

Pacific Union College

Pre-Medicine

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DEGREE

Who should plan on the study of medicine?

Admission to schools of medicine is on a competitive basis. Students should carefully assess their aptitudes for success in this profession. The admissions committees review the credentials of applicants to assess scholastic performance, moral and ethical standards, and significant qualities of character and personality.

Students who are uncertain in regard to the advisability of pursuing courses leading to work in medicine are advised to seek help from the pre-med adviser, the Counseling Center or from the academic advisers to whom they are assigned. The student is strongly advised to take course work that could lead to alternate careers in case admission is denied.

How long does it take to meet entrance requirements?

Currently almost all of the accepted students have had four years of college work and have completed the requirements for a degree. Because very few pre-medical students are accepted without a degree, it is strongly recommended that students plan their programs so that degree requirements can be met.

Should the student be concerned about general education courses?

It is desirable that the student of medicine have a good understanding of the humanities and the behavioral sciences as well as the natural sciences. The admission test (MCAT) which is taken by all candidates includes a section on verbal reasoning and an essay. The student will benefit by developing the habit of reading good literature and the ability to write effectively.

When should the MCAT be taken and what can be done to prepare for it?

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) must be taken not later than one year before the anticipated date of admission, and not earlier than 3 years before the fall prior to the anticipated date of admission.

MCAT applications are available online at www.aamc.org/students/mcat. Test schedules with deadline dates for application are available at the

Counseling Center. The MCAT is separated into four parts and scores will be reported for each as follows:

Biological Sciences (Biology, Organic Chemistry)
Physical Sciences (Physics, Inorganic Chemistry)
Verbal Reasoning (Reading Skills)
Writing Sample (Essay)

In order to be prepared to take the test after the junior year, students should carefully select the courses that are taken each year. If students plan to take algebra and introduction to calculus in preparation for the MCAT, they may wish to take such courses during the freshman year because they are helpful in the study of chemistry and physics. All other courses that will help in preparing for the test should be completed during the first three years.

What major should be chosen?

Pre-medical students can meet the requirements for graduation in any department. Schools of Medicine typically give no preference to science majors. A non-science major must, however, demonstrate outstanding competence in the basic sciences. Many medical students testify to the advantage of taking science courses beyond those required for admission. A major does not have to be chosen immediately, but it is best that a decision be made during the freshman year. Advisers in the various departments will be glad to assist students in making their choices. When a student has decided what his major will be, he/she should seek academic advice from an adviser in the department offering the major as well as from the pre-medical adviser.

When should the student apply for admission to the School of Medicine?

The student should make application during the summer of the year before the anticipated date of admission. An applicant does not apply directly to most medical schools. Application is made through the American Medical College Admissions Service (AMCAS) between June 15 and November 1 for entry in August of the following year. It is best, however, that the application be submitted by September 1.

Upon receipt of the application from AMCAS, medical schools will be in contact with the applicant and may send a supplementary application and/or request an interview.

GENERAL ENTRANCE INFORMATION

*(Excerpt from LLU Bulletin)**

A total of 128 quarter units of credit from an accredited college is required for acceptance by the School of Medicine. Preference is given, however, to college graduates. Credit must be presented for the following subjects:

- One year of general biology, with laboratory
- One year of general chemistry, with laboratory
- One year of general physics, with laboratory
- A complete course in organic chemistry, generally one year, with laboratory.
- English composition
- Religion as required by the college attended

Credits earned in professional schools (the allied health professions, business, dentistry, nursing, or pharmacy) do not fulfill requirements for admission to medicine.

*Many medical schools have similar requirements, but the premedical student should inquire about requirements for any medical school for which they have an interest.

Interviews

Loma Linda University School of Medicine representatives come to the PUC campus twice each year, during the fall and spring quarters. It is important for all interested pre-meds to become acquainted personally and discuss their plans with these officials from the School of Medicine. It is not necessary, however, to see the School of Medicine representative each year. An application interview should be scheduled in the fall of the year prior to admission. Students should contact the Counseling Center for information about interview dates and to make an appointment for an interview.

Students applying under the Early Decision Program must arrange for an interview before September 1 of the year prior to admission. This can be done during the representative's spring visit to the PUC campus.

REQUIRED PRE-PROFESSIONAL COURSES OFFERED AT PUC

(TO FULFILL REQUIREMENTS FOR LOMA LINDA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE)

128 hours including the following:

Biology

BIOL 111-2-3 Biological Foundations 5-5-5

Chemistry

CHEM 111-2-3 General Chemistry 5-5-5

CHEM 371-2-3 Organic Chemistry 4-4-4

Physics

PHYS 111-2-3 General Physics 4-4-4

English

ENGL 101-2 College English 4-4

Religion

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about pre-medicine at PUC, visit the Premedical Handbook on the Internet.

Or e-mail the pre-medical adviser: rvance@puc.edu, mpak@puc.edu, or jduncan@puc.edu.