

CERRITOS COLLEGE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Medicine

Every professional degree program has specific admissions requirements including prerequisite courses that must be successfully completed. The courses listed below are **common prerequisites** for this pre-professional pathway. They are **subject to change**. It is the student's responsibility to check the specific school for prerequisite details.

The following courses **do not lead to an associate degree specific to Medicine**; however, the courses overlap with major requirements for the **Associate of Arts in Natural Sciences**, which requires a minimum of 18 units of science and mathematics courses to include at least 4 units in the Physical Sciences, at least 4 units in the Biological Sciences, and at least 3 units in Mathematics. Please refer to the Cerritos College catalog for more information.

Admission to **Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)** and **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)** programs is very competitive. Competitive applicants will have completed the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, which may be in any major. In addition to a bachelor's degree, college grades (GPA) and Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scores are used in preliminary screening. The MCAT evaluates knowledge in biology, chemistry, physics, critical analysis and reasoning, psychology, and sociology.

Clinical experience, volunteer work, and/or research experience is highly recommended in preparation for medical school. This experience is helpful to you as a prospective physician as it allows you to understand the demands of the medical field and gain valuable insight into your decision whether medicine is the career path for you. In addition, it may provide an opportunity to receive a letter of support from professionals in the field, which is a vital element of your application.

Common Lower Division Preparation for Schools of Medicine

Prefix	Number	Title	Units
BIOL	200	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	201	Principles of Biology	5
CHEM	111	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	112	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	211	Organic Chemistry	5
CHEM	212	Organic Chemistry	5
ENGL	C1000	Academic Reading and Writing	4
or ENGL	C1000E	Academic Reading and Writing	(4.5)
ENGL	C1001	Critical Thinking and Writing	4
or ENGL	C1002	Introduction to Literature	(3)
PHYS	101	General Physics	4
or PHYS	201	Engineering Physics	(4)
PHYS	102	General Physics	4
or PHYS	202	Engineering Physics	(4)

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Most medical schools require one year of college mathematics courses, often including either a year of calculus (e.g., MATH 170 and 190) or a combination of calculus and statistics (STAT C1000 or C1000E). Additionally, a biochemistry course, which is not offered at Cerritos College, is typically expected. Students following a pre-med pathway are also strongly advised to take introductory psychology and sociology courses (e.g., PSYC C1000, SOCI C1000).

California Medical Schools

- [California Health Sciences University \(Osteopathic\)](#)
- [California Northstate University](#)
- [California University of Science and Medicine](#)
- [Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science](#)
- [Loma Linda University](#)
- [Stanford University](#)
- [Touro University \(Osteopathic\)](#)
- [University of California, Davis](#)
- [University of California, Irvine](#)
- [University of California, Los Angeles](#)
- [University of California, Riverside](#)
- [University of California, San Diego](#)
- [University of California, San Francisco](#)
- [University of Southern California](#)
- [Western University of Health Sciences](#)

Additional Resources

- [Association of American Medical Colleges](https://www.aamc.org) (https://www.aamc.org)
- [UCLA Med Mentors Pre-Med FAQs](https://mdstudentsorgs.healthsciences.ucla.edu/community-service-organizations/med-mentors/pre-med-guide/pre-med-faqs)
(https://mdstudentsorgs.healthsciences.ucla.edu/community-service-organizations/med-mentors/pre-med-guide/pre-med-faqs)
- [Explore Health Careers](https://explorehealthcareers.org) (https://explorehealthcareers.org)
- [CSULB Health Professions Advising Office](https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao) (https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao)