



# Pathway to Medical School

## BS in Biology

A BS in Biology from Young Harris offers all prerequisite courses typically required by medical schools. Graduates will benefit by meeting additional qualifications to increase their likelihood of acceptance. This pathway details the steps to take in developing a competitive resume and application, based on the observations of faculty who have successfully mentored students who were accepted into medical schools. Please note that these requirements and recommendations are based on those of medical schools in Georgia and the region.

Many medical schools have additional recommendations for application to their programs.

- Coursework related to biology: anatomy, physiology, cell biology, molecular biology, genetics, immunology, and microbiology
- Coursework that includes psychology, sociology, behavioral science, social science, and the humanities
- Some courses should be completed before taking the MCAT
- Research experience as an undergraduate

Common prerequisites for admission to medical schools:

- One year of General Biology with two semesters of labs
- One year of General Chemistry and one year of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry
- One year of Physics courses with two semesters of labs
- One year of English courses
- One semester of Statistics
- Letters of recommendation with at least one from a physician
- A recent MCAT exam score
- A strong GPA, greater than 3.5
- Shadowing experience with a physician

Be sure to check with the schools you are considering for their specific requirements. For more information, visit [www.yhc.edu/academics/math-science/biology](http://www.yhc.edu/academics/math-science/biology).

Students may also benefit from relevant experiences to enhance their application and distinguish them as a candidate:

- Foreign language proficiency
- Leadership and service experiences, such as volunteering in a medical setting
- Work experiences in a medical setting
- Minor in a field that is not biology or chemistry

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## Pathway to Medical School

### Freshman (1st) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 1107 Introductory Biology I
- BIOL 1108 Introductory Biology II
- CHEM 1211 General Chemistry I
- CHEM 1212 General Chemistry II
- ENGL 1101 Composition I
- ENGL 1102 Composition and Literature

Summer: Begin collecting experience relevant to the medical field, such as volunteering at medical and healthcare facilities, shadowing physicians, and summer internships and fellowships.

### Junior (3rd) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 3101 Genetics
- BIOL 3102 Cell Biology
- CHEM 4115 Biochemistry
- BIOL 1111 Human Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIOL 1112 Human Anatomy and Physiology II
- Coursework in Psychology and Social Sciences\*
- Additional BIOL coursework as offered\*\*

Spring: Complete MCAT prior to submission of application. Apply to pathway to medical school programs or summer internship/fellowship programs.

Deadlines are often in January and February, and applications require a letter of recommendation.

Summer: Submit medical school application and secondary application two weeks later. Continue acquiring experiences with different physicians in a variety of medical areas.

### Sophomore (2nd) Year Recommended Courses

- CHEM 2211 Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 2212 Organic Chemistry II
- STAT 2000 Elementary Statistics
- PHYS 1111 College Physics I
- PHYS 1112 College Physics II
- Additional coursework in Psychology and Social Sciences\*

Spring: Apply to internship/fellowship programs. Deadlines are often in January and February, and applications require a letter of recommendation.

Summer: Participate in a summer internship or fellowship or continue shadowing and volunteering.

### Senior (4th) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 4980 Independent Research
- BIOL 4990 Senior Research Capstone
- Additional BIOL coursework as offered\*\*

August: Begin independent research with a faculty member.

August through early November: Interviews conducted by medical school.

November: Submit transcripts.

December: Final deadlines for filing application materials and beginning of admission decisions.

Spring: Begin planning for a possible gap year, which is common. Apply to internships and fellowships associated with biomedical and health sciences. Consider applying to graduate programs in biomedical sciences or pre-clinical programs and complete the GRE. Set up shadowing and volunteer opportunities and consider opportunities that provide experience such as EMT or medical scribes.

\*Psychology and social science courses are recommended for students preparing to take the MCAT.

\*\*Many BIOL 3000+ courses are offered once every two years. Students should enroll in any relevant course when offered during the junior and senior years.

For more information, contact Department Chair Dr. Andrea Kwiatkowski ([alkwiakowski@yhc.edu](mailto:alkwiakowski@yhc.edu)).