

What can I do to explore the field of medicine as an undergraduate?

UCLA has one of the top hospitals in the country right on campus. The Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center has been ranked “the Best in West” for over 20 consecutive years by *US News and World Report*. Undergraduates at UCLA have the wonderful opportunity to volunteer at the medical center and become familiar with the various duties health specialists fulfill in a professional setting. Please go to www.uclahealth.org and click on “Volunteer” for more information.

What is the acceptance rate for UCLA graduates into medical schools?

In 2009, 53% of the UCLA students who applied to medical school gained admission to at least one school. Those students with a combination of high grade point averages and high MCAT scores were more likely to receive admission. For instance, in 2009, 13 UCLA seniors applied with a GPA of 3.90 or higher combined with an MCAT score of 35 or higher. Of those 13 applicants, 13 of them (100%) were accepted into at least one medical school.

What support systems are there in place at UCLA if I want to go to medical school?

UCLA hosts several student groups that are committed to supporting pre-medical students. Organizations such as the Premedical Peer Association and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Premedical chapter host speakers such as doctors of various specialties, residents, and medical school admissions officers. They also share information on clinical, research, and community service opportunities.

How can I get help with preparing for and applying to medical school?

The UCLA Career Center offers various resources and services to assist students in this process including the Career Center Library, Workshops, Counseling, assessments, and special programming. They conduct mock interviews, hold personal statement critique sessions, and help you organize your letters of recommendation. Much of the information on this sheet was provided by the Career Center. Please visit their website for more details at <http://career.ucla.edu>.

Do UCLA graduates get special preference in admission to UCLA’s medical school?

UCLA graduates do not receive any specific treatment in terms of gaining admission to the David Geffen School of Medicine. There are many other benefits to having an elite medical school on campus, though, such as volunteer and research opportunities.

What should I major in as an undergraduate if I want to attend medical school?

Any major is appropriate for medical school preparation—a science major is not a prerequisite for medical school. Medical schools are most concerned with the overall quality and scope of your undergraduate work. Since medical school requirements can be taken with any UCLA major, a student should choose a major based on personal preference. UCLA students who have gone on to medical school have majored in a wide variety of areas, including Anthropology, Business, Communications, Music, Political Science, and Religion.

What do I need to do as an undergraduate in order to apply for medical school?

Although each school’s requirement may vary, generally, students must complete courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, English, and a broad range of humanities and social science courses.

Students are also required to take the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) which should be taken by May of the year before graduation. The MCAT consists of four sections: biological sciences, physical sciences, a writing sample, and verbal reasoning.

In addition to coursework, clinical experience is required for admission to all medical schools. This could be work experience in a doctor’s office, vocal clinic, or volunteer experience through the UCLA Medical Center or another major hospital. Medical school admission committees want to know that an applicant can work effectively in a healthcare environment.

Research is also an effective way to demonstrate that you can think critically and independently. Opportunities to conduct research at UCLA include the Student Research Program (SRP), various courses, and Honors Theses projects. You also may wish to contact a UCLA faculty member to inquire about his/her willingness to take on an undergraduate researcher.