



# MEDICINE —

## Major Steps

***\*\*Every effort has been made to provide current and accurate information. Students should seek additional information from HCC and university advisors.***

### Thinking about a career in Medicine?

#### While in High School, enroll in

- Advanced Algebra. Higher level math recommended.
- Two or more years of foreign language
- Four years of English. Develop strong writing skills
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Calculus classes
- Computer classes particularly Word and Excel will be helpful

If you have an interest in health care and a knack for science, there are many good reasons to consider going “pre-med.”

People who work in the medical profession are held in high regard by our society. Perhaps it’s the specialized training they undergo or the nobility of life saving work.

Physicians diagnose illnesses and diseases and prescribe a treatment plan for patients. They work in a variety of specialty areas such as internal medicine, pediatrics,

psychiatry and surgery, among others.

Many physicians work long, irregular hours. However, there are also rewards such as attractive salaries and the ability to impact a patient’s health in a positive way.

A career in medicine requires a genuine desire to serve patients from a variety of backgrounds. Since the training is lengthy and expensive, it is important that you are highly motivated and are able to survive the pressures of being in medical school.

Physicians are employed in a variety of settings such as hospitals, colleges and universities, Federal, State and local governments and the military. Many physicians also prefer to be self-employed.

Source: WOIS – Washington Occupational Information System  
[www.wois.org](http://www.wois.org)

### Working with your faculty advisor

Working with a Pre-Medicine faculty advisor can be an invaluable resource for you. Your faculty advisor can provide you with information about class selection and sequencing, differences between various medical schools and how to be prepared for competitive admission. Having a letter of recommendation written by a faculty who knows you well can enhance your application to a medical school. A faculty advisor can also write letters of support for scholarships.

To request a faculty advisor, go to: <http://www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning/request.advisor.htm> or stop by the Educational Planning and Advising Center in Building 6.

For our hours of operation, go to [www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning](http://www.highline.edu/stuserv/edplanning).

Interested in exploring more about a career in medicine? Call for an appointment with a Highline Community College counselor at (206) 878-3710, ext. 3353.

## ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSION:

Generally, admission to medical school is highly competitive. The mean overall GPA for entering medical school students in the last decade has been approximately 3.50-3.60 nationwide.

In 2008, students who were accepted to the UW School of Medicine had a mean GPA of 3.67.

**The admission requirements for medical schools vary so be sure to check the prerequisites and admission standards.**

You should also develop strong written and oral communications skills.

There are 131 medical schools in the United States. The University of Washington-Seattle has the only medical school in the state. The UW School of Medicine is not concerned about a specific major for your bachelor's degree. You should select a major that interests you and that you will do well in.

The following prerequisite courses are required for admission to the University of Washington School of Medicine:

**NOTE: Please be sure to plan your courses with your HCC Pre-Med faculty advisor.**

*Your advisor will be able to help you figure out which of the following courses should be completed at HCC and at the four-year university.*

- 1. Chemistry and biology (9 quarters):** Biology &211, 212, 213 AND Chemistry & 161,162,163 AND Chemistry &261, 262, 263 (Note: Although organic chemistry is not required (but can be used as part of the 9 quarters) for admission to the UW School of Medicine, other medical schools may require this series. You should be applying to several medical schools.)
- 2. Physics and math: 3 quarters of physics** (Physics 201, 202 & 203) OR 2 quarters of physics plus 2 quarters of calculus or linear algebra.
- 3. Social Sciences or Humanities (6 quarters or 6 courses):** Check with your advisor for help with course selection.

College grades are an important predictor of medical school performance. Be sure to have a strong GPA with very few withdrawals, incompletes, or repeated courses. It is also important that you become proficient in the use of computers.

Admission to medical school also requires scores from the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The MCAT is generally taken in the junior year and is heavily dependent on information from the first two years. The day-long test covers four areas: reading skills analysis, including literature, social science, and natural science passages; biological science problem solving; physical science problem solving; and two 30-minute essays.

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## Listing of Medical Programs/Organizations

**UW School of Medicine**  
www.washington.edu

**UW School of Medicine Office of  
Multicultural Affairs**  
www.washington.edu

**UW Summer Medical and Dental Education Program  
(SMDEP) -This is a six-week enrichment program for  
underrepresented students interested in medicine or  
dentistry.**  
www.washington.edu

**Transfer Thursdays at the UW Seattle**  
www.washington.edu  
These are weekly info/advising sessions for  
transfer students. Be sure to attend a session.

**American Medical Association**  
www.ama-assn.org

**Association of American Medical Colleges**  
www.aamc.org

**Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)**  
www.aamc.org/mcat

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Educational Planning  
and Advising  
MS 6-10  
P.O. 98000  
Des Moines WA  
98198-9800  
  
Fax: (206) 870-3772  
E-mail:  
edplanning@highline.edu