

Course Requirements

128 hours including the following:

Biology

BIOL 121+122+123 Biological Foundations I,II,III 5+5+5

Chemistry

CHEM 111+L General Chemistry I+Lab 4+1
 CHEM 112+L General Chemistry II+Lab 4+1
 CHEM 113+L General Chemistry III+Lab 4+1
 CHEM 371+L Organic Chemistry I+Lab 3+1
 CHEM 372+L Organic Chemistry II+Lab 3+1
 CHEM 373+L Organic Chemistry III+Lab 3+1
 CHEM 481 Biochemistry I 4
 CHEM 482 Biochemistry II* (4)

Physics

PHYS 111+12+13 General Physics I,II,III 4+4+4

Other Coursework

ENGL 101+102 College English I,II 4+4
 PSYC 121 General Psychology* (4)
 SOCI 121 Introduction to Sociology* (4)
 STAT 222 Introduction to Statistics* (4)

Religion

Religion Coursework 18

* While this course is not required for admission to Loma Linda University, it is strongly recommended because it covers content that is included on the MCAT.

General Entrance Information

Excerpt from LLU Bulletin*

A total of 128 quarter hours 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.
- One course in biochemistry
- 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 pre-medical student should inquire about requirements for any medical school for which they have an interest.

Course Sequence

This sample curriculum is designed to show you how a pre-medicine course sequence may be constructed. The sequence may vary for some majors. Your advisor will help you design a personalized program of studies.

Freshman Year

Biological Foundations Sequence*
 General Chemistry Sequence*
 College English Sequence

Sophomore Year

Organic Chemistry Sequence
 General Physics Sequence*

Junior Year

Biochemistry

Summer after Junior Year

MCAT
 Application to Medical School

Additional recommended courses (within first 3 years)

General Psychology
 Introduction to Sociology
 Introduction to Statistics

* May be taken during the summer in some cases.

Course Schedule Considerations

Course sequencing will vary depending on each student's major and academic background. The following items should be taken into consideration when planning the science course sequencing.

- Most students should begin General Chemistry in the fall of their freshman year. This should be followed by Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry in the sophomore and junior years in preparation for the MCAT.
- Many freshman students experience some difficulty with the combination of taking General Chemistry and Biological Foundations together while also adjusting to life in college. Responsible, well-prepared students can do well with this combination but this schedule should be approached with caution.
- For those that need or would like to complete both courses before their second year, the need to "double-up" with General Chemistry and Biological Foundations during the freshman year may be avoided by taking one of those courses in the summer. A talk with a your financial advisor is recommended before you decide on a summer option.
- This course sequencing assumes that you successfully complete the prerequisite courses for General Chemistry (one year of Algebra II) and Biological Foundations (one year of Biology and one year of Chemistry) with grades of C- or higher in high school. If you lack any of these foundational courses, you will need to complete prerequisite courses at the college level.

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-medical students 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 Academic Administration 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.

Occupational Information

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 advisor, 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.

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

- Biological and Biochemical Foundation of Living Systems

- (Biology, Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry)
- Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems (Physics, Inorganic Chemistry)
- Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior (General Psychology, Sociology, and supplemental reading list)
- Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills (Statistics)

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 advisor in the department offering the major as well as from the pre-medical advisor.

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.

The student should submit a request for a committee recommendation from the PUC pre-professional committee early in the academic year of application (typically the senior year). Contact the PUC Academic Administration for information.

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.

Note: AMCAS application forms are available online at www.aamc.org.

For More Information

For more information about pre-medicine at PUC, consult the Pre-Medical Handbook: www.puc.edu/academics/pre-professional/pre-medical/home.

You may also e-mail a pre-medical advisor: kadavis@puc.edu, jduncan@puc.edu, sherbert@puc.edu, tmcguire@puc.edu, kneergaard@puc.edu, mpak@puc.edu, or rvance@puc.edu.