

Pre-Medical Program

Pre-Med Advisor: Michael Morton

Mission

Medical schools, in their many different forms, are post-baccalaureate programs requiring an undergraduate degree for admission. The mission of the St. Andrews Pre-Medical program is to prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary to gain acceptance in a medical school of their choice and to later excel as a professional. There are many different career options available for students interested in pursuing careers in health care. Students might consider eventually studying medicine, nursing, physical therapy, pharmacy, dentistry, or physician assisting among many other fields. Depending on the student's interests, he/she might choose different paths of study while at St. Andrews. Future medical professionals need to possess a diverse educational background so that they can bring a variety of talents and interests to the profession of their choice. A student may choose any major course of study but should be aware that medical schools are looking for students with a strong foundation in natural sciences (biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics), highly developed communication skills, and a solid background in the social sciences and humanities. St. Andrews also cultivates the less tangible qualities and characteristics that admission officers are seeking because they ensure success in the highly challenging fields of health care. Through a distinctive, well-rounded liberal education and the numerous opportunities beyond the classroom such as internships and study abroad, St. Andrews students develop invaluable characteristics such as community awareness, creativity, and problem-solving abilities.

Program of Study

Pre-Med is not defined as a separate field of study, nor is it restricted to a single, specific major at St. Andrews. The majority of students in the Pre-Med Program usually major or minor in a natural science, but the completion of other majors does not exclude a student from successfully applying to medical school. Students interested in health related fields should first discuss their career choice with the Pre-Med Advisor. In consultation with the advisor, they choose a major and plan out their course work each semester to meet the goals of preparing for the specific medical schools of their choice, in addition to completing their major and general education requirements. Regardless of what major a student interested in health care chooses to study at St. Andrews, the first two years of study should concentrate on the traditional basic science disciplines with a special emphasis on laboratory experiences that form an integral part of the science education process. This will allow the students to be properly prepared for taking the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) at the end of their junior year. The MCAT consists of four sections: 1) verbal reasoning, 2) physical sciences, 3) biological sciences and 4) writing abilities. The General Education program at St. Andrews helps prepare students for sections 1 and 4 while courses in the natural sciences help prepare students for sections 2 and 3. Throughout their four years at St. Andrews, students will also discuss various opportunities with their advisor, such as internships, and important deadlines for national exams and applications.

Basic science courses that meet the minimal requirements for most medical school programs:

BIO 201 and 204 Concepts in Biology 1 & 2

BIO 327 Genetics

CHE 210 & 210 L Essential Concepts of Chemistry

CHE 215 & 215L Introduction to Structural Inorganic Chemistry

CHE 220 & CHE 350 Introductory Organic Chemistry

PHY 201 & 202 College Physics / PHY 211 & 212 General Physics

MAT 205 Statistics / MAT 221 Calculus

Recommended courses (May be required for certain schools):

BIO 221 Anatomy and Physiology I

BIO 351 Mammalian Physiology

BIO 365 Microbiology

CHE 365 Biochemistry I: Biomolecules

SS 227 Community Health, First Aid and CPR