

MEDICAL SCHOOL GENERAL TIMELINE



This is a general timeline for traditional pre-medical students who plan to matriculate into medical school after graduating from a four-year university. It is to be used for general guidance and should not be used as an ultimate guide. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic counselors to map out a strategic academic blueprint.

YEAR 1

- Talk to your academic counselor and/or pre-health advisor to strategically plan out your college career.
- Look into volunteer, research and/or intern opportunities in the health field. You will need experience in a healthcare setting to get into medical school. The earlier you start, the better off you will be.
- Become a part of on-campus organizations and/or clubs. It is best to join organizations that will provide pre-med support and/or develop leadership skills.
- Make sure to research into medical schools to learn about their requirements.
- Develop relationships with your professors who may provide academic support. You will also need letters of recommendation for medical school.
- Make sure you are keeping up with pre-medical and school-related courses.

SUMMER AFTER YEAR 1

- Take summer courses if needed and/or for enrichment. Talk to your pre-health advisor to determine the best way to take advantage of your summer. As a pre-med student, you should use your summers productively to build up your resume.
- Work, volunteer, or intern in a healthcare setting. Try to obtain positions that will build your leadership skills and give you the greatest exposure to medicine.

YEAR 2

- Continue talking with your academic counselor and/or pre-med advisor to make sure you are on track to get into medical school.
- If you have not done so already, obtain a volunteer, research, intern, or work position in a healthcare setting. Make sure that the work you are doing is meaningful. Consider gaining both clinical and research experience. Talk to your counselors and advisors to see what the best opportunities available are for you.
- Continue to develop relationships with your professors. Remember that you will need letters of recommendation from people who can comment on your academic abilities.
- Continue to develop your leadership skills through on-campus organizations and/or other extracurricular activities. Medical schools like to see leadership skills in their students.
- Make sure that you are keeping up and doing well in your pre-medical and school-specific courses. Remember your GPA is one of the most important, if not most important, factor in your medical school admissions.
- Look into the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Determine when you want to prepare for this crucial test and when you plan to take it.
- Consider when you want to enroll in medical school. If you want to enroll soon after graduation, you need to start applying after your third year. If you want to take a year off (called a gap year), you can apply after your senior year.

SUMMER AFTER YEAR 2

- By now you should have obtained meaningful healthcare positions. Continue working, interning, or volunteering at your current position. If there are promotions at your current position or if you find even more meaningful positions, apply to those. Medical schools like to see dedication and upward movement in your application.
- Consider taking summer courses if needed and/or for enrichment. Make sure to take advantage of every summer.
- By the end of this summer, you should ideally know when you want to take your MCAT.

YEAR 3

- Continue talking with your academic counselor and/or pre-med advisor to make sure you are on track to get into medical school. Determine whether you want to apply after your third year or fourth year of college.
- Continue to gain experience in a healthcare setting. If possible, try gaining clinical and research experience, and make sure that your role is becoming increasingly meaningful.
- If possible, try to obtain leadership positions. Consider running for a leadership position of a campus organization or being part of your school's student body association.
- Think about which professors and/or professionals you want to ask for letters of recommendation. It is essential that you consider this way before they are due. If you want to apply to medical school in summer after third year, it is necessary to ask professors for recommendations during your third year.
- Make sure you have a good grasp on the specific requirements of medical schools.
- Determine when you want to take the MCAT. If you want to apply to medical school after your third year, you should take the MCAT sometime during this year, possibly in the spring.
- Make sure to register and adequately prepare for the MCAT. Consider taking a MCAT preparation course.
- Start making a list of medical schools that you might apply to.
- Make sure you are keeping up and doing well in your pre-medical and school-specific courses.

SUMMER AFTER YEAR 3

- Continue your meaningful participation in a healthcare and leadership setting.
- If planning to enroll in medical school after your senior year, make sure to apply for medical school during this time. Applications open in June and it is recommended you apply early as possible.
- If you have not done so, consider taking (or retaking if necessary) the MCAT this summer.
- Make sure you are keeping up with your pre-medical and school-specific courses.

YEAR 4

- Continue meeting with your counselor or advisor to make sure you are doing everything you need to for medical school.
- If you applied to medical school already, complete your secondary application and prepare for interviews. If you receive an interview, make sure to prepare as much as possible for they are extremely important. If you received acceptances, research into the schools to determine which school will fit you best.
- If you are applying for medical school after this year, make sure that you take the MCAT and start preparing your application materials. Make sure to ask for your letters of recommendations as early as possible. If there are any questions, consult your counselor or advisor.
- Continue your involvement in meaningful extracurricular activities.
- Make sure you are keeping up and doing well in your pre-medical and school-specific courses. Complete all your requirements and declare for graduation.

SUMMER AFTER GRADUATION

- If you are enrolling in medical school in the fall, prepare for medical school by purchasing books, making living arrangements, talking with current students, etc.
- If applying during this time, make sure to collect all your application materials and apply. You will have to complete primary applications, secondary applications, and interviews.
- Continue your involvement in meaningful extracurricular activities if possible.
- Talk to your counselor and/or advisor to make sure you have done everything you possible could do to succeed.