Medical School

Texas A&M Professional School Advising can advise you realistically on whether you are a competitive applicant for admission to medical school, however only you can decide if medical school is truly what you want to do. One way to explore your interest is to gain exposure by volunteering and shadowing in the different healthcare professions we advise for. You can also observe or shadow a physician and talk to professionals in the different fields of healthcare. Another way is to read information about professional schools and medicine as a career and to join one of the campus pre-health organizations.

What type of major looks best?
Many applicants believe that medical schools want science majors or that certain programs prefer liberal arts majors. In actuality medical schools have no preference in what major you choose as long as you do well and complete the pre-requisite requirements. Texas A&M does not have a pre-medical academic track which is why we suggest that you choose a major that leads to what you would select as an alternative career. The reason for this line of logic is that you generally do better in a major you are truly passionate and interested in and in return is another great way to determine whether medicine is the right choice. Plus an alternative career provides good insurance if you should happen to change direction or postpone entry. Texas A&M University offers extensive and exciting majors to choose from in eleven diverse colleges.

If your chosen major does not include the prerequisite courses in its curriculum, you must complete the required courses mentioned below either as science credit hours or elective credit hours. Since many higher level courses build upon each other, freshman biology and chemistry are good courses to complete during your freshman year.

What prerequisite courses are required for medical school?
The minimum pre-requisite requirements for medical school are as follows. Each of these pre-requisites must be completed with a grade of "C" or better. If you Q-drop a course medical schools assume you are either making a "D" or failing.

**Texas Medical Schools**
~ 2 semesters of English (6 hours)
~ 1 semester of Statistics (3 hours)
(STAT 201, 211, 301, 302, 303, SCMT 303 or PSYC 203)
~ 2 semesters of Introductory Biology w/lab (8 hours)
~ 2 semesters Upper Level Biology (6 hours)*
~ 2 semesters Inorganic Chemistry (8 hours)
~ 2 semesters of Organic Chemistry w/lab (8 hours)
~ 2 semesters of Physics (8 hours)

* Biochemistry 410 will fulfill one of the Upper Level Biology requirements at all Public Texas Medical Schools EXCEPT Dell Medical School– Austin and University of Texas Medical Branch– Galveston* Examples of other Upper Level Biology courses that can satisfy the requirement are (but not limited to) VIBS 305, 343, 450; BIOL 213, 214, 318, 319, 320, 335, 351, 352, 388, 405, 406, 413, 438, 445, 454, 456; VTPB 409, 405, 408, 438; GENE 301, 302, 310, 320, 405, 406, 421, 431, 452; VTPP 423, 425, 429, 434, 435. Some out of state and private Texas medical schools require additional courses. Please refer to their specific website for detailed information and further questions. (Examples: acceptance of AP and online course credit)
What is the MCAT and what content is covered?
The MCAT is a computerized 7.5 hour exam and there are 25 examinations throughout the year. The MCAT testing fee is $305. You can register online to take the exam at www.aamc.org/MCAT. Medical schools consider each score, so prepare early and thoroughly the first time. NEVER take the actual MCAT for practice. Registration for the MCAT will open about four to five months prior to the actual test date. Registration is done online at https://services.aamc.org/20/mcat/. You may only take the MCAT up to three times in a calendar year, four times over two consecutive years and seven times over the course of your lifetime. Texas testing locations: http://www.mcat-test-centers.com/Texas.html

Knowledge and skills tested on the exam are found in pre-requisite courses. The total score ranges from 472-528 and scores are reported within 30-35 days after your exam. There is no waiting period in between retaking the exam should you need to. Texas A&M offers a MCAT testing location on campus at Data and Research Services.

- Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
- Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems
- Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior
- Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills

How fact can I get into medical school?
At least 98% of those accepted into medical will have attained a bachelor’s degree before they enter. By completing your bachelor’s degree you have the ability to engage in social interactions such as student organizations and course electives that provide depth and lifelong memories. It is extremely rare that a student will have competitive enough grades, MCAT score, extracurricular activities, and maturity to be admitted to medical school with only 90 credit hours. It is strongly recommended that you take your time, go slowly and strive for good grades and become a well-rounded and well-educated applicant.

Medical school application timeline (starting the fall of your junior year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sept-Dec</th>
<th>Jan-Mar</th>
<th>April-May</th>
<th>June-July</th>
<th>Aug-Dec</th>
<th>Jan-Apr</th>
<th>July-Aug</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attend OPSA File Workshop</td>
<td>Work on OPSA file!</td>
<td>Complete OPSA file by April deadline.</td>
<td>Submit apps by June 1</td>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>Medical Match Preference Submission Deadline for TMDSAS</td>
<td>Enter Medical School!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start OPSA file</td>
<td>Follow up on evaluations at <a href="https://opsa.tamu.edu/opsadb">https://opsa.tamu.edu/opsadb</a></td>
<td>Applications available online (May 1)</td>
<td>Request OPSA to send evaluations</td>
<td>Rolling Admissions begin for TMDSAS medical schools - Nov 15 - Dec 31st.</td>
<td>TMDSAS Match Results Announced (mid January)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study and prepare for MCAT</td>
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<td>Study and prepare for MCAT</td>
<td>Interviews begin in late July</td>
<td>MCAT dates available in Aug. and Sept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCAT test dates in late Jan.</td>
<td>MCAT test dates in March, April and May.</td>
<td>Attend OPSA Application Workshop</td>
<td>Attend OPSA Interview Workshop</td>
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What else is required besides good grades and the MCAT?
~ 3 supportive letters of evaluation (1 science and 1 non-science professor you have had in class science and a 3rd letter of recommendation)
~ Well-rounded interests and participation outside of the classroom along with leadership
~ Exposure to medical environment as well as research experience
~ Solid interviewing and communication skills (utilize the Career Center)

Admission to medical school is extremely competitive. Schools will examine your grade point average for science, non-science and over-all course work. These grades along with MCAT scores are generally the criteria used to make initial selections from the applicant pool. Once invited to interview, selection is based on overall characteristics including motivation, experience and communication skills.
Texas Medical Schools

Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas http://www bcm.edu
AMCAS~ aamc.org / amcas@aamc.org

Dell Medical School
Austin, Texas http://dellmedschool.utexas.edu/
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

Texas A&M Health Science Center ~ College of Medicine
Locations: Bryan/College Station; Houston; Dallas; Round Rock & Temple
Bryan, Texas http://medicine.tamhsc.edu
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center ~ El Paso
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
El Paso, Texas http://elpaso.tuhs.edu/fostersom
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center ~ School of Medicine
Lubbock, Texas http://www.tuhs.edu
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine
San Antonio, Texas http://uiw.edu/som
AACOMAS~ http://www.aacom.org/ / aacomasinfo@liaisoncas.com

University of Texas Health Science Center ~ San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas http://som.uthscsa.edu
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

University of Texas ~ McGovern Medical School
Houston, Texas http://www.med.uth.edu
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
Galveston, Texas http://www.utmb.edu
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

University of North Texas Health Science Center ~ Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM)
Ft. Worth, Texas http://web.uthsc.tmc.edu/education/tcom
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine
McAllen, Texas http://www.uthsc.tmc.edu/ucmc
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
Dallas, Texas http://www.utsouthwestern.edu
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

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