

PRE-MEDICAL PROFESSIONS

Medical professional schools encourage students to develop the broadest academic base possible in undergraduate studies. Any undergraduate major may be used as background for entry. Pre-med students should take courses that develop disciplined thinking, intelligent appreciation of values, and sympathetic understanding of society and human interaction.

The prerequisite academic requirements required for application to the following medical professional schools include: chiropractic, dentistry, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, podiatry, and veterinary medicine programs, as well as other programs in the medical field.

A Bachelor's degree is required for admission to most professional medical programs. Professional schools base admission decisions on a variety of items such as grade point average, admissions test score, interview, personal references, volunteer work, and professional experience. The application process usually occurs at least one year before the intended entry date.

Professional schools encourage employment or volunteer experience within a professional or related medical setting. Work and volunteer experiences (including shadowing) in health care agencies, hospitals and physician's offices are strongly recommended.

Core Courses for Professional Schools

The prerequisites for medical professional programs vary by discipline. Some of the core foundation courses for most medical professions include:

- English Composition (English 101 and 102)
- Public Speaking (Comm 111)
- College Algebra, college trigonometry, and/or pre-calculus.
- Inorganic Chemistry (Chem 211 and 212)
- Organic Chemistry (Chem 531 and 532)
- General Biology (Biol 210 and 211)
- General College Physics (Phys 213 and 214 or 313 and 314 with labs). See pharmacy for an exception.
- Additional courses such as biochemistry and genetics strengthens a student's academic record.

Medicine (MD or DO)

Most medical schools require essentially the same pre-requisite courses, but students are encouraged to check the admissions requirements of all schools in which they are interested. The Medical College Admissions Test is required for MD and DO professional schools as well as for most podiatry schools. It is a computer based test offered in January and also April through September each year.

Chiropractic (DC)

Each professional school sets its own prerequisites and requirements. There is no admissions test for chiropractic schools. In order to practice in Kansas, you need to complete an undergraduate degree. See an academic advisor for more information about this field.

Dentistry (DDS)

Applicants to dental school complete the core courses listed above and also additional biology courses. Students are encouraged to check with the schools in which they are interested in for additional requirements. The Dental Admissions Test is also required. The state of Kansas contracts with the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry for a limited number of dental school seats each year.

Optometry (OD)

Entry requirements for optometry schools are considerably different from the other medical professions. The Optometry Admissions Test is required. Students should check with the optometry schools in which they are interested for specific requirements. In addition to the core courses listed above, many colleges of optometry also require:

- Calculus I (MATH 242)
- Microbiology (BIOL 330)
- Biochemistry (CHEM 661)
- Statistics (STAT 370)

- Psychology (PSY 111)

The State of Kansas contracts to provide a limited number of optometry school seats each year with the following schools:

- Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee
- University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry
- Northwestern State University College of Optometry in Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Pharmacy (Pharm. D)

The University of Kansas School of Pharmacy requires a minimum of 68 credit hours of prerequisite work followed by four years of professional curriculum. The sequence of the courses is important, so students are urged to meet with an academic advisor early in the student's academic career. After completing the pre-requisites for pharmacy school, you will take the PCAT exam and apply for admission to the pharmacy school of your choice.

In addition to the core courses listed above, the KU School of Pharmacy also requires:

- Intro Physics (PHYS 111 or one year of high school physics with a grade of B or better).
- Calculus (MATH 144 or 242)

- Microbiology (BIOL 220 or BIOL 330)

- Anatomy and Physiology (BIOL 223 or BIOL 527 and BIOL 534/535)

Podiatry (DPM)

Applicants for the field of podiatry complete the core courses listed above and must also take the Medical College Admissions Test.

Veterinary Medicine (DVM)

An undergraduate degree is preferred for application to veterinary school. The Graduate Record Exam is required for application to most veterinary medicine programs, including the Kansas State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Three southern schools require the Veterinary College Admission Test (VCAT) for application.

In addition to the core courses listed above, applicants in this field must complete the following:

- Microbiology (Biol 330)
- Genetics (Biol 419)
- Biochemistry (consult an advisor to choose the correct course)

Related Opportunities

If eligible, you may be selected for University academic honor societies such as Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board. You may also join the

Premedical Student Association or the Pre dental Student Association.

Visit the Web site at

www.wichita.edu/premedadvising

For More Information

To receive more information about medical schools, academic program planning and the admissions process for medical schools, please call (316) 978-3700 to make an appointment with an academic advisor in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center, room 115 Grace Wilkie Hall.

The LAS Advising Center website address is www.wichita.edu/advising.

For further admissions information, or assistance in scheduling a campus visit, contact:

Office of Admissions
Wichita State University
1845 Fairmount St.
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0124
Telephone (316) 978-3085
Toll-free (800) 362-2594
www.wichita.edu/admissions

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