

Advising sheet - medical doctor (MD) or osteopathic medical doctor (DO)

CSUC BIOL: advising for students planning careers as a MEDICAL DOCTOR (MD) or OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL DOCTOR (DO), Fall 2023.

MD programs vary widely in course requirements, and are changing rapidly. Some are moving away from specific course requirements to 'areas of proficiency', while others retain specific course requirements.

Many medical schools want, in addition to the BA core and elective courses:

- 1 year physics (PHYS 202A/202B)
- Some still require 2-semester OCHEM (CHEM 270/370), which is offered through the BIOL BS.
- A few still require Calculus (MATH 109) as well as statistics.
- Some may require Spanish or other second language skills.

Therefore, the BIOL BS is preferred preparation for most MD programs. While the BA may be suitable for some, you need to plan carefully!

Resources: The American Medical Association (www.ama.org) is the national professional society, but their website 'education' section focuses on advanced professional training, such as residencies. It is surprisingly difficult to find a central list comparing specific course requirements among medical schools, and there are many for-pay websites that purport to help guide you. One website that has a fairly recent comparison is: <https://ingeniusprep.com/blog/prerequisite-courses-medical-schools/> DO programs generally want similar preparation. However, they are represented by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (www.aacom.org). www.choosedo.org has a searchable database of DO programs, as well as helpful timeline for preparation in college.

Required examination: MCAT

Additional Requirements: letters of recommendation from professors, doctors, etc. as well as a personal statement from the applicant are required. Acceptance into a school may be aided by a broad range of extracurricular activities, health-related experience, and fluency in a second language in addition to strong GPA (≥ 3.5) and MCAT scores. Interested students should investigate requirements of specific schools well before beginning the application process.