

Pre-Medicine

Pre-Veterinary Medicine

PROGRAM OVERVIEW The pre-medicine program allows students to major in one of the sciences or any other discipline of interest, while, at the same time, completing the science courses required by medical schools. Schools of medicine and other applied, health-science training institutions recognize the importance of a strong foundation in the natural sciences, effective communication skills, and a solid background in the social sciences and humanities. In addition to academic proficiency, personal qualities such as leadership, dedication, and commitment to a health science career, should be developed during a pre-professional program of study.

FACULTY The pre-medicine program includes faculty members from a broad variety of disciplines. However, most advisors for pre-medicine students occupy faculty positions within the sciences. Students are matched with an experienced adviser, who will mentor the student in developing a program of study as he/she prepares for medical school or other professional health training.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION A strong high-school background in mathematics and the sciences is recommended for students who plan to enter medicine. This should include a well-rounded academic curriculum in other areas. Involvement in student activities or individual achievements, and demonstration of leadership qualities, are also indicators of success.

COURSES REQUIRED BY MEDICAL SCHOOLS The following courses are listed by most medical schools as essential core requirements for entrance:

- General Biology (1 year)
- Inorganic or General Chemistry (1 year)
- Organic Chemistry (1 year)
- Physics (1 year)
- Mathematics (1 year)
- English (1 year)

These requirements may vary, however, depending on the medical school. For example, some schools may additionally require coursework in the behavioral sciences, as well as upper-level courses in biochemistry and/or genetics. It is suggested that students consult the entrance requirements of medical schools in their state of residency for specific requirements.

INTERNSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES There are several medical centers, nursing homes, and clinics, in the greater Des Moines area that may provide opportunities for qualified students to volunteer their time in order to acquire patient care experience under the professional supervision of health care staff at these institutions. Additional experiences, such as "shadowing" physicians, are similarly valuable in preparing for professional health careers. Undergraduate research

and/or internship opportunities may be available to qualified students through local industries such as Pioneer Hi-Bred International. Each year in the fall, interested Drake students attend an annual pre-medical conference hosted by the University of Iowa, in Iowa City. This experience gives insight into the expectations of the professional medical schools. To further facilitate a student's understanding of the expectations of medical school, Drake also offers a "Biology Proficiency Symposium" course for pre-professional students during the fall semester of the junior year. In this course students learn about procedures for applying to medical school, studying for the MCAT and related exams, and listen to personal talks from physicians and professional health-care speakers. A pre-medical advisory committee, comprised of Drake faculty members, writes letters of recommendation to medical schools on behalf of qualified student applicants.

CAREER OPTIONS A variety of health related careers are available to qualified Drake graduates. These include surgeon, physician, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, osteopathic physician, physician's assistant, physical therapist, chiropractor, veterinarian, and others.

HOW TO REACH US

WRITE

Office of Undergraduate Admission
Drake University
2507 University Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50311-4505

CALL

1-800-44-DRAKE, x3181

LOCAL OR OUTSIDE U.S.

515-271-3181

E-MAIL

admission@drake.edu

INTERNATIONAL E-MAIL

international@drake.edu

SURF

www.choose.drake.edu

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