

Herkimer College

Transfer Advising Guide

Medicine

Medical Doctors diagnose illnesses and prescribe & administer treatment for people suffering from injury or disease. Physicians examine patients, obtain medical histories, and order/perform/interpret diagnostic tests. They counsel patients on preventive healthcare including diet, sleep and exercise. It typically takes 11 to 17 years to become a medical doctor including a minimum of: 4 years of undergraduate college, 4 years of medical school, and 3-5 years of "residency". Some specialties may require additional training for up to 8 years ("fellowships").

Degrees: There are two types of medical physicians: M.D.-Doctor of Medicine- and D.O. - Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. While both M.D.s and D.O.s may use all accepted methods of treatment, including drugs and surgery, D.O.s place special emphasis on the body's musculoskeletal system.

Admission to Medical Schools: Acceptance to medical school is **highly competitive**. In order to compete for admission, students will need to complete a Bachelor Degree at an undergraduate institution with a reputation for academic excellence. Although students come from a variety of undergraduate degree programs, majoring in Biology or in a related field is typical. Students will need to complete the AMCAS Application (or AACOMAS for Osteopathic Medicine) and supplemental applications for specific colleges if required.

Typical Minimum Prerequisite Courses for Medical School: One year of biology with laboratories; one year of physics with laboratories; Two years of chemistry with laboratories, including organic; One year of English. Calculus is required in order to take physics. Examples of Herkimer courses are below:

EN 111 English Composition
SC 156 Biological Science II
SC 153 General Chemistry I
SC 225 Organic Chemistry I

EN 112 Intro to Literature
MA 245 Calculus I
SC 154 General Chemistry II
SC 226 Organic Chemistry II

SC 155 Biological Science I
SC 133 College Physics I
SC 134 College Physics II

***It is very important to note that Medical Schools may prefer some prerequisite courses be completed at a 4-year institution.** For example, many medical schools prefer organic chemistry be taken at the 4 year college. It also may not be advisable to take pre-requisite courses over the summer sessions.

There will be a new MCAT beginning Spring 2015 which will affect students who are freshmen in the fall 2012. One of the new sections focuses on critical reasoning and another on the psychological, sociological, and biological foundations of behavior. Therefore, courses in psychology, sociology, anthropology, and philosophy are important. Courses in biochemistry, statistics, genetics, and cell biology are strongly recommended. Courses dealing with interpersonal and communication skills are beneficial as well.

Criteria of Importance for Acceptance include:

- *Undergraduate grade point average.
- *High Academic Achievement in the Sciences.
- *Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) score-Strongly suggested this be taken by April-junior year.
(See <http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm>)
- *Practical experience with patients (ex. Volunteering at a hospital or as an EMT)
- *Research activities
- *Excellent communication skills.
- *Evidence of maturity, integrity, service to community.
- *Work experience, extra-curricular activities, proven leadership ability.
- *Letters of recommendation from Pre-Health Advisor and/or Professors at the 4 year college..
- *Personal statement
- *Personal interview (By invitation).

Partial Listing of Colleges in New York State Offering a Degree in Medicine:

Albany Medical College	New York College of Osteopathic Medicine
Columbia University	SUNY University at Buffalo
Cornell University Medical Center	SUNY University at Stony Brook
New York University	SUNY Upstate Medical University
University of Rochester	SUNY College at Old Westbury(Accelerated BB/D.O. degree)

Partial Listing of Specialized Areas of Medicine:

Anesthesiologist	Ophthalmologist	Cardiologist
Pediatrician	Dermatologist	Psychiatrist
Gynecologist	Radiologist	Internist
Surgeon	Neurologist	Urologist
Obstetrician		

Additional Information:

American Medical Association (AMA)- <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/no-index/education-careers/2320.shtml>

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)- <http://www.aamc.org>

USDL, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Physicians and Surgeons- <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos074.htm>

Please note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with the transfer counselor at Herkimer to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and most up to date information. Herkimer Transfer Office is located in the Counseling Center RMCC-302 Phone: 315-866-0300, ext. 8308.

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