

Pre-Med

Envision a career which blends scientific advances with the health care needs of the human family. . .

Medicine is a many-faceted world: caring for patients, pursuing research, wrestling with ethical and moral dilemmas never before presented. The profession is rapidly changing, from within and without. New knowledge and capabilities are astounding: artificial and transplanted organs replace diseased ones, the test tube replaces the womb as original home for human life, the laser replaces the knife in surgery, the computer augments the mind in diagnosis. But despite the revolution, the physician must still bring traditional tools to the relationship with the patient: a solid foundation of scientific knowledge and a compassionate and caring regard for the person.

Prospective medical students should explore the world of the physician as thoroughly as possible. Admission to medical school is highly selective and competitive. Once admitted, the student faces four years of post-undergraduate education for the medical degree, plus one or more years of residency training. Although rewarding, the practice of medicine is an exacting and stressful occupation. The University recommends that prospective medical students talk to physicians and other medical professionals and read widely about medicine and medical education. Medical schools require that prospective students obtain first hand exposure to the profession by serving as a volunteer or part-time employee in a health care setting.

Pre-Med Studies. . .

A student deciding to enter medical school should plan carefully their undergraduate curriculum. Although medical schools vary somewhat in their academic expectations for applicants, most look for a broad liberal education encompassing in some depth the natural and physical sciences, as well as substantial exposure to the social and behavioral sciences and the arts and humanities.

UND does not offer an established pre-medicine major. Instead, students are encouraged to select a major that satisfies their own interests and allows them to complete their medical school prerequisites. Although majors in biology, psychology, and chemistry are the most common, the range of acceptable majors is broad and diverse, including engineering, English, Interdisciplinary Studies, music, and many others.

The vast majority of medical schools require students to have earned an undergraduate degree from an accredited or approved college or university. While a minimum grade point average of 3.0 ("B") is expected, both cumulatively and in science (chemistry, physics, biology, psychology, and math), the average grade point average of students getting into most medical schools is about 3.7. The student's transcript *must* include:

- At least one year of academic course and lab work in General Biology General (Inorganic) Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and Physics
- At least one year of English Composition
- At least one semester of Psychology
- One semester of College Algebra
- One semester of Biochemistry

In addition, medical schools may require:

- One or more semesters of Calculus and/or Statistics

In order to participate in the UND Pre-Med program, students must:

- 1) officially declare Pre-Med in the main office of the College of Arts & Sciences (Montgomery 125);
- 2) complete Bio 150-151 & Chem 121-122 before start of sophomore year, with no grade less than a C (they may repeat one course once); and
- 3) keep a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 or higher.

Pre-Med Studies continued. . .

Preferred electives for most medical schools include: Genetics, Anatomy, Physiology, Histology, Microbiology, and Public Speaking.

Although most medical schools advise applicants to have courses of general cultural value in their curricula, a background in the sciences is important to prepare for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).

Students are encouraged to complete the basic science courses by the end of their junior year, as the medical school application process usually begins in the summer before senior year.

The MCAT. . .

Students usually take the MCAT at the end of the junior year or during the summer before senior year in college. The four-part examination includes sections on verbal reasoning, biological sciences, physical sciences, and a writing sample.

Advising. . .

Pre-medicine undergraduates at UND should receive academic advising from the Health Sciences Advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences. Assistance also is available through the School of Medicine and Health Sciences' Office of Student Affairs and Admissions and the INMED Program office.

High School Curriculum. . .

Most common college-preparatory curricula are suitable for students planning to pursue Pre-Med at the undergraduate level. A firm grounding in math and science will allow the student to enter the required college science courses more

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Pre-Med Continued. . .

High School Curriculum continued. . .

quickly and thus prevent the need for additional course work and time before entering the Pre-Med program.

AP credit or dual credit is OK for anything but sciences. Because Pre-Med students need to take the MCAT, they need a firm foundation in biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics. Also, since these sciences courses are requirements for all medical schools, the majority should be taken at an accredited four year college or university. While some med schools will accept AP credit for science requirements, many will not. AP credit for non-sciences is usually fine – be sure to keep your official AP score report, as it may be needed.

Many medical schools will not accept CLEP credits for any requirements.

Activities. . .

- Many prospective medical students become active in UND's Undergraduate Medical Association (UMA). The student organization is designed to explore the world of a physician and to help its members determine if they want a career in medicine. The group sponsors lectures and presentations by health care professionals and visits medical facilities throughout the region.
- UMA also co-sponsors Pre-med Day, a one-day fall workshop to familiarize high school and undergraduate students with pre-medicine curricula, medical school, and the health care profession. More information about Pre-med Day is available at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Office of Student Affairs, Medical School Room 1510, 501 N. Columbia Rd. Stop 9037, Grand Forks ND 58202-9037, telephone (701) 777-4221.

UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. . .

- The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences was established in 1905 as a basic science school offering the first two years of medical school. Through legislative action in 1973 and 1981, the program was expanded into a complete, in-state medical education program. The school is fully accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges.
- Undergraduate study at UND offers no special advantage to students applying later to the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. However, because of the diversity and substance of its curriculum, the University is an excellent place to undertake an undergraduate pre-medicine course of study, no matter which medical school is later selected. UND encourages students from rural areas to consider becoming physicians. One of the medical school's objectives is to provide doctors for rural North Dakota. It should be noted that many state supported medical schools—including the University of North Dakota—discourage out-of-state applications.
- The UND medical school must, by legislative mandate, give preference to long-term North Dakota residents. UNDSMHS admits 55 students each year in state-supported positions. The small class size and the personal, one-to-one relationship with physician-teachers are viewed as strengths of the M.D. program.
- In addition, the School of Medicine and Health Sciences adds up to seven places in its freshmen class each year for fully qualified

American Indian students participating in the federally-funded Indians into Medicine Program (INMED). The program, which became operational in 1973, was developed in part to replace the doctor draft as a means of providing physicians for Indian Health Service hospitals. Applicants for the INMED program come from throughout the United States and must be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe.

- The School of Medicine, additionally, participates in the WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program, admitting a small number of students each year from the states of Montana and Wyoming. A limited number of residents of the state of Minnesota also will be considered for admission.

UND. . .

The University of North Dakota is a major residential university located on a 550-acre campus in Grand Forks, a classic college town on the North Dakota-Minnesota border. Greater Grand Forks, with a population of 60,000, has a quality of life ranked among the top in the nation. With about 12,500 students (approximately 10,000 undergraduate, 2,000 graduate, and 500 professional students in law and medicine), UND offers a solid liberal arts foundation, high quality facilities, and outstanding faculty. The state's only law and medical degree programs are located at UND. The University provides more than 215 fields of study as well as a variety of academic, social, and cultural services and activities. www.und.edu

For more information. . .

For more information regarding Pre-Med contact:

Health Sciences Advisor

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Montgomery Hall Room 125
290 Centennial Drive Stop 8038
Grand Forks ND 58202-8038
(701) 777-2749
1-800-CALL-UND, ext. 2749*

Pre-Med Web Site:

*<http://www.und.edu/dept/hpadvize/premed.html>
E-mail: kim.ruit@und.edu*

Medical School Web Site:

*<http://www.med.und.nodak.edu>
E-mail: jdheit@medicine.nodak.edu*

Medical School Admissions

*Medical School Room 2912
501 North Columbia Road Stop 9037
Grand Forks ND 58202-9037
(701) 777-4221*

For general enrollment information, contact:

*UND Enrollment Services
Carnegie Building
250 Centennial Drive Stop 8135
Grand Forks ND 58202-8135
(701) 777-4463
TTY (701) 777-3367
1-800-CALL-UND, ask for ext. 4463
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