Western Carolina University | Pre-professional Pathways

Pre-Medicine

In order to become an physician you must:

- complete a bachelor's degree (in any major) *WCU Undergraduate Major Options*
- decide to apply to Allopathic (M.D.), Osteopathic (D.O.), or both types of medical programs *Comparison*
- complete appropriate prerequisite coursework and shadowing requirements *(see list of programs for details)*
- take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) *Examprep.wcu.edu*
- apply through AMCAS (allopathic) or AACOMAS (osteopathic), *some colleges require secondary applications*
- complete a course of study at medical school **List of programs:** *Allopathic* / *Osteopathic*
- complete a residency program (average of 3 - 7 years)
- complete all necessary certification and licensure examinations

What should I major in?

While there is no prescribed major for admission into a medical school, it is imperative that students complete all required courses for admission. Medical schools vary significantly in their requirements, and it is important for you to learn what coursework the schools that interest you require. Students should choose their major according to their strengths, interests and alternative career choices. There are some excellent summer programs for future doctors. Students may consider attending these programs between their junior and senior years.

If a student is wishing to apply to ECU or UNC medical schools, they should pay careful attention to each school's required prerequisite courses as listed on their websites.

Minimally, a student should complete these courses at WCU for entrance into many medical schools

BIOL 150, BIOL 151
General Bio. I, General Bio. II

CHEM 139, CHEM 140, CHEM 241, CHEM 242
General Chemistry I, General Chemistry II, Organic Chemistry I, Organic Chemistry II

PHYS 130, PHYS 131
Introductory Physics I, Introductory Physics II

** Additional coursework in Psychology, Sociology, Human Anatomy & Physiology, and Biology and Chemistry (including Biochemistry) is highly recommended in preparation for the MCAT.

WHO CAN HELP ME AT WCU?

For information on undergraduate program options and admission requirements for medical schools, contact pre-professional advisors:

Pre-Professional Students:
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