



Admissions Requirements

There are three major areas considered in admissions decisions: undergraduate academic preparation and achievement; personal qualities as assessed from the interviews with members of the Committee on Admissions, pre-professional evaluation, other recommendations, and the personal statement included in the application; and scores on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). Each of these areas is important with no one area seen as more significant in the admission decision than another.

Undergraduate Academic Preparation

Because the College of Medicine recognizes the importance of a broadly based undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences, no specific major is required for medical school admission. Prospective candidates are strongly encouraged to major in their area of greatest interest; and regardless of choice of major, are encouraged to pursue a course of study which achieves a balance between both science and non-science course work. Further, because of the relevance of a broadly based education to success in medical school, the Committee is particularly impressed by students, whose education has provided a broad range of intellectual experience, including opportunities for analytical thinking and independent study. With rare exception, the completion of an undergraduate degree will be necessary in order to fulfill educational expectations. In addition to the pattern and content of courses taken, consideration is given to achievement in these courses.

Generally, the average grade point average for entering classes is 3.5 overall and in prescribed course work. In support of this philosophy of education, the following are **the only courses required for admission:**

Required Courses

<u>Required Subjects</u>	<u>Semester Hours</u>
Chemistry	16
Physics	8
Biology	8
English/Literature	6
Electives	52
<u>Total Hours</u>	90

Chemistry

A minimum of sixteen semester hours of chemistry is required. Eight semester hours must be in organic chemistry and another eight semester hours must be in inorganic chemistry, which may include analytical chemistry. Each of these courses must be a complete, standard, college-level course utilizing full laboratory facilities. In instances where students feel uncertain of their preparation in chemistry and wish to take additional work, biochemistry is recommended.

Physics

Acceptable courses in physics must include laboratory credits and must adequately cover mechanics, heat, light, sound, electricity, and magnetism. Survey types of courses will not satisfy this requirement.



Biology

Eight semester hours in modern concepts of mammalian biology, including laboratory are required. Courses in botany do not meet this requirement. Applicants, particularly non-science majors, are strongly encouraged to pursue upper level coursework in the biological sciences beyond the minimum requirement. Such courses might include biochemistry, cell biology, comparative anatomy, embryology, general genetics, histology, immunology, mammalian physiology, microbiology or related courses.

English Composition

Facility in the use of both oral and written English is considered highly essential to the successful study of medicine. Introductory freshman English (six semester hours) will meet the admission requirement. Students who qualify for advanced placement credit in English will not be required to take additional English courses, although such students are encouraged to do so.

Electives

In as much as the medical curriculum is devoted largely to the biological and physical sciences, a student should acquire a broad cultural background in the pre-medical preparation. The behavioral sciences, including psychology, sociology, etc., are considered valuable. Additional dimensions are derived from higher mathematics, computer sciences, languages, literature, philosophy, history, political science, economics, etymology and statistics.

A student who has been awarded advanced placement credit or other non-traditional credit in prescribed science courses by the undergraduate college will have those credits honored in fulfilling requirements for the College of Medicine, provided such placement has been followed by a more advanced course in the same discipline. (Example: A student granted credit for biology will be required to complete the eight semester hour requirement by taking advanced courses in that discipline.)

The Committee on Admissions will consider grade averages attained in both prescribed and elective courses. A grade of "C" or better in each of the prescribed pre-medical courses is required. If a prospective student is uncertain of the acceptability for pre-medical credit of a proposed course of study, and if the pre-professional advisor cannot advise in the matter, the prospective student is invited to make inquiry to the Office of Admissions, College of Medicine, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN 38163.

Personal Qualities and Motivation Toward Medicine

An applicant's interest in and motivation toward the medical profession is an important factor in the admissions decision. In order to assess this motivation and the personal qualities of an applicant, selected individuals are invited to campus for interviews with members of the Committee on Admissions. Both academic achievement and MCAT scores are considered by the Committee in determining who will be invited to interview. The personal statement on the application and recommendations submitted on behalf of the candidates allow further insight into the values and motivation of the candidates. A recommendation from the official Pre-professional Advisory Committee (where such a committee exists), or recommendation letters from three faculty members, is required. Additional recommendations may be submitted, although, they should number no more than three.



The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
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General Admissions Requirements

Medical Experience

The Committee of Admissions considers it vital that prospective students enhance their knowledge of medicine through direct, patient-oriented clinical experience in a variety of settings. Such experience, which is frequently gained through volunteer work, should enable the student to acquire a greater understanding of the realities of medicine and provide an opportunity for service.

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

Candidates admitted to the College of Medicine must achieve a satisfactory score on the MCAT. It may be of interest to note that the average scores for recent entering classes have been 9's and 10's. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) offers the MCAT twice a year on a national basis. Registration for the MCAT is done on-line through the AAMC at www.aamc.org. The test must be taken no later than August of the year preceding the desired date of admission.

For a complete catalog, as well as, additional information regarding General Admissions Requirements, please visit the Office Of Enrollment Services website at: <http://www.utmem.edu/admiss/catalog.php>