (AMCAS) system for recommendation letter submission. Information about AMCAS, participating colleges, fees, and deadlines can be found at

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/applying-medical-school-amcas/>

If you are not able to get into medical school on the first attempt it may be useful to consider a medical master's post-baccalaureate program. Information about these programs can be found at

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/postbacc/>