

# Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Academic Prerequisite Guide 2009/2010

\*\*\*There are academic prerequisite variations between Osteopathic Schools of Medicine. Therefore it is up to each student to research the school(s) of interest for specific requirements.\*\*\*

## Overall GPA

The overall academic GPA for the 2008 entering class as reported by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOMA) was 3.39 on a 4.00 scale.

## Science GPA

The average science GPA for the 2008 entering class as reported by the AACOMA was 3.24 on a 4.00 scale.

## MCAT

Osteopathic Medical schools require students to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The test contains four sections including Physical and Biological Sciences, Verbal Reasoning and a Writing Sample. The 2008 average MCAT scores for Osteopathic Medical Students were as follows: verbal reasoning = 8.31, Physical Science = 8.17 and Biological Sciences = 8.80.

## Required Courses

Most osteopathic medical schools require the following courses to be completed before admission to medical school:

General Chemistry (with labs)	CHEM 1110/11 CHEM 1120/21	8 hrs.
Organic Chemistry (with labs)	CHEM 2010/11 CHEM 2020/21	8-10 hrs.
Physics (with labs)*	PHYS 2010/11 PHYS 2020/21	8 hrs.
General Biology (with labs)	BIOL 1110/11 BIOL1120/21	8 hrs.
English Composition	ENGL 1010 ENGL 1020	6 hrs.
Communication **	SPCH 1300	3 hrs.
<u>Course Electives</u>		<u>49 hrs.</u>
Total (minimum)		90 hrs.

\*Calculus-based physics is recommended (PHYS 2110-20).

\*\* 3 choices for final 3 hrs: General speech, Public Speaking, Argumentation and Debate

## Recommended Courses

Although the following are not required, completing these courses with high grades will demonstrate a student's abilities when applying to medical school.

Biology III (with lab)	BIOL 1130/31	4 hrs.
Pre-Calculus II	MATH 1720	3 hrs.
Probability and Statistics	MATH 1530	3 hrs.
Calculus I and II	MATH 1910, MATH 1920	8 hrs.
Humanities (minimum)	*Multiple choices	12 hrs.
Social Sciences (minimum)	*Multiple choices	9 hrs.
Using Info. Technology	CSCI 1100 or test out	3 hrs.
General Genetics (with lab)	BIOL 3100, BIOL 3141	5 hrs.
Comparative Anatomy	BIOL 3220	4 hrs.
Biochemistry (with lab)	BIOL 4147/57 or BIOL 4167/77	5 hrs.
Molecular Biology	BIOL 4647	3 hrs.
Cell Biology (with lab)	BIOL 3150/51	5 hrs.
Vertebrate Embryology	BIOL 3230	4 hrs.

## Majors

Pre-Osteopathic medicine is not a major; therefore students must choose a major and minor by the time they reach 60 credit hours. Osteopathic medical schools are interested in seeing excellent grades in the sciences and mathematics; however, students do not have to major in these disciplines. Students should choose a major and minor that they enjoy. The MPA Coordinator will assist students in selecting a major.

## The Application Process

Students should start the application process approximately 18 months prior to when they desire to enter medical school. For example, if a student plans to begin August 2010, they should begin applying January 2009. Nearly all osteopathic medical schools participate in the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS). The website is [www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org).

Students should plan to take The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) during their junior year of college. The MPA office will assist students with questions and information pertaining to the MCAT.

Many osteopathic medical schools require students to submit a Composite Evaluation Letter of Academic Work during the application process. ETSU's MPA office provides this service and will assist students through the process.

## **Related Experience**

Students should volunteer or shadow during their entire college tenure. Osteopathic medical schools want to know that a student has worked in the field, observed what is involved and still has the desire to continue in that profession. Although a precise number of hours are not usually indicated by most medical schools, students should gain as much experience as possible without sacrificing grades and other extracurricular activities.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

Pre-Osteopathic medical students should engage in extracurricular activities to demonstrate leadership ability, while also pursuing their academic course loads and volunteer/shadowing experience. Students should visit the SORC located on the first floor of the Culp center or [www.etsu.edu/sorc](http://www.etsu.edu/sorc) for more information regarding extracurricular activities. It is not beneficial to simply join an organization, you must demonstrate leadership qualities!

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Osteopathic medical schools are looking for candidates who express a commitment to community service. Students should seek volunteer projects that focus on giving back to their community. Students are encouraged to also look for volunteer opportunities related to the medical field.

## **Concerns**

Students must meet with their pre-professional and academic advisor each semester. Furthermore, students who are Athletes or in the Honors College must also seek advisement from those parties. Serious consequences can occur if students fail to meet with advisors, such as not graduating on schedule, not taking the appropriate courses to prepare for the MCAT, etc.

## **Take Note**

Be cautious when putting anything on social networking sites and the internet (such as MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, Email, Voicemail, Mobile Text Messaging, Twitter, and blogs).

Email addresses should also be considered when corresponding with professional schools. Remember that first impressions can also be based on correspondence. Is your email address appropriate for professional communication?

Messages and images you send electronically are reflections of your judgment and potential suitability for Professional Careers. Self-deprecating behaviors shared on an accessible venue can be viewed and/or shared by anyone, resulting in detriment to your acceptance into a Professional School.

**\*\* PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS *DO* LOOK AT INTERNET SOURCES WHEN CONSIDERING CANDIDATE APPLICATIONS!!!**

### **Suggested Two Year Schedule for Pre-Osteopathic Medical Students**

**Fall Freshmen Year**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
CHEM 1110/1111	4
BIOL 1110/1111	4
MATH 1720	3
ENGL 1010	3
Elective	3
	<b>17</b>

**Fall Sophomore Year**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
CHEM 2010/2011	4
PHYS 2010/2011	4
MATH 1920	4
SPCH 1300	3
Elective	3
	<b>18</b>

**Spring Freshmen Year**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
CHEM 11120/1121	4
BIOL 1120/1121	4
MATH 1910	4
ENGL 1020	3
Elective	3
	<b>18</b>

**Spring Sophomore Year**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
CHEM 2020/2021	4
PHYS 2020/2021	4
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
	<b>17</b>

**\*Students should maintain a minimum of 17-19 credit hours each semester.**