Michigan Tech’s
PRE-MEDICINE

For more than a quarter century, Michigan Technological University has offered a strong pre-medical studies program. Our majors are regularly accepted into all four of Michigan’s medical schools, as well as other medical schools around the nation. Michigan Tech’s acceptance rate to all the health profession schools for the past fifteen years is approximately 70 percent.

The road to becoming a physician begins with attaining your baccalaureate degree, followed by four years of medical school and three to eight years of residency during which you specialize in some medical field (e.g., pediatrics, internal medicine, surgery). Your first step is the selection of an undergraduate institution and your undergraduate major.

While medical schools do not require a specific major, most students who apply are enrolled in a science curriculum, usually in some field of the biological sciences. At Michigan Tech, we have approximately sixty to seventy pre-health professions students, about two-thirds of whom are interested in medical school.

Our pre-medical students may enroll in any of the biological sciences options (i.e., ecology, molecular biology, microbiology, pre-medicine, or general biology) or in our clinical laboratory science (medical technology) program. All students are encouraged to make frequent contact with the director of pre-health professions studies for information on admissions requirements, procedures, and application deadlines.

Minimum Course Requirements for Medical School

All medical schools require that applicants have completed a minimum set of courses before they enroll. Typical course requirements include one year of the following:

➤ biology with laboratory
➤ introductory chemistry with laboratory
➤ organic chemistry with laboratory

Schools may also have additional specific course requirements. For example—

➤ The Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine require an additional nine credits (three courses) in behavioral and social sciences, including psychology and sociology.
➤ The University of Michigan requires an additional one-semester course of biochemistry.
➤ Wayne State University has no additional requirements.

Medical School Selection Criteria

The mean grade point average of students entering medical schools in the US is about 3.55 (on a 4.0 scale), with a realistic minimum being about 3.30–3.40. In addition to GPA, the medical schools also examine your performance on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), three letters of evaluation from persons who can address your personal qualities as they relate to medicine, and a personal interview. Extracurricular activities are important to show that you are well-rounded and are able to work with others.
While not yet a specific requirement for admission, many medical schools expect their applicants to have had significant exposure to clinical medicine through volunteer work at a hospital, nursing home, or other clinical facility. Opportunities for getting this exposure in the Houghton area are many.

**Pre-med Curriculum at Michigan Tech**

All students enrolled in the pre-health professions option in the Department of Biological Sciences must complete all of the minimum requirements listed on the previous page, plus the biochemistry required by the University of Michigan Medical School. While we do not specifically require psychology or sociology, those courses can be used to complete the University’s requirement of twenty-eight credits of general education electives. Students enrolled in other options in the biological sciences program, the clinical laboratory sciences program, or other degree programs should consult with the pre-health professions advisor to determine which additional courses, if any, need to be taken to meet medical school entrance requirements. The pre-medical requirements also fulfill the entrance requirements for many other health profession programs (e.g., dental school, veterinary medical school) or for graduate programs in the biological sciences. Should your career plans change, you will find yourself well prepared to enter a wide variety of careers in biology.

Michigan Tech’s biology core provides you with a strong, diversified curriculum in the biological sciences, and our other degree requirements provide a solid foundation in the physical sciences and mathematics. Also available are elective courses such as hematology, immunology, microbiology, medical bacteriology, virology, human nutrition, parasitology, medical care and women, neuromuscular physiology, cardiopulmonary physiology, and endocrinology.

We encourage our pre-health professions students to take elective course work in the humanities, social sciences, and business administration. Popular choices for pre-medical students are courses in ethics, biomedical ethics, the economics of health care, small business administration, sociology of the family, race and ethnic minorities, abnormal psychology, and cognitive psychology. With over fourteen to eighteen semester credits available in free electives, you are able to explore many areas of interest to you.

At Michigan Tech, you will be under the guidance of the director of pre-health professions studies who is here to assist you with:

- choosing the professional career that is right for you
- learning the requirements for the professional schools of your choice
- obtaining application forms for admission tests (e.g., MCAT) and for professional schools
- selecting courses and planning curriculum
- forming proper study habits
- writing letters of evaluation to the schools of your choice
- and answering any questions you might have

**For further information, contact**

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