

### Pre-Med Plan

Students are free to choose any major while pursuing their undergraduate degree and fulfilling pre-medical requirements. When selecting a major, students should consider subjects they find interesting and challenging, and those in which they perform best. Medical schools do not require a specific major to enter the professional program, but they do have minimum entrance requirements. Most students accepted to medical school earn a bachelor's degree while satisfying pre-medical requirements.

The Association of American Medical Colleges states:

*"Medical schools recognize the importance of a strong foundation in the natural sciences – biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics – and most schools have established minimum course requirements for admissions. These courses usually represent about one-third of the credit hours needed for degree completion. This approach deliberately leaves room for applicants from a broad spectrum of college majors, including those in the humanities and social sciences. No medical school requires a specific major of its applicants or matriculants. Admission committee members are aware that medical students can develop the essential skills of acquiring, synthesizing, applying, and communicating information through a wide variety of academic disciplines. Nevertheless, many premedical students choose to major in a scientific discipline. Ideally, they do so because they are fascinated by science and perceive that such a major can be the foundation for a variety of career options. Choosing science primarily to enhance one's chances for admissions to medical school is not in the student's long term best interest. Medical school admission committees seek students whose intellectual curiosity leads them to a variety of disciplines and whose intellectual maturity assures that their efforts are persistent and disciplined."* (Medical School Admission Requirements, 2009-2010)

### Pre-Med requirements differ, but generally include:

- 2 semesters of college English or intensive writing courses
- 2 semesters of biology with labs
- 2 semesters of general chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of organic chemistry with labs
- 2 semesters of physics with labs

Some medical schools have additional requirements beyond the minimum. Check specific medical schools for admissions requirements.

In addition, students are encouraged to take course work in areas such as anatomy, biochemistry, cell biology, calculus, genetics, histology, immunology, microbiology, physiology, psychology, sociology and statistics.

Students interested in medical school should meet with a Pre-Med advisor at least once a year while pursuing their undergraduate curriculum, attend Pre-Medical information sessions, visit the Pre-Medical Web site at [www.uky.edu/careercenter/pre-medicine](http://www.uky.edu/careercenter/pre-medicine), and subscribe to the Pre-Health listserv. For additional information, contact a Pre-Med advisor at [ukcareercenter@uky.edu](mailto:ukcareercenter@uky.edu). Students in the College of Arts & Sciences are encouraged to visit [www.as.uky.edu/pre-medicine](http://www.as.uky.edu/pre-medicine) and to contact an advisor by emailing [ASAdvisingCenter@uky.edu](mailto:ASAdvisingCenter@uky.edu).