

## **Exploring Health Professions: Doctor (MD or DO)**

### Academic Programs

To become a physician, you will need to earn a Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree from an accredited program. This usually takes about four years. After you finish your degree, you will also need to complete an internship and residency of four to seven years. Additional advanced training may also be desirable or required.

### Prerequisite Courses

Required prerequisite courses vary from program to program but may include courses and labs in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, and physics, as well as genetics, math, psychology, sociology, and English or another writing-intensive course (Kowarski, 2022).

### GPA Requirements

Required minimum GPAs for applicants also vary. The median undergraduate GPA among all people who matriculated at U.S. medical schools during the 2022-23 academic year was 3.75 (AAMC, 2022).

Medical schools may also consider your BCPM GPA (also called a science GPA), which is an average of your grades in biology, chemistry, physics, and math courses, including both grades for any classes that you have retaken

### Standardized Testing

Most medical schools in the United States require applicants to take the [Medical College Admissions Test \(MCAT\)](#). Some medical schools may also require situational judgment tests such as the [Casper](#) exam.

### Other Requirements

Other requirements may include shadowing, patient care experience, health care experience, or other experiences that will help you show that you understand the medical profession and your area of interest within that profession. Research experience, membership and leadership positions in student organizations, internships, volunteer work, paid work, and other experiences might also help you to build a competitive application.

## Online Resources

Medical Schools in Minnesota:

[Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine](#)  
[University of Minnesota Medical School \(Duluth\)](#)  
[University of Minnesota Medical School \(Twin Cities\)](#)

Accredited Medical Schools (All Locations) and Entrance Requirements:

[AAMC Medical School Admission Requirements Website](#)

Accrediting Bodies for Physicians:

[American Board of Medical Specialties \(Allopathic Only\)](#)  
[American Board of Physician Specialties \(Allopathic and Osteopathic\)](#)  
[American Osteopathic Association \(Osteopathic Only\)](#)

Other Useful Medical School-Related Websites:

[AAMC Student and Resident Resources](#)  
[DO vs. MD: How Much Does the Medical School Degree Type Matter?](#)

Career Exploration Websites:

[The Strommen Center for Meaningful Work](#)  
[Explore Health Careers](#)  
[O\\*NET Online](#)  
[U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

## References

Association of American Medical Colleges. (2022, October 27). *Table A-20: MCAT scores and gpas for matriculants to U.S. MD ... - AAMC*. AAMC.  
<https://www.aamc.org/media/6076/download>

Kowarski, I. (2022, August 25). *How to make sure you fulfill medical school requirements for admission*. USNews.com.  
<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/top-medical-schools/articles/how-to-make-sure-you-fulfill-medical-school-requirements-for-admission>