

## Contact Info:

**Current Students:** Contact Lori Fitzenberger at 414-229-4654, or email [lorifitz@uwm.edu](mailto:lorifitz@uwm.edu)

**Not a UWM Student yet?** Call our Admissions Counselor at 414-229-7711 or email [let-sci@uwm.edu](mailto:let-sci@uwm.edu)



## Explore Pre-Med at UWM

If you are considering medical school, UWM provides a solid foundation to help you reach your goal. Of course, you also must do your part by meeting the rigorous admission standards of medical schools. UWM students consistently have been admitted to medical schools at a rate equal to or greater than the national average.

## Majors for Pre-Med Students

It is important to note that “pre-med” is not a major. Premed is a career classification that identifies students who plan to apply to medical school so that we can provide specialized advising. Medical schools are interested in well-rounded students with the necessary scientific preparation and demonstrated excellence in communication, practical experience, problem-solving and complex analysis.

Pre-med students are encouraged to consider the selection of their major from a variety of perspectives. Students should consider which majors will prepare them well for medical school, which majors will be of strongest interest to them, and which majors will also provide career alternatives should they change their mind about wanting to attend medical school or not be admitted.

Premed students commonly select a pure natural science major (Biochemistry, Biology, or Chemistry). National data and statistics specifically on UWM students indicate that the vast majority of students accepted into medical school come from these three majors, with psychology as the fourth most common major.

Regardless of major, students will be counseled on the science courses required to be a competitive applicant to medical school.



## Advising

Students will be assigned to a pre-med advisor who understands the long-term planning required to successfully complete the bachelor's program and move on to medical school. Because many science courses have prerequisites and follow a very structured order, it is important that students plan their course schedule very carefully with their advisor. Getting off track as early as freshman year can delay graduation.

## After Undergraduate Studies

Education and training beyond the bachelor's degree is required to practice medicine. After college, students enter either M.D. (allopathic) or D.O. (osteopathic) medical school. Both M.D.s and D.O.s are licensed and can prescribe drugs and perform surgery. However, D.O.s are more commonly found in general practice setting with preventative care as the focus.

Either advanced degree takes four years after the bachelor's degree. Once the M.D. or D.O. is earned, individuals then spend anywhere from three to eight years in an internship and/or residency program specific to their specialty.

## What are my chances of getting into medical school?

While less than half of all applicants who apply nationwide are accepted to a medical school, it is important to put that into perspective. You, alone, control how competitive you will be based on your college grades, test scores, and record of relevant health-related experience. A student who has a 3.9 GPA, an MCAT in the 90th percentile, and many hours of medical volunteering will be a strong candidate for medical school. Conversely, a student with a lower GPA, not much experience, and a weak MCAT is not likely to be competitive. Students must present a well-rounded application to medical school that addresses both the knowledge and experience.

## Career Outlook

The most common career path for an M.D. or D.O. is to become a physician, and within this profession, there are an endless number of specialties such as dermatology, oncology, cardiology, psychiatry, surgery, family practice, and more. Some doctors prefer to work behind-the-scenes in labs or research facilities. Others work for corporations or government agencies designing medical devices or public health programs. Still others find a calling to criminal justice, working with crime victims' bodies or on crime scene analysis.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects shortages across the health care professions, including physicians. Some specialties, including primary care, will face severe shortages.

Salaries range dramatically depending on the specialty and area of the country. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, median wages range from \$209,000 for family practice up to \$700,000+ for a surgical specialty in neurology.

## UWM Advantages

**Quick Fact:** Medical school applicants take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) late in junior year or during the summer between junior and senior year of college. This multiple-choice, computer-based exam measures reasoning, critical thinking, problem solving, writing ability, and knowledge of biology, physical sciences, sociocultural principles, and psychology.

Students are encouraged to enhance their preparation for medical school with outside activities:

- » **Rural & Urban Scholars in Community Health (RUSCH).** This is a competitive program with the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health for Wisconsin residents interested in practicing medicine in under-served communities. This program feeds into the Training in Urban Medicine & Public Health and Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine programs at UW-Madison's medical school. Included is a paid summer research internship at the medical school in Madison and a summer community health internship in Milwaukee. Students accepted to RUSCH, and who remain in good standing in the program, are guaranteed an interview for medical school at Madison.
- » **Student Enrichment Program for Underrepresented Professions (StEP-UP).** With the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), this program provides opportunities and support to local underrepresented college students. Program sessions cover both academic and non-academic topics vital for success, and meetings

take place once a month on Saturdays throughout the academic year at MCW.

- » **Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR).** Students at all levels, including freshmen, are encouraged to connect with OUR and engage in research. UWM is a Carnegie Foundation Tier 1 Research institution, and as such we offer extensive opportunities to participate in research.
- » **Student Organizations.** UWM has chapters of the American Medical Student Association, Professional Association of Latinix for Medical School, Exercise is Medicine, Love Your Melon (children with cancer), Women in Science & Medicine, Global Medical Brigades, and the Black Premed Society.
- » **Study Abroad Opportunities & Service Trips.** UWM sponsors winter-break health-related trips to countries all over the world. In addition, students routinely participate in the Vive Peru program, Atlantis Project, Unite for Sight, and GAP Medics.
- » **Volunteer Opportunities.** The City of Milwaukee is rich with volunteer opportunities. Our students have participated in the Hospital Elder Life Program, Hospice Volunteer Services, Unite for Sight Global Impact Corps, Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured, Back to School Health Fairs, and Prevent Blindness Wisconsin.
- » **Medical Scribe Jobs.** Scribes assist with the documentation, creation, and maintenance of medical records. A scribe job offers a birds-eye view of what life is like on a daily basis for a physician. Students receive in-depth exposure to clinical medicine and medical terminology. Many positions are in emergency departments, but other units are also available. These are competitive positions that students must apply for through local companies such as PhysAssist, Elite Medical Scribes, or Scribe America.

## Suggested Pre-Med Courses

1 year of general Biology with lab (Bio Sci 150, 152)
At least one advanced Biology course (Level 300+) with lab
3 semesters of General Chemistry/lab (Chem 100, 102, 104)
1 year of Organic Chemistry/lab (Chem 343, 344 & 345)
Biochemistry (Chem 501)
1 year of Physics with lab (Physics 120/121 & 122/123)
6 credits of English including composition
Math through the first semester of calculus AND a statistics course (Mth Stat 215 or Bio Sci 465)
Social/Behavioral Sciences including Psychology 101, Anthropology 104 or 102, Sociology 101 (Note: Several upper-level Social/Behavioral Sciences are also recommended.)
Public Health 101

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