

NOTE: students are responsible for researching the prerequisite and policy requirements of their target schools.

Guide to pre-medical course recommendations (2026-2027)

This is a guide to the courses at U-M that will help you meet coursework or competency requirements for the majority of medical schools. Please be aware that coursework requirements are specific from school to school and can change as medical schools continuously revisit their pre-medical course requirements. Likewise, policies about specific credit situations such as acceptability of AP/IB credit and on-line coursework vary from school to school. [Here is a comprehensive list of requirements by MD school from the AAMC.](#)

Biology: Most schools require at least two semesters of biology, with a laboratory for each semester. Some schools will require additional biology coursework. AP credit is generally not acceptable to meet Biology requirements. Beyond the introductory Biology series, a course in physiology is particularly helpful for MCAT preparation. Upper-level biology coursework could come from various subjects (MCDB, EEB, Biology, Physiology, and others.) Complete Option A or B below depending on your AP/IB credit circumstance:

<u>Option A</u>	<u>Option B (with AP/IB Biology credit)</u>
□ BIOLOGY 171 (lec 1) □ BIOLOGY 172 (lec 2) □ BIOLOGY 173 (lab) □ Upper-level lecture 1 □ Upper-level lab	□ BIOLOGY 195 (AP/IB credit) □ BIOLOGY 173 (lab)* □ Upper-level lecture 1 □ Upper-level lecture 2 □ Upper-level lab

**Beginning with the incoming class in Fall 2026, BIOLOGY 196 is offered to students who have scored a 5 on their AP Biology exam.*

Chemistry: Most schools require 2 semesters of general chemistry and 2 semesters of organic chemistry, with a laboratory for each semester. Most students complete organic chemistry before electing CHEM 230 (for non-chem majors) or 260 (CHEM 260 is for chem/BMS/biochem majors). Students who need or want additional non-organic Chemistry course work should consider CHEM 245/246/247. *Students with an Honors Program affiliation who placed out of general chemistry may request a Chemistry Exemption Letter once in the application cycle.

- CHEM 130: Macroscopic Investigations & Reaction Principles (general chem) and
- CHEM 125 and 126: Labs

If you have AP credit for CHEM 130+125&126, IB credit for CHEM 130+125&126+CHEM 101x, or a placement into Chem 210 on your orientation placement exam you may begin with organic chemistry.

then

- CHEM 210: Structure and Reactivity (organic Chem I) and □ CHEM 211: Lab

- CHEM 215: Structure and Reactivity II (organic Chem II) and □ CHEM 216: Lab

then

- CHEM 230: Physical Chemical Principles and Applications or CHEM 260

Biochemistry: Many schools either require or recommend at least one semester of Biochemistry. We strongly recommend a course in Biochemistry prior to the MCAT.

- MCDB 310 -or- BIOLCHEM 415 -or- CHEM 351

Physics: Many schools require two semesters of physics with a laboratory for each semester. Students with AP credit for one semester of Physics should take the complementary introductory Physics course. Algebra-based physics is acceptable to medical schools, although not taught at U-M, does transfer in as Physics 125-128.

- PHYSICS 1: Life science track 150 & 151 (lab) -or- 140/160 & 141/161 -or- AP credit
- PHYSICS 2: Life science track 250 & 251 (lab) -or- 240/260 & 241/261 -or- AP credit

Math and Statistics: Many schools require a college-level math or statistics course. A handful of schools require a calculus course. Note that calculus 1 is an advisory prerequisite for U-M introductory physics courses.

Social Sciences: Some medical schools require specific courses in the social sciences. The MCAT will test your knowledge of the *Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior*.

- Introductory Psychology (AP, PSYCH 111, 112 or 114)
- One of: Sociology 302: Health and Society, Psych 280: Social Psychology, Sociology 100 or 300, Public Health 200, Women's and Gender Studies 220, or other courses from social science departments with a health and/or health disparities focus.

English: Most schools require one or more literature and writing-intensive courses. Honors Core-FYWR are acceptable courses to meet the English requirement for medical school programs. An additional writing course may be required for your target program requirements.

A note about transfer credit

Transfer credit DOES NOT appear on the official transcript as individual classes, unlike the unofficial advising transcript. The AMCAS application (and other apps) require you to send official transcripts for any college-level classes you have attempted or completed from the institutions where the classes were taken.

Special notes about U-M Graduate Programs:

U-M School of Medicine: No specific courses requirements but required evidence of competencies in: “Biomedical and Social Sciences (including skills in Written and Verbal Communication,) Statistical Analysis and Epidemiology, Hypothesis Development and Investigation, Analytical Thought and Problem-Solving Skills.” In practice, most traditional undergraduates will demonstrate these competencies by completing coursework in these areas. See: <http://medicine.umich.edu/medschool/education/md-program/md-admissions/requirements>

U-M School of Dentistry: additional requirements in Psychology (3 credits), Sociology (3 credits), and a Microbiology lecture.

U-M Pharmacy: Requires MICROBIOL 301/350, Bio 305, Anatomy 403, calculus (AP credit cannot fulfill), Stats 250, Physiology, and Biolchem415 or Chem 351.

Helpful websites:

Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)(AAMC database):

<https://apps.aamc.org/msar-ui/#/landing>

[School-by-school 2024 Premed Course Requirements - Students Residents - AAMC](#)

Volunteer at U-M Hospital: <https://www.uofmhealth.org/volunteer-services>

Reservable rooms for med school interviews or proctored PREview exams:

<https://docs.google.com/a/umich.edu/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSda4ZcmAZgZh7e4p4UcrtqlwCIGB4E7ZbpVmXOSnPBfKtIHvA/viewform>