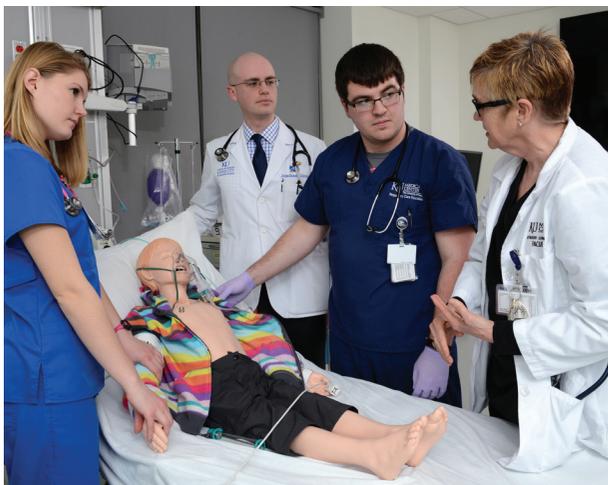




## *A lifetime of learning*

To be a highly competent and successful physician, you must enjoy learning. Patients depend on their health care providers to maintain their skills and stay current with the rapidly evolving field of medicine.

Continuing medical education courses and self-directed learning experiences are critical to helping physicians keep their medical and clinical knowledge up to date.



*For more information on how to plan for a career in medicine, please visit [explorehealthcareers.org](http://explorehealthcareers.org) and [aamc.org/students/aspiring](http://aamc.org/students/aspiring).*

### Office of Admissions and Premedical Programs

913-588-5280

[premedinfo@kumc.edu](mailto:premedinfo@kumc.edu)

[kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/  
education/admissions](http://kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/education/admissions)

**KU** SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE  
The University of Kansas

The University of Kansas prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender identity, gender expression, and genetic information in the university's programs and activities. Retaliation is also prohibited by university policy.

# *How to prepare for* **MEDICAL EDUCATION**



*A guide for high school students*

**KU** SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE  
The University of Kansas

# How to prepare for a career in medicine

Medicine is a noble and rewarding profession. But it takes years of education and training to become a physician. A typical medical education will include:

- 4 years of college
- 4 years of medical school
- 3-8 years of residency training
- 1-2 years of fellowship training for certain fields



Pursuing a medical degree takes sacrifice and stamina. Here are steps to help you reach the goal of becoming a physician:

## High School Academics

- Take math and science courses in high school so you will be prepared for the biology, chemistry, physics and math courses required in college.
- Take a variety of college preparatory courses in high school. Reading, writing and speaking are important skills for physicians to have, so taking four years of English is especially important. Depth in the range in your high school course work will also help you determine a suitable college major.
- Take your high school curriculum seriously and try to develop good study skills. Although admissions officers at medical schools do not look at high school grades, they do care about college grades. The expectation is that premedical students will earn mostly A's, maybe a few B's and rarely C grades.

## Selecting a college or university and a major

- When selecting your undergraduate college, the first consideration is to find a school that has a strong science program and provides a well-regarded program in your choice of major.
- The second, and equally important, consideration is to find a school that is a good match for you: one that is challenging academically but also supportive of your needs (academic, social, financial, geographical, etc.). If the school is not a good fit, you will be less likely to be happy and, therefore, less likely to perform at your best.
- There is not one specific college or university that will give you a better chance for medical school admission. The type of college (large, small, private, public) does not matter, either.
- The Medical College Admission Test and nearly all medical schools require premedical students to take introductory college courses in biology, chemistry and physics. But medical schools do not specify which major you should choose. In fact, medical schools want diversity in their medical classes, and one dimension of diversity is college coursework. In choosing a major, consider what you might like as a backup career should you change your mind about becoming a physician.
- During your first semester in college, try to identify a premedical advisor who can guide you along the path to applying to medical school. This advisor may be someone different from the advisor who helps you determine courses for your major and degree program.



## Experiences

- It is critical to find opportunities to learn about yourself, about serving others and about medicine. When applying to medical school, you will be expected to talk and write about why you want to be a physician.
- Seek experiences that will help you grow personally and that will help you know that you want to serve others through medicine. These experiences can be paid or volunteer.
- When involved in a health care setting, observe what each member of the team of providers does. You may be surprised to find that another health care profession suits you better than becoming a physician.
- You should also carefully consider career paths outside of health care. You may find that music, math or the ministry is ultimately a better choice than medicine.

**KU** SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE  
The University of Kansas