

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
PRE-HEALTH ADVISING
ACADEMIC ADVISING AND TRANSFER SERVICES
111 Jaguar Drive, Suite 1375
www.southalabama.edu/departments/academicsuccess/pre-health/

USA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Mobile, Alabama

APPLICATION TO USA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The USA College of Medicine (USA COM) welcomes applications from students with strong undergraduate records and scores on the MCAT which indicate their ability to handle the rigors of medical school. They are seeking applicants who have a proven record of community involvement, integrity and strong professional skills. Seventy four (74) students are matriculated into the USA COM each August. Preference is given to Alabama residents and those who reside in the undergraduate USA service area. Highly qualified out-of-state applicants are encouraged to apply and are seriously considered for admission. In addition disadvantaged, rural and minority students are strongly encouraged to apply.

Students apply one year prior to their planned start date. Generally this will occur during the summer between the 3rd and 4th year of undergraduate studies. The USA COM has an Early Decision Program for in-state residents. Early Decision applicants must submit all application materials (including MCAT score) to the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) by August 1st with the secondary application due by September 1st. The primary deadline for all other applicants is November 1st with a secondary deadline of December 1st.

STATISTICS FOR THE 2017 USA COM ENTERING CLASS

	IN-STATE	TOTAL
Verified Applications	467	1521
Interviewed	196	211
Early Decision Program	4	4
Applicants Accepted	132	143
Matriculated	67	74
Median GPA		3.77
Median MCAT		508
Early Decision Program		
Minimum GPA	3.5	
Minimum MCAT	503	

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR USA COM

The USA COM seeks applicants with a wide range of talents and academic backgrounds. Because of this, all majors, both science and non-science, are considered for acceptance. Although a bachelor's degree is not required for admission, the majority of successful applicants will have completed a baccalaureate degree which includes the completion of the minimum required course work¹ (see below). Please refer to the USA Major Guides for information about course requirements for specific majors.

- General Chemistry with Lab: Two semesters²
- General Biology with Lab: Two semesters²
- Mathematics: Two semesters³
- Organic Chemistry with Lab: Two semesters²

- General Physics with Lab: Two semesters²
- Humanities: Two semesters
- English Composition or Literature: Two semesters
- Biochemistry and Genetics are not currently required but are highly recommended

¹U.S. AP and IB credits will be accepted with proper denotation on the undergraduate transcript.

²All math and science courses have required prerequisites. Entrance to these courses will be based on Math ACT or SAT score and/or prior coursework.

³Completion of math courses will be dependent on Math ACT or SAT score. Calculus is recommended but completion of MA 115 or its equivalent will satisfy the mathematics requirement for USA COM.

RECOMMENDED ACADEMIC PLAN

FIRST YEAR	CREDIT HOURS
CAS 100	2
EH 101 & EH 102	6
Mathematics	3-6
CH 131/L & CH 132/L	8
BLY 121/L & BLY 122/L	8
CA 110	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	30-33

SECOND YEAR

CH 201/L & CH 202/L	8
Physics I & II and Labs	8-10
PSY 120	3
ST 210	3
Courses in Major	6
English Literature	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	31-33

THIRD YEAR

Biochemistry I & II ⁴	6
BLY 302	3
SY 109	3
Fine Arts	3
English Literature	3
Courses for Major/Minor	<u>12</u>
TOTAL	30

FOURTH YEAR

History (US or Western Civilization)	3
Humanities	3
Completion of Major and Minor	
Courses required for the degree	<u>24</u>
TOTAL	30

⁴CH 440/441, BMD 321/322 or BLY 440/441 will satisfy this requirement.

MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST (MCAT)

In addition to maintaining a strong GPA, participating in volunteer activities and shadowing, students will need to take the MCAT. Students should plan on taking the MCAT during the spring semester of their junior year. The MCAT is composed of four sections: Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems; Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems; Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior; and Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills. Each section is scored from a low of 118 to a high of 132. The scaled scores for each section are combined to give the overall MCAT score. A score of 500 is considered the midpoint score. Mean MCAT score for accepted applicants nationwide (2016-2017 application cycle) was 508.7. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) website contains useful information on preparing for and taking the MCAT.

COMMITTEE EVALUATION

Pre-Health Advising at the University of South Alabama provides current students the option of a committee evaluation. In order to be eligible for a committee evaluation students must attend an informational workshop in February prior to starting the application process in June. Students will need to ask between three and five faculty members to complete an evaluation form. A minimum of two letters must be from science faculty. The committee will base their letter of recommendation on these evaluation forms. The deadline to request a committee evaluation is May 1.

PRE-MEDICAL PROGRAM

The Office of Pre-Health Advising is dedicated to helping students succeed as they work towards a graduate education in medicine. We are here to help students craft a workable plan by providing structure, guidance and information about University and Pre-Medicine resources.

CHOOSING A MAJOR

There is no perfect “pre-med” major at the University of South Alabama. A student can major in any subject area and apply to medical school. If the desired career path changes students need to be in a major that will allow them opportunities for success. Academic and Pre-Health advisors work together to help students with the coordination of courses for both the major and medical school.

IMPORTANCE OF GPA

Medical schools require students to provide their academic GPA which includes all grades earned at any institute of higher learning and dual enrollment. In addition, a second GPA will be calculated which includes only those courses in biology, chemistry, math and physics (BCPM). The mean GPA of those students who are accepted into a medical school program is 3.7 (2016-2017 application cycle). The mean BCPM GPA of accepted students is 3.64 (2016-2017 application cycle).

SHADOWING AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Medical schools desire students with diverse backgrounds and experiences, strong GPAs (especially in math and sciences), sustained volunteer activities, leadership skills and most especially shadowing or experience in the health profession of interest. The USA COM strongly recommends that all

applicants shadow a general practitioner such as a pediatrician, internist or family medicine physician.

Pre-medical students are entering fields with very strong and well established service orientations. Students need to get involved in service at the start of their college career. There are volunteer activities that one can participate in during the semester as well as during the summer break. Physicians will be part of a team as a health professional, and one way to learn how to be part of a team is to get involved and develop leadership skills.

Students also need to be culturally aware and actively pursue experiences that allow them to learn about themselves and others. It is important for pre-medical students to choose experiences that will allow them to stand out, demonstrate their value, and enable them to work with diverse populations at home and abroad. For instance, if a student studies abroad at some point during their academic career, they will learn the issues affecting the health and well-being of populations in other countries.

ALPHA EPSILON DELTA (AED)

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is the national honor society for pre-health students. The University of South Alabama has a very active AED chapter, Alabama Zeta. In addition to providing service activities for pre-health students, health care professionals and professional school admissions officers present at bi-monthly meetings. All pre-health students are encouraged to become actively involved in the University's chapter of AED. In order to become a national member, students must have a minimum 3.2 GPA and have been a local member of the Zeta chapter for three consecutive semesters.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC)
<https://apps.aamc.org>