Medical School

Texas A&M Professional School Advising can advise you realistically on whether you are (or will be) 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. You will want to observe and/or shadow physicians and visit with professionals in the different fields of healthcare. Keep up with the current trends and information about professional schools and medicine as a career. Definitely join one of the campus pre-health student 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 prerequisite course requirements. Texas A&M does not have a pre-medical academic track which is why you want to 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. An alternative career provides good insurance if you should happen to change career 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 (core curriculum) 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 prerequisite requirements for medical school are as follows and require a grade of "C" or better.

Prerequisites for Texas Medical Schools

English (6 hours)

Statistics (3 hours) (choose one)
- BMEN 350
- INFO/SCMT 303
- PHLT 315
- PSYC 203, 301
- STAT 201; 211; 301; 302; 303

Introductory Biology with lab (8 hours)
- BIOL 111
- BIOL 112

Upper-level Biology (6 hours)
- Refer to Degree Plan
- OPSA TMDSAS Approved Courses

Inorganic Chemistry with lab (8 hours)
- CHEM 101/111
- CHEM 102/112

Organic Chemistry with lab (8 hours)
- CHEM 227/237
- CHEM 228/238

Physics with lab (8 hours)
- PHYS 201 & 202 or
- PHYS 208 & 218

Biochemistry (3 hours)
- BICH 410 **

** For schools that Biochemistry is not a prerequisite, Biochemistry 410 will fulfill one of the Upper Level Biology requirements (with the exception of UT-Southwestern).

Some out of state institutions and private Texas medical schools require additional courses. Please refer to their specific website for detailed information and contact them by email with any questions specific to their course requirements.
What is the MCAT and what content is covered?
The MCAT is a computerized 7.5 hour exam and there are 30 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. You may only take the MCAT up to three times in a calendar year, four times over two consecutive years and seven times total. Texas testing locations: https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/mcat-test-center-locations-us-canada/.

Knowledge and skills tested on the exam are found in prerequisite courses. The total score ranges from 472-528 and scores are reported within 30-35 days after your exam. If you need to re-take the MCAT; you must wait 48 hours before you can register for another exam date.

- 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 fast can I get into medical school?
At least 99% 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>Register &amp; attend the mandatory OPSA Portal Workshop</td>
<td>Work on OPSA portal file!</td>
<td>Complete OPSA portal file by April deadline.</td>
<td>Medical school interviews begin in mid-July</td>
<td>Medical school Interviews</td>
<td>(mid January)</td>
<td>Receive notification from medical schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start OPSA file; you will be given portal access in about 2 weeks</td>
<td>Follow up on evaluations by logging into the OPSA Portal</td>
<td>Refer to each application service for application openings and directions</td>
<td>Submit TMDSAS application by June 1</td>
<td>Rolling</td>
<td>TMDSAS Medical school Match Submission Deadline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study and prepare for MCAT</td>
<td>Study and prepare for MCAT</td>
<td>Study and prepare for MCAT</td>
<td>Request OPSA to send evaluations through OPSA Portal</td>
<td>Preference</td>
<td>Preference ranking on TMDSAS website</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCAT test dates are released 4-5 months prior to test registration</td>
<td>Continue to monitor available MCAT test dates</td>
<td>Medical school interviews begin in mid-July</td>
<td>Medical school interviews begin in mid-July</td>
<td>MCAT dates available in Aug. and Sept.</td>
<td>TMDSAS Match Results Announced (early February)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register &amp; Attend OPSA Application Workshop</td>
<td>Register &amp; Attend OPSA Application Workshop</td>
<td>Study and prepare for MCAT</td>
<td>Register &amp; 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 and a 3rd letter of recommendation which can be from any area)
~ 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 your overall science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Math BCPM), and overall 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.ttuhsc.edu/fostersom
TMDSAS~ www.tmdsas.com / info@tmdsas.com

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

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine
McAllen, Texas  http://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/
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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