



Cerritos College

PRE-MEDICAL

Career Pathway

The following curriculum does not lead to an Associate in Arts Degree in Pre-Medical. However, students may fulfill requirements for a Natural Sciences Degree by completing a minimum of 18 units of science and math 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 a math course beyond Intermediate Algebra. Please refer to the Cerritos College catalog for more information.

Admission to medical school is highly competitive, therefore a student should carefully consider their motivation, preparation and commitment for a career in medicine. Admittance is usually based primarily on the candidate's academic achievement in a college program and performance on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Educational philosophies and goals, specific undergraduate course requirements, academic commitment beyond required course work, honors, extracurricular activities, leadership, application, essay, research, clinical experience, community service, volunteerism, and other qualifications for admission vary among the nation's medical schools. However, they all stress the importance of a strong foundation in the natural sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics.), highly developed competence in English communication skills, both written and spoken; capacity for quantitative thinking, represented by mastery of mathematics, and the scientific method; a foundation for an ever-increasing insight into human behavior, thought and aspiration, through study of man and his society, as revealed by a breadth of social sciences, fine arts and humanities. Knowledge of a modern foreign language, specifically Spanish is strongly recommended. Medicine is a strongly collaborative endeavor, therefore teamwork skills experience is a must. Computer literacy is now very necessary for almost all medical schools. Many schools recommend computer science courses and require entering students to have a computer.

Medical schools do not require you to major in a particular field. It is possible to major in any one of a large number of disciplines, integrating the course requirements for medical school. In choosing an undergraduate major the student should give careful consideration to select a major area of study that interests them and that will provide a foundation necessary for the pursuit of an alternative career, if necessary. "Pre-Med" is not a major at the University for an Undergraduate Degree. While many successful applicants major in one of the natural sciences, a science major is **NOT** required for admission to medical school. Note: MCAT must be taken within 3 years of admission to Medical School.

COMMON COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR MOST MEDICAL SCHOOLS

			UNITS
BIOL	200	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	201	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	202	Molecular Biology/Genetics (highly recommended)	4
CHEM	111	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	112	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	205	Quantitative Analysis Chemistry (highly recommended)	4
CHEM	211	Organic Chemistry	5
CHEM	212	Organic Chemistry	5
ENGL	100	Freshman Composition	4
ENGL	102	Freshman Composition & Literature	3
or ENGL	103*	Critical and Argumentative Writing	(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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Transfer Preparation

* For other options see a counselor

Community college Pre-Med students who plan to transfer to a university need to complete the general education required of the transfer institution, complete the requirements of the undergraduate major and may complete the courses required by the medical school.

MATHEMATICS: Trends in medical education require the medical student to be adequately trained in mathematics. Almost all schools recommend one year of college level mathematics. Since calculus is recommended in several medical schools, and in some instances *required*, it is advantageous to complete one year of calculus or at least one semester of calculus. The second semester course may be math statistics or computer science, depending on the specific medical school requirement. Your undergraduate major will help further define your choice of mathematics requirements.

ELECTIVES: Additional science course work in Biochemistry, Cellular Biology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Anatomy and upper division Biological Science courses is considered part of the academic commitment beyond the minimum required course work. Other courses for consideration include: immunology, histology, microbiology, social sciences, humanities, speech and Spanish is strongly recommended and computer literacy is mandatory.

For more information concerning the above listed requirements at individual schools look up the specific medical school website. The following are ten from a multitude of medical school websites:

Harvard Medical School
www.hms.harvard.edu

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
www.hopkinsmedicine.org/som/

Loma Linda University School of Medicine
www.llu.edu/llu/medicine

Stanford School of Medicine
<http://med.stanford.edu>

UC Davis School of Medicine
www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/medschool

UC Irvine School of Medicine
www.som.uci.edu

UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine
www.medstudent.ucla.edu

UC San Diego School of Medicine
<http://medicine.ucsd.edu>

UCSF School of Medicine
<http://medschool.ucsf.edu>

USC Keck School of Medicine
<http://keck.usc.edu>

For further programming and more detailed information about specific medical school programs and requirements you are encouraged to consult The Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR), published annually by the Association of American Medical Colleges. It is an excellent resource book to help students approach their goals realistically. Each medical school's specific requirements are detailed in the MSAR. Copies may be purchased via

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the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) website: www.aamc.org. Another recommended website you may want to consider is The Princeton Online Review (www.princetonreview.com) which provides comprehensive information for researching the complexities of medical school admissions.

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

Employment of physicians and surgeons is projected to grow 14 percent from 2014 – 2024. Job growth will occur because of continued expansion of healthcare-related industries. The growing and aging population will drive overall growth in the demand for physician services. Future physicians may be more likely to work fewer hours, retire earlier, have lower earnings, or need to practice in rural and under-served areas (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2013-2014).

Opportunities should be very good in rural and low-income areas, because some physicians find these areas unattractive due to lower earnings potential. Unlike their predecessors, newly trained physicians face radically different choices of where and how to practice. New physicians are much less likely to enter solo practice and more likely to take salaried jobs in group medical practices, clinics and integrated healthcare systems.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The requirements listed for major are subject to change without notice. It is the student's responsibility to check for the most recent information with a Cerritos College counselor or by consulting ASSIST at www.assist.org.

NOTE: Courses listed may require prerequisite coursework.

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ASSIST

How to use **ASSIST** to find your major preparation for CSU/UC:

1. **Log on:** www.assist.org
2. **Select an Institution:** select "Cerritos College" or other community college from pull-down menu
3. **Select:** "Type of Transfer Institution" such as "UC Los Angeles"
4. **Select a major from pull-down menu**
Report will show the university courses on the left and comparable community college classes on the right.
5. **PRINT:**-print by clicking on gold "**PRINT THIS REPORT**" button on top. Then use the **ASSIST** screen menu on the top toolbar or click on the printer icon that will appear at the bottom of the page.

How to use **ASSIST** to explore the majors available at University of California and California State University campuses

- Click on "EXPLORE MAJORS"

How to use **ASSIST** to figure out whether courses from the community college are transferable to the CSU/UC.

- Select the community college of interest (Cerritos College)
- Select either CSU transferable courses or UC Transferable courses
- Select a department for the courses in question

*USC Articulation available at:

www.usc.edu/articulation and **Select:** "[TRANSFER PLANNING GUIDE.](#)"

IMPORTANT:

Students are advised to contact a Cerritos College counselor for more information & for details regarding other transfer agreements & options not available on ASSIST. Students can stop by the counseling desk to make an appointment or call (562) 860-2451 ext. 2231.