

CHECKLIST to complete undergraduate courses required by most M.D. programs (check the specific programs to which you plan to apply!)

See <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/healthprofessions/academicrequirements.htm> . A GPA of at least 3.5 is the minimum goal for competitive application to most U.S. allopathic medical schools, so major in something that keeps your GPA as high as possible. If certain science subjects are difficult for you on the block plan, you would be wise to take them in the summer time or after graduation, in order to keep your GPA high yet complete the minimum requirements.

1. **Two** units from:[][]

- BY 105 (Biology of Plants)
- BY 106 (Biology of Animals)
- BY 107 (Biology of Microbes)
- BY 131 (Introduction to Molecular and Cellular Biology)

This is a bare minimum; additional coursework in Biology is STRONGLY recommended.

2. CH 107, CH 108, CH 250, and CH 251.[][][][]

Summer versions of general chemistry and organic chemistry also fulfill the requirements but may have slightly different course numbers. Some students find CH 382 useful before taking the MCAT.

3. Calculus I (MA125-6 or MA 126) and Calculus II (MA 127).[][]

Check with pre-health advising if you have AP or IB credit in math.

Pre-health students from high schools that did not offer several sections of AP or IB calculus should complete MA 125-6 before enrolling in CH 107.

4. **Two** units of physics with laboratory[][]

- PC 141 and 142, recommended for students who did not enjoy calculus.

OR

- PC 241 and 242, recommended for students who enjoyed calculus.

5. Two units of **English**[][]

- One unit of English literature

AND

- One unit of a “Writing Intensive” course (which does not have to be an “English” (EN) course.

A course in behavioral science (for example Psychology or Sociology) is recommended, and required at some schools.

Advanced coursework in Biology and Chemistry will always help in preparation for qualifying exams.

Veterinary schools may emphasize a science major requirement or favor graduates with a science degree. It is worth examining the admissions policy of any veterinary schools of interest.

Other health professions schools, including Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Podiatry, Physical Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, and Physician Assistant programs, are likely to have other specific course requirements and are not as standardized as Medical and Dental school requirements. It is important to consult brochures or catalogues from specific schools before completing plans for an academic program. Students who are interested in [PHYSICAL THERAPY and PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT program](#) should contact [Bruce Kola](#), the Physical Therapy and PA advisor in the Sports Science and Physical Education department in El Pomar Sports Center at CC.

To determine the specific course requirements for a particular medical school or dental school, consult reference books are available in the Health Professions Advising Office. The MCAT, DAT and GRE tests cover basic science, so the above courses should be completed before taking any exams.

Students today are often waiting a year or more after graduation before applying to a health professions school. This does not put the applicant at a disadvantage; many medical schools look favorably upon applicants who have taken an extra year or two to mature, gain work experience, and thus make a better decision regarding a career in health professions.