

### Sample Schedules w/ MCAT

When creating your academic plan for Hamilton, you should consider the optimal time that you will be prepared to take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). This exam is administered by the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS), and is required to gain admission to medical school. It is strongly recommended that students complete *all* their pre-medical course work prior to taking the MCAT. In order to prepare for the content covered on the exam, it is strongly recommended that students complete the following courses:

#### Medical School Requirements

- ✓ 2 Semesters of Biology w/ Lab
  - BIO101/BIO115 + BIO102/BIO Elective
- ✓ 2 Semesters of General Chemistry w/ Lab
  - CHEM120/CHEM125 + CHEM265/CHEM270
- ✓ 2 Semesters of Organic Chemistry w/ Lab
  - CHEM190 + CHEM255
- ✓ 2 Semesters of General Physics w/ Lab
  - PHYS100/PHYS190/PHYS200 + PHYS105/PHYS195/PHYS205
- ✓ 2 Semesters of English
  - Any two ENGL/CPLIT courses

#### Additional Recommended Courses

- ✓ 1 Semester of Biochemistry
  - CHEM270/BIO346
- ✓ 1 Semester of Psychology
  - PSYCH101
- ✓ 1 Semester of Sociology
  - SOC101
- ✓ 1 Semester of Calculus
  - MATH113/MATH116
- ✓ 1 Semester of Statistics
  - MATH253

**In addition to these courses, you must also be sure to complete *all* course requirements for your major.** This information can be found in the Hamilton College Course Catalog. The following sample schedules are meant to guide you in planning your four years, with relation to the MCAT.

#### Course Planning in Relation to the MCAT:

1. Medical school application process begins 14 months prior to matriculation.
2. MCAT should be taken prior to applying to medical school.
3. Before taking MCAT, complete courses that cover exam content.
4. AMCAS application opens in May; MCAT should be taken no later than June (preferably April) of the year prior to matriculation.

For each of the following sample schedules, there are two "timelines" to taking the MCAT; early or late in the application cycle.

- If you take the MCAT earlier in the application cycle (e.g., July - September of year prior to matriculation), you have more flexibility in regards to studying for and possibly retaking the exam. However, this also means you have a shorter amount of time to complete the required coursework.
- If you take the MCAT later in the application cycle (e.g., April - June of year prior to matriculation), you have more time to study and prepare for the exam. However, this also requires that you study for the MCAT during the semester and have less time for potential retakes.

**Sample A; MCAT between Sophomore and Junior year.**

This schedule is just *one example* for students planning to enter medical school directly (i.e., matriculate in the fall after graduation). *Only ~ 10% of Hamilton pre-medical students complete this path.*

**First Year***Fall*

1. BIO101/BIO115
2. CHEM120/CHEM125
3. MATH113/MATH116
4. ENGLISH/COMP LIT

1. BIO102/BIO ELECTIVE
2. CHEM190
3. PSYCH101
4. SOC101

**Sophomore Year***Fall*

1. CHEM255
2. PHYS100/PHYS190/PHYS200
3. MATH253
4. ENGLISH/COMP LIT

*Spring*

1. CHEM265/CHEM270
2. PHYS105/PHYS195/PHYS205
3. BIO346
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

**Junior Year***Fall*

1. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

*Spring*

1. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

**Senior Year***Fall*

1. SENIOR THESIS/ELECTIVE
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

*Spring*

1. SENIOR THESIS/ELECTIVE
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

*Spring*

1. If interested in studying abroad during your Junior Year, identify which semester. It is best to assume that you will NOT take any pre-medical requirements abroad.
2. It is in your best interest to take sequential courses (e.g. physics) in the same academic year.
3. It is important to recognize that this schedule severely limits your choice for major. It is essentially limited to the sciences: biology, chemistry, physics, neuroscience. This is due to the overlap in required courses.
4. It is also important to emphasize how difficult your first year and sophomore years will be. Do not sacrifice your GPA in an attempt to rush into medical school.

The average age of matriculants into U.S. medical schools increases every year. With more course requirements and a greater emphasis on the maturity/well-roundedness of the applicant, it may be beneficial to consider working or volunteering for some time before medical school. If this sounds like the path for you, see more sample schedules below:

**Sample B; MCAT between Junior and Senior year**

This schedule is just *one example* for students who plan to enter medical school 1-2 years after graduating. This is still an academically rigorous schedule, but is ideal for those students wishing to take less time between graduating and matriculating into medical school.

**First Year***Fall*

1. BIO101/BIO115
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. MATH113/MATH116
4. ENGLISH/COMP LIT

*Spring*

1. BIO102/BIO ELECTIVE
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. PSYCH101
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

**Sophomore Year***Fall*

1. CHEM120/CHEM125
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. MATH253
4. ENGLISH/COMP LIT

*Spring*

1. CHEM190
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. BIO346
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

**Junior Year***Fall*

1. CHEM255
2. PHYS100/PHYS190/PHYS200
3. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

*Spring*

1. CHEM265/CHEM270
2. PHYS105/PHYS195/PHYS205
3. SOC101
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

**Senior Year***Fall*

1. SENIOR THESIS/ELECTIVE
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

*Spring*

1. SENIOR THESIS/ELECTIVE
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

1. With this sample schedule, studying abroad is only possible Fall of Senior Year. This is only if you plan on completing a 1-semester Senior Thesis in the Spring. Note: it is not possible to study abroad in the Fall or Spring of Junior Year due to pre-medical course requirements.
2. This sample schedule allows more flexibility in terms of choosing a major, taking electives, participating in a varsity sport, and having extracurricular activities.
3. Plan to use the time between graduation and medical school wisely. Most students pursue a full-time or volunteer position in the medical field.

**Sample C; MCAT Senior year +**

This schedule is just *one example* for students who are interested in exploring the liberal arts curriculum with a manageably rigorous schedule of required science courses. Plan to enter medical school 2+ years after graduating.

**First Year***Fall*

1. BIO101/BIO115
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. MATH113/MATH116
4. ENGLISH/COMP LIT

*Spring*

1. BIO102/BIO ELECTIVE
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. PSYCH101
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

**Sophomore Year***Fall*

1. CHEM120/CHEM125
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. MATH253
4. ENGLISH/COMP LIT

*Spring*

1. CHEM190
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. BIO346
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

**Junior Year***Fall*

1. CHEM255
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

*Spring*

1. CHEM265/CHEM270
2. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
3. SOC101
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

**Senior Year***Fall*

1. SENIOR THESIS/ELECTIVE
2. PHYS100/PHYS190/PHYS200
3. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

*Spring*

1. SENIOR THESIS/ELECTIVE
2. PHYS105/PHYS195/PHYS205
3. ELECTIVE/MAJOR
4. ELECTIVE/MAJOR

1. Studying abroad during the Academic Year is not possible with this sample schedule due to required pre-medical courses. Traveling is still possible during the summer (internships, volunteering, summer abroad, etc.), or through post-graduate fellowships (Fulbright, Watson, etc.)
2. However, this schedule is optimal for exploring the College curriculum, taking electives, participating in varsity sports, and maintaining extracurricular activities.
3. Plan to use the time between graduation and medical school wisely. Most students pursue a full-time or volunteer position in the medical field.