The College of Medicine offers a four-year curriculum leading to a degree of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.).

A curriculum in medicine has been part of the University of Kentucky since 1960. The College of Medicine is responsible for providing its students with training in related basic sciences and in the clinical experience under supervision in the University of Kentucky Hospital and other affiliated facilities.

As part of the Medical Center – which also includes the University of Kentucky Hospital and the Colleges of Dentistry, Health Sciences, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health – the College of Medicine strives for programs of the highest possible quality. This means selecting the best possible student body, creating an environment which fosters learning, investigation, and clinical excellence, and acquiring and keeping talented faculty and administrative staffs.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR THE STUDY OF MEDICINE

Medical science and practice involve complex relationships between physical, biological, psychological, cultural, and environmental aspects of human behavior. In the preparation for medical school, fundamental undergraduate college training in biology, chemistry, physics, and English is essential. Minimal requirements are satisfied with the equivalent of two semesters of studies in physics; two semesters in the biological sciences; four semesters in chemistry, including organic chemistry and biochemistry; and at least one year of English with emphasis on communication skills such as reading, writing, and speaking.

In addition, we strongly recommend that prospective applicants complete a course in cell biology, statistics, psychology, and sociology. Students are encouraged to follow special interests which they may have in philosophy, psychology, literature, social sciences, or the fine arts.

Students are urged to demonstrate a capacity for advanced work through concentrated study of at least one subject in a major area by completing courses beyond the introductory level.

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION

Applicants for admission to the College of Medicine M.D. program, in addition to meeting general University requirements, must meet the prerequisite requirements of the College of Medicine and be accepted by the College of Medicine Admissions Committee. Applicants will be required to have taken the Medical College of Medicine Admission Test (MCAT) and are encouraged to have completed a baccalaureate degree program at an accredited college or university.

SELECTION CRITERIA

In admitting students to the College of Medicine, the University endeavors to select students who show promise of becoming excellent future physicians. Applicants are judged on the basis of their total qualifications and in comparison with other applicants.

As a state-supported school, the College of Medicine gives preference to qualified residents of Kentucky. Although well-qualified nonresidents may apply, preference is given to candidates with Kentucky ties.

Selection from among applicants who meet the general premedical educational requirements of the College of Medicine is based on a number of criteria. A high level of academic performance at the undergraduate level is extremely important. It is recognized, however, that a meaningful evaluation of student performance must consider many factors in addition to grades. For example, exposure to the health care profession is considered essential.

The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is used to assess scholastic aptitude.

Since the practice of medicine involves the physician in continual relationships with people – with patients, and with other members of the health care team – applicants are also judged according to premedical evaluations, the degree of their participation in campus and community activities and organizations, and the personal characteristics that they demonstrate. Friendliness, compassion, integrity, professionalism, and commitment are all essential traits of the physician.

Often the physician’s ability to communicate effectively will determine the degree of success in the diagnosis and management of a patient’s medical condition and in other professional activities. Thus, consideration is given to the communication skills demonstrated by each applicant. Communication is bidirectional and involves the ability to listen perceptively, as well as to speak and write clearly.

Because the practice of medicine and the life of the medical student require a great investment of effort and demand both time and energy, it is essential that a prospective medical student meet the Technical Standards of the College of Medicine detailed online at: https://meded.med.uky.edu/medical-education-technical-standards. Further, prospective applicants should be able to demonstrate that their motivation to study medicine is sufficiently strong to sustain him or her in the face of difficulties. Accepted applicants are subject to a criminal background check prior to matriculation.

STUDENT PROGRESS

The Student Progress and Promotions Committee is charged with monitoring student progress through the curriculum. The committee regularly reviews each student’s performance and makes recommendations on such actions as graduation, promotion, remediation, dismissal, and leaves of absence. Final authority on all matters of student progress and promotion is vested in the Dean of the College of Medicine.

Students are responsible for conforming to all rules and regulations specified by the Behavioral Standards in Patient Care, Health Science Student Professional Behavior Code, the College of Medicine Honor Code, the “Technical Standards Related to Applicant Admission and Student Performance” detailed online at: https://meded.med.uky.edu/medical-education-technical-standards, the academic standards established in the Student Promotion rules, and the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities for all University of Kentucky students.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course listings for the College of Medicine may be found at: http://meded.med.uky.edu/curriculum-overview.

For specific information about programs in the College of Medicine, students should refer to The Graduate School Bulletin or the College of Medicine Bulletin.

COMBINED MEDICAL AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Students have the opportunity to pursue the M.D./M.B.A. and the M.D./M.P.H.
Minor in Pharmacology

The minor in Pharmacology is designed to prepare graduates to enter agricultural, medical, dental, veterinary, nursing, medical technology and other health related professions. Regardless of their degree and career choices, the completion of this minor will prepare students to navigate the medical choices that lie before us all. It will also offer students a unique opportunity to discover how drugs work and how they are developed and used.

Admission

Students will be admitted into the program when they declare Pharmacology as their minor and upon completion of the preminor courses with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and award of a grade of C or higher in the minor prerequisites (see Minor Prerequisites below). Requests to waive any prerequisite must be made in writing to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Students will be advised under their majors.

Minor Prerequisites

BIO 148 Introductory Biology I ........................................ 3

plus 4 credits from either:

PGY 206 Elementary Physiology
PGY 207 Case Studies in Physiology ......................... 4

or

BIO 350 Animal Physiology ............................................. 4

Minor Requirements

PHA 200 Pharmacology: Drugs and Human Health ........ 3

Minor Electives

9 credits must be completed from any combination of electives below. NOTE: Although not needed for the minor, PHA 421G, 422G, 423G, 424G and 425G will all be able to be taken for graduate (G) credit:

PHA 422G Pharmacology of Treating Human Disease .......... 3
PHA 423G Exploring the Dark Side of Medicine ................. 3
PHA 424G Pharmacology of Human Endocrinology and Reproduction .................................................. 3
PHA 425G Neuropharmacology: Treating Disorders of the Brain ................................................................. 3
PSY 459 Neuropharmacology: Drugs and Behavior .......... 3

Undergraduate Certificate in Medical Behavioral Science

The 12 credit hour undergraduate certificate in Medical Behavioral Science is designed to complement the university’s rigorous pre-medical curriculum, which currently includes courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and English. The certificate consists of three sequential courses and a cross-disciplinary elective. The courses are uniquely focused on synthesizing the psychological, social, and biological dimensions of health outcomes and behavior.

The course objectives are aligned with the new Behavioral Science section of the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) and with Introduction to Clinical Medicine, the University of Kentucky’s mandatory Behavioral Science course for first-year medical students.

The certificate is designed to provide students with an in-depth study of Medical Behavioral Science concepts; offer experiential learning activities such as conducting health needs assessments and taking part in supervised shadowing placements; and prepare students for successfully managing the both the intellectual and interpersonal demands of medical training.

Required Courses

BSC 152 You, Me, Myself, and I: Psychosocial Influences on Health .................................................. 3
BSC 251 The Enemy Within: Culture and Health Behavior .................................................. 3
BSC 301 Doctoring Undercover: Shadowing and the Culture of Medicine ................. 3

In addition, students must complete one of the elective courses below:

ANT 333 Contemporary Human Variation ............................................ 3
ANT 429 Survey of Medical Anthropology .................. 3
BIO 302 Introduction to Neuroscience .................................. 3
BIO 375 Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology ............................................ 3
SOC 255 Medicine, Health, and Society .................................. 3
SOC 355 Sociology of Health and Illness .................................. 3

other relevant 3-credit courses may be counted for the elective credit with the review and approval of the certificate director