

# Health Professions Info Sheet

What you need to know about  
becoming a .....

## Physician (MD)

MD's, or allopathic physicians, examine patients, obtain medical histories, and order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests. They counsel patients about illness, injuries, health conditions, and preventive health care. Some physicians conduct medical research or teach and run medical centers. There are demands for physicians in a wide range of settings. There are several medical specialties an MD can focus on and the job can vary widely.

### Where do they work?

Few professions offer the variety of settings available to an MD. Just some of the specialties are:

- Family practice
- Anesthesiology
- Internal medicine
- OB/GYN
- Psychiatry
- Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Urology
- Allergy and Immunology
- Nuclear Medicine

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Allopathic medical students complete four years of medical school plus three to eight years of additional medical training through residencies. Students will apply for their residency through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). While in medical school, students will be gaining hands-on experience through clinical rotations. These rotations may include: neurology, family medicine, surgery, and pediatrics. Courses such as gross anatomy, immunology, and genetics are typical in an MD program. These courses and rotations prepare students for their residencies as well as the state licensing exams and na-

### Education

Entrance to MD schools is very competitive. Academic requirements include:

Biology

General Chemistry

Organic Chemistry

Physics

English

Math

Suggested courses include Biochemistry and Genetics. MD school also require above average scores on MCAT's and a high GPA.

### Accepted Student Profile

Medical school programs have many applicants and are very competitive. Applicants should have:

- High GPA (3.5—3.75)
- Leadership experience
- Excellent entrance exam scores (MCAT)
- Hands-on patient experience
- Participated in research
- Shadowed a practicing physician

### Application

MD schools use a centralized application service to apply for admissions. Official transcripts and recommendations must be submitted through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS).

MD schools require MCAT scores for admission as well. The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) will test you on biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics. These classes should be completed before taking your MCAT's.

### Web Resources

AMCAS Application: <http://www.aamc.org/audienceamcas.htm>

Association of American Medical Colleges : <http://www.aamc.org/start.htm>

American Medical Association: <http://www.ama-assn.org/>

MCAT: <http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm>

Electronic Residency Application Service: <http://www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm>