

## Career Description

- Two types of programs—allopathic medicine (M.D.) and osteopathic medicine (D.O.) are available to become a physician. The credentials, training, jobs, and available specialties are the same for both.
- Allopathic and osteopathic physicians use a biological approach to healing. Physicians diagnose, treat, and work to prevent human illness and injury.
- They perform examinations, analyze medical histories, order and interpret diagnostic tests and develop treatment plans.
- Allopathic and osteopathic physicians are very similar in their approach to working with patients and the differences between them are more historical than current practice.
- The osteopathic approach is patient oriented and uses a somewhat more holistic approach than allopathic medicine. Osteopathic medicine also incorporates a treatment modality—Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM)—which is a form of musculo-skeletal manipulation that is used both for diagnosis and treatment.
- MDs and DOs practice in all the same specialties. Work is in progress to combine the two types of residencies.
- Purdue University is one of the locations for the Indiana University School of Medicine. Marian University houses the osteopathic medical school in the state.

## Becoming a Physician

- Students should complete a bachelor's degree in a field of their choice along with necessary prerequisite courses.
- Medical school is a four year program followed by on the job training (residency) which will last 3-8 years. Subspecialization is accomplished through fellowships which can last several more years.
- MDs and DOs are licensed by the state after passing an examination.
- Physicians must also pass board exams for certification in specialty areas.

## Preparation

- Observe physicians to make sure this is the right field for you and that you truly understand what it means to be an allopathic or osteopathic physician.
- Medical schools will also want to see you can handle a heavy course load while being active in extracurricular activities, providing community service, and gaining medical experience.
- While each medical school determines the courses it will require, the required courses are relatively standard and similar to the list below.
- All required courses must have a minimum grade of C.
- Other than Biochemistry, which is one semester and does not require a lab, the science requirements are typically 8-10 credit hours with two of those hours being lab.

### Common Prerequisite Courses (pre-reqs determined by each medical school but similar to this list)

Requirements	Purdue Equivalents (specific courses may vary by major)
General Biology with lab	BIOL 11000-11100 or BIOL 13100 & BIOL 23100 & 23200 (lab) or BIOL 23000 & upper level biology (including 2 hours of lab)
<i>Anatomy &amp; Physiology (recommended for the MCAT)</i>	<i>BIOL 20300-20400 or BIOL 30100-30200</i>
General Chemistry with lab	CHM 11500-11600 or CHM 12500-12600 or CHM 12300-12400 or CHM 13600 or CHM 12901 ( <i>CHM 11500 credit exam recommended along with CHM 12901</i> )
Organic Chemistry with lab	CHM 25500-25600 or CHM 26100-26200 or CHM 26505-26605 or MCMP 20400-20500
Biochemistry	CHM 33300 or CHM 33900 or CHM 53300 or BCHM 30700 or CHM 56100 or MCMP 20800
Physics with lab	PHYS 22000-22100 or PHYS 23300-23400 or PHYS 21800-21900 or PHYS 17200-27200 or PHYS 17200 & 24100* (may need 1 hr lab such as PHYS 25200)
English (if required usually need 2 semesters)	ENGL 10600 or ENGL 10800 or SCLA 10100 and another English course with strong writing component (either writing or literature)
Psychology (1 semester)	PSY 12000
Sociology (1 semester)	SOC 10000 or higher level sociology course (Anthropology is also acceptable)
Statistics (recommended)	A course in statistics is recommended
<b>Pre-Med Planning Seminar (optional)</b>	<b>BIOL 39600</b> is a 0 credit 10 week class covering how to apply to medical school and other health professions programs

**Student Organizations:** American Medical Student Association, Caduceus Club

## Research Programs

### MD Programs

[Medical School Admission Requirements](#) (MSAR) available online for an annual fee (\$28.00 as of August 2017)  
<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar/>

### DO Programs

[Osteopathic Medical College Information Book](#) available free online  
[http://www.aacom.org/news-and-events/publications/2018-2019\\_cib](http://www.aacom.org/news-and-events/publications/2018-2019_cib)

## Applying

- Medical programs are very competitive. Schools look for well-rounded students with interesting experiences.
- Competitive applicants have:
  - Strong academic performance including a grade point average (GPA) of 3.6 or better
  - High scores on the MCAT (508 and above for MD and 505 and above for DO)
  - Leadership, teamwork, and communication skills
  - Undergraduate research experience
  - Volunteer and shadowing experiences
  - Strong positive letters of recommendation (mostly from faculty)
- Students apply for MD programs through an online application system called AMCAS.
- DO programs use an application system called AACOMAS.
- Students applying to MD and/or DO programs in Texas need to use a system called TMDSAS.

## Fee Assistance

- [MCAT & AMCAS Fee Assistance through the AAMC](#) <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/fee-assistance-program/>
- [AACOM Financial Aid and Scholarships](#) <http://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/financial-aid>
- [AACOMAS Fee Assistance Waiver](#) <http://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/applying/fee-waiver>

## Employment Outlook

- The government projects shortages of doctors in the next 30 years.
- Primary care physicians are especially in demand.
- While income varies by specialty, location, and hours worked, the median income for all MDs and DOs is about \$208,000.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job growth in medicine is expected to grow 13% by 2026.

## Programs in Indiana

- [Indiana University School of Medicine](#) Indianapolis, IN <https://medicine.iu.edu/>
- [Marian University College of Osteopathic Med](#) Indianapolis, IN <https://www.marian.edu/osteopathic-medical-school>

## More Information

- [American Association of Medical Colleges](#) <https://www.aamc.org/> (includes info on AMCAS, MCAT, MSAR)
- [American Medical Association](#) <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama>
- [American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine](#) <http://www.aacom.org>
- [American Osteopathic Association](#) <http://www.osteopathic.org/>
- [TMDSAS](#) (for applications in Texas) <http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas>

## Other Careers to Consider

- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Anesthesiologist Assistant
- Pathologists' Assistant

Information for this career guide came from the above websites, those of individual schools, the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physicians-and-surgeons.htm>, and [Explore Health Careers](#) <https://explorehealthcareers.org/field/medicine/>.



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132 Young Hall • 765-494-3981 • [preprofessional@purdue.edu](mailto:preprofessional@purdue.edu) • [PPA Website](#) • [www.purdue.edu/preprofessional](http://www.purdue.edu/preprofessional)