

Medicine Pre-Professional Program 2025-2026

Although there are many different specialties and opportunities in medicine, the description below refers to the work of a general practitioner.

Nature of Work: Physicians examine patients, obtain medical histories, and order, perform, and interpret diagnostic tests. They also diagnose illnesses, prescribe, and administer treatment for people suffering from injury or disease, and counsel patients on diet, hygiene, and preventive health care. Doctors in private practices may also handle or oversee the business aspects pertaining to their offices.

Most general practitioners are self-employed, working with a group. However, numerous doctors are employed by other practitioners or by state, local, or federal government, or private risk management insurance corporations.

Professional Training: Doctors must acquire an M.D. or a D.O. degree, complete a residency, and obtain a license to practice. Formal education and training are among the longest of any occupation, but earnings are among the highest.

Job Outlook: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS), "Overall employment of physicians and surgeons is projected to grow 3 percent from 2021 to 2031, slower than the average for all occupations. Despite limited employment growth, about 23,800 openings for physicians and surgeons are projected each year, on average, over the decade." Demand for physicians will especially be driven by an aging population and expanded access to health insurance due to federal health insurance reform. (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings: The BLS reports, "Wages for physicians and surgeons are among the highest of all occupations, with a median wage equal to or greater than \$208,000 per year." Wages will vary by specialty, years of experience and geographic region. (See www.bls.gov)

Note: Walla Walla University does not offer the clinical portion of this degree.

Some students may wish to take General Chemistry along with General Biology or Math, but should be cautioned that this can be very challenging, especially when transitioning from high school to college. Ultimately, the need to maintain a high GPA should be the student's goal.

If applying to a medical school other than Loma Linda University, the student should refer to the bulletin of that institution for specific entrance requirements. LLU generally requires 16 credits of religion for 4-year graduates from SDA institutions.

PRE-PROFESSION: MEDICINE

Rigby Hall
(509) 527-2602

Websites

[Walla Walla University](#)
[University Bulletin](#)

Pre-Profession: Medicine

Faculty

Advisors
[David Lindsey](#)
[Jeremy Wiggins](#)

Professional Organizations

[American Medical Association](#)

[Association of American Medical Colleges](#)

Additional Sources

[Loma Linda School of Medicine](#)

Suggested Degree Path

Entry requirements vary according to the professional school. Most medical schools require completion of a bachelor's degree with a grade-point average of 3.5 or better, computed separately for science and non-science courses. The following science and behavioral science courses cover topics included on the new MCAT. The chart below details the suggested path a student may take to complete the requirements for entry into the Medicine Program at Loma Linda University. [See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details.](#)

Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
*General Biology (BIOL 141) & Lab	4
Introduction To Analytical Writing I (ENGL 121)	3
Math Option (MATH 121 or 171)	(4)
General Studies/Major Courses (PYSC 140)	1-5
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
*General Biology (BIOL 142) & Lab	4
Introduction to Research Writing (ENGL 122)	3
Math Option (MATH 122)	4
General Studies/Major Courses (PYSC 141)	1
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
*General Biology (BIOL 143) & Lab	4
Math Option (MATH 132 OR 181)	(4)
General Studies/Major Courses	8-12
Total	16

Sophomore Year

Fall Courses	Hours
General Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 141 & 144)	4
General Physics & Lab (PHYS 211 & 214)	4
Research Writing (Major Specific)	3
General Studies/Major Courses	5
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
General Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 142 & 145)	4
General Physics & Lab (PHYS 212 & 215)	4
General Studies/Major Courses	4
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
General Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 143 & 146)	4
General Physics & Lab (PHYS 213 & 216)	4
General Studies/Major Courses	8
Total	16

Junior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Organic Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 321 & 324)	5
Cell Biology I (BIOL 381) & Lab	4
General Studies/Major Courses	7
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Organic Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 322 & 325)	5
Cell Biology II (BIOL 382) & Lab	4
General Studies/Major Courses	7
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Cell Biology III (BIOL 383) & Lab	4
General Studies/Major Courses	12
Total	16

For students who wish to enter medical school the year after their senior year, the MCAT exam should be taken by July or August after their Junior year

Senior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Foundations of Biochemistry (CHEM 431)	4
General Studies/Major Courses	12
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
General Studies/Major Courses	16
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
General Studies/Major Courses	16
Total	16
+ Offered even years only	- Offered odd years only

*AP and CLEP credits do not meet Loma Linda University or most medical schools' requirements for science courses.

**Recommended course

Other recommended courses include:

- Journal Club ([BIOL 326](#)); Junior Year
- Human Anatomy ([BIOL 440](#)); Junior Year
- Animal Physiology ([BIOL 464](#)); Winter Quarter
- Advanced Microbiology ([BIOL 445](#)); Winter Quarter
- Immunology ([BIOL 466](#)); Fall Quarter
- Foundations of Biochemistry ([CHEM 432](#)); Winter Quarter
- Intro to Statistics ([MATH 106](#)); all quarters
- OR Biostatistics ([BIOL 250](#)); Winter Quarter
- Intro to Psychology: Social Foundations ([PSYC 140](#)); Fall Quarter
- Human Nutrition ([HLTH 220](#))
- Intro to Psychology: Biological Foundations ([PSYC 141](#)); Winter Quarter
- General Sociology ([SOCI 204](#)); all quarters