

## General Course Requirements for Medical Schools

Unlike other students at Westmont who need only to fulfill requirements for their major and for graduation, if you are considering a career in medicine you must also plan ahead to fulfill medical school entrance requirements.

Every medical school in the country requires:

- one year of general chemistry (with lab)
- one year of organic chemistry (with lab)
- one year of physics (with lab)
- one year of biology (with lab)

Most also require:

- a year of college English (one semester must be composition)

Many schools require:

- the equivalent of a year of college mathematics. Some require a semester of calculus; only a couple of schools currently require a full year of calculus. Others require a statistics course, and several schools require two semesters of college math chosen among calculus, statistics or computer science. In general, you will mostly be fine with a semester of Calculus and a second semester of Statistics or Calculus.
- a semester of **biochemistry** (more are requiring and the new MCAT will assume this)

Some schools require:

- Other biology courses: Genetics, physiology, microbiology, cell biology

### Westmont Courses that Satisfy the above Requirements

**CHEMISTRY:** Chemistry 5 and 6 (or 5H and 6H), and Chemistry 101 and 102  
(Biochemistry 113 is required for many medical schools and the new MCAT)

**PHYSICS:** Physics 21, 23 & 22, 24; or Physics 11, 13 & 14

**BIOLOGY:** Biology 5 & 6  
(Additional Biology Courses: Especially Genetics 114 and Physiology 102 plus Cell Biology 130 or Microbiology 110)

**MATHEMATICS:** Any two of Math 5 (Statistics), 9 & 10 (Calculus)

**ENGLISH:** Any two English courses. One of these must be composition (either English 2 or 104). You may also take literature or writing courses offered in other departments besides English, e.g. European Studies, or the "literature in translation" courses offered by the foreign language departments.

## **Sample Four Year Program for Meeting Medical School Requirements**

**Note:** It is important that you enroll in General Chemistry during your first semester at Westmont. Most students will also enroll in Calculus; along with a Religious Studies course (RS 10 or 20) or English Composition (ENG 002).

### **First Year:**

Chemistry, 1 year (General Chemistry I & II)  
Mathematics, 1 year (at least one semester each of Calculus and statistics)  
Biology, Spring semester (Introductory Biology I)  
English, 1 semester (Composition)

### **Sophomore Year:**

Chemistry, 1 year (Organic Chemistry I & II)  
Biology, Fall semester: (Introductory Biology II), Spring Semester: (Genetics)  
  
Physics, 1 year (General or Life Science I & II; most schools accept either option)  
[note that some students take this in their Junior year]

### **Junior Year:**

Biochemistry (now required for MCAT - 2015)  
Biology, (Physiology recommended, but not required)  
English, 1 semester  
Psychology (now required for MCAT - 2015)  
Sociology (now required for MCAT - 2015)  
Service work; preferably in a medically related area  
MCAT exam between April and August

AMCAS; submit their online primary application starting in early June after your Junior year.

### **Senior Year:**

Internship in a medical office or hospital  
Research experience

### **Academic Major:**

You are encouraged to pursue whatever interests you have in a major at Westmont. Most of the pre-medical students end up majoring in chemistry or biology, but other science, psychology and kinesiology majors fit nicely into what is required for medical school admissions. You are strongly encouraged to consider non-science majors as well as many medical schools look at this as a plus.