# Allopathic Medicine

## Nature of the Work

For descriptions of this profession see:

- *Aspiring Docs* section of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) website ([www.aamc.org/students/aspiring](http://www.aamc.org/students/aspiring))
- [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

## Course Requirements

- 1 year general biology
- 1 year general chemistry
- 1 year organic chemistry
- 1 year general physics
- Some schools also may require biochemistry, math, English, and/or other courses
- Check the *Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)*
  - [www.aamc.org/msar](http://www.aamc.org/msar)
  - *MSAR Getting Started*
  - *MSAR Online*
- MCAT 2015: 1 semester each: genetics, cell biology, psychology and sociology; 2 semesters of biochemistry may substitute for cell biology

## Application Timeline

### No Gap Year:
- Prerequisite courses completed by end of junior year
- Apply during summer after junior year

### Gap Year:
- Prerequisite courses completed by end of senior year
- Apply summer after senior year

## Standardized Test

- Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)
- Take after prerequisite courses are completed
- Website: [https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/](https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/)
- Given many times during the year (see website for schedule; April dates typically are preferred)
- Register on-line
- MCAT 2015
  - 6.5 hour test
  - 4 sections, each scored 1-15: 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
- Receive scores approximately 30 days after test
- AAMC Resources:
  - *MCAT Essentials*
  - *The Official Guide to the MCAT Exam*
  - *The Official MCAT Self-Assessment Package*
  - Practice tests (first one free)
| Application Service                                                                                           | • American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) ([www.aamc.org/amcas](www.aamc.org/amcas))  
|                                                                                                                 | • Available ≈ May 1  
|                                                                                                                 | • APPLY EARLY!!!  
| Admissions Criteria                                                                                           | • **Overall and science GPA** (check MSAR for #'s)  
|                                                                                                                 | • **MCAT scores** (check MSAR for #'s)  
|                                                                                                                 | • Medically-related experience  
|                                                                                                                 | • Extracurricular activities  
|                                                                                                                 | • Research experience  
|                                                                                                                 | • Community service  
|                                                                                                                 | • Leadership experiences  
|                                                                                                                 | • Personal statement  
|                                                                                                                 | • Letters of evaluation (committee letter)  
|                                                                                                                 | • Interview  
| Length of Program                                                                                             | • Medical school: 4 years  
|                                                                                                                 | • Residency: 3-7 years  
|                                                                                                                 | • Fellowship: 1-3 years  
| Degree                                                                                                         | • Doctor of Medicine (MD)  
| Additional Resources                                                                                          | • *Aspiring Docs* section of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) website ([www.aamc.org/students/aspiring](www.aamc.org/students/aspiring))  
|                                                                                                                 | • American Medical Student Association (AMSA; [www.amsa.org](www.amsa.org))  
|                                                                                                                 | • Student National Medical Association (SNMA; [www.snma.org](www.snma.org))  
|                                                                                                                 | • American Medical Association (AMA; [www.ama-assn.org/ama](www.ama-assn.org/ama))  
|                                                                                                                 | • Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP; [www.smdep.org](www.smdep.org))  
|                                                                                                                 | • Summer Enrichment Programs: [https://services.aamc.org/summerprograms/](https://services.aamc.org/summerprograms/)  
|                                                                                                                 | • Summer Undergraduate Research Programs: [https://www.aamc.org/members/great/61052/great_summerlinks.html](https://www.aamc.org/members/great/61052/great_summerlinks.html)  
|                                                                                                                 | • Student Doctor Network ([www.studentdoctor.net](www.studentdoctor.net))  
| Notes                                                                                                          | • The Health Professions Committee interviews students during the spring semester to facilitate writing committee letter of evaluation  
|                                                                                                                 | • Students should pick up a packet of information about the Health Professions Committee process from the Health Professions Advisor or the Health Professions Administrative Assistant  

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