

About the MCAT Exam

The Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®) is a standardized, multiple-choice examination designed to assess your problem solving, critical thinking, and knowledge of natural, behavioral, and social science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine.

In April 2015, the AAMC will launch an updated version of the MCAT exam. Scores are reported in 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

Almost all U.S. medical schools and many Canadian schools require you to submit MCAT exam scores. Many schools do not accept MCAT exam scores that are more than three years old.

Learn more about the changes to the MCAT exam and why they are important for building the physician workforce of the future.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat>

American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®)

The American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®) is the AAMC's centralized medical school application processing service. Regardless of the number of medical schools to which you apply, you submit just one online application to AMCAS. Most U.S. medical schools use AMCAS as the primary application method for their entering classes.

AMCAS is only available to applicants to the first-year entering classes at participating U.S. medical schools. Advanced standing and transfer applicants should contact the medical schools directly for assistance. AMCAS does not render any admission decisions and does not advise applicants where to apply.

If you have an AAMC account and are unable to sign in to the AMCAS application, make sure your password contains only letters and numbers. To change your password to only include letters and numbers, sign in to your AAMC account, and click on Change Password.



Requirements of some neighborhood M.D. schools – look at others

Substitutions are not acceptable for any of the required courses.

General Biology including at least one course with lab.	8
It is strongly recommended that students take at least one course in Cell and Molecular Biology, or Genetics to enhance preparation.	
General Chemistry with lab	8
Organic Chemistry with lab	8
General Physics with lab	8
In addition, a course in Biochemistry is strongly recommended	-
English Please note that if you satisfy your undergraduate institution's English or Literature requirement for your degree program, you will also satisfy ours.	6
Behavioral or Social Sciences (e.g., Humanities, Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, Social Diversity, etc.)	3
Advanced Placement (AP) courses are accepted as long as they appear on your official transcript. If you have received AP credit for any of the required science courses, we strongly advise you to consider taking advanced level college courses to enhance your academic preparation for medical school. Your AP courses must meet the equivalent semester hours required including any of the associating labs.	-

- General Biology or Zoology with laboratory (Botany alone is not sufficient to meet this requirement),
- General Chemistry with laboratory (which must include both qualitative and quantitative analysis),
- Organic Chemistry with laboratory,
- Physics with laboratory, and
- English (or writing intensive courses)



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While not required, courses in genetics, biostatistics, humanities, social science, and an additional year of English are strongly recommended. In keeping with AAMC recommendations, applicants are encouraged not to enroll in undergraduate or graduate courses which are likely to be repeated in the medical school curriculum.

Quillen welcomes applications from excellent students regardless of major or course of study. However, completion of a minimum of 90 semester hours of coursework from a regionally accredited college or university is required to be eligible for admission. Additionally, all applicants are required to submit scores from the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). MCAT scores from any administration within the previous two calendar years are acceptable. Undergraduate GPA, strength of curriculum and scores on the MCAT will continue to be evaluated as important indicators of probable academic success. Competitive performance on the MCAT requires adequate preparation in the behavioral and social sciences, general biology, general and organic chemistry, biochemistry, algebraic and trigonometric quantitative skills, and physical science. Appropriate preparation is strongly advised and will be evaluated in the selection process. The ability to read and comprehend information at a rapid pace is of great value.



Applicants should demonstrate scientific curiosity and enthusiasm for life-long learning. The continuum of scientific discovery that impacts diagnostic and therapeutic practice requires that applicants have an adequate preparation in the pre-clinical sciences, particularly in biochemistry, bio-molecular mechanisms and genetics. In addition, the Admissions Committee looks for a broad educational foundation in the behavioral and social sciences, humanities, literature and the fine arts.

Although at least 90 undergraduate semester hours is needed for admission, almost all students have earned degrees before matriculation. Eight semester hours each in general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics are generally considered as minimum preparation. Prerequisite course work from community colleges is strongly discouraged because of the difficulty in adequately assessing the quality of that preparation.



Academic Expectations for the School of Medicine

The Duke University School of Medicine has always strived to attract, educate, and nurture people who have extraordinary compassion and great intellect. Because we want the type of applicant whose heart and mind are of the best humanity can offer, we have consistently encouraged our applicants to have a broad and balanced undergraduate academic education as well as a wealth of life experiences. To accomplish this growth and maturation process, a rigorous, challenging, and interdisciplinary academic preparation in the sciences and humanities is of paramount importance.

Two recent challenges have prompted revisions of our academic expectations for those who wish to join the study of medicine. First, much discussion has centered around the appropriate preparation for future physicians with respect to desired competencies in science and the humanities (as described in the two part AAMC-HHMI Foundations for Future Physicians). Second, the 2015 Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) will be modified to include the social sciences and psychology. Because of changes in both the thought process and the testing process, undergraduate expectations are now different than they were before.

The new "academic expectations" are the result of extensive discussions among both the clinical and basic science faculty of the School of Medicine. The foundation of these expectations is based on competency-based, cross-disciplinary training in biology, chemistry, and physics and the link these disciplines have before and throughout formal training in medicine. Additionally, in conjunction with the traditional preparation of the biomedical sciences, the need to understand the larger psychosocial context in which medicine is increasingly practiced requires significant exposure to the social sciences.

Duke University School of Medicine acknowledges the rapid evolution of the biomedical sciences and the challenges that socially-driven disparities in medicine present. Those aspiring for clinical and research careers in medicine must be prepared in a much different manner to expertly address the rapid changes in the healthcare environment. The faculty of the School of Medicine, prompted by these new challenges, has created modifications to the curriculum to align our expectations for pre-medical preparation with the evolving academic environment of medical school.



Biochemistry: May be fulfilled by a single course in Biochemistry, or through coursework which incorporates principles of Biochemistry as part of an interdisciplinary course in Cell and/or Molecular Biology and/or Genetics.
Cellular Biology: May be fulfilled by a single course in Cell and/or Molecular Biology and/or Genetics.
Statistics/Biostatistics: An understanding of the application of statistical methods in the analysis of data.
Physics: An understanding of the correlation of basic physics to human physiology and anatomy (e.g. physics and/or biophysics).
Sociology: An introduction to the principles of social organization, with particular emphasis on the social determinants of healthcare.
Psychology: An introduction to the basic principles of psychology with emphasis on the biological basis of behavior.
Expository Writing: Experience in expository writing across the humanities, including but not limited to formal courses in English, is a fundamental expectation in the preparation for medicine. This may be accomplished through coursework in a number of disciplines, including but not limited to Philosophy, History, Public Policy, Political Science, Religion, etc. and may be accomplished through an Honors Thesis or completion of a major research paper.