

# PRE-MEDICINE

MINOR

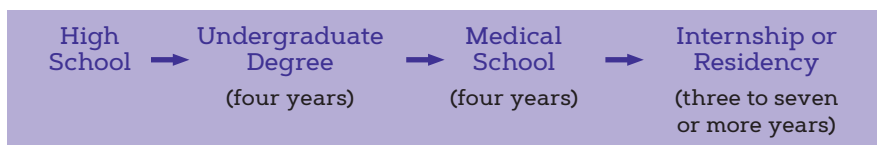


Physicians serve on the front line of medicine. They are responsible for examining patients and monitoring their conditions and progress. Physicians order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests. They prescribe or administer treatments, including medication and they counsel patients about diseases, injuries and preventive healthcare.

Physicians must have strong critical thinking skills as well as good judgment and decision-making ability. They need to be able to identify complex problems and review related information so as to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions. They should excel in active listening - giving full attention to what people say - and be able to communicate effectively both in writing and orally.

Physicians work in many different environments including hospitals, government agencies and in either solo or group practices. There are multiple areas of specialty for physicians including surgery, emergency care, orthopedics and pediatrics. Many physicians also participate in research, addressing the causes of illness and seeking new treatments.

To practice as a physician, a student must graduate from an accredited school of medicine which may be either allopathic, leading to the M.D. degree or osteopathic, leading to the D.O. degree. Students must pass a licensure exam and do a residency in a specialty area before being allowed to practice.



No specific major is required. The profession will be stronger and more enriched by being made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds. As long as you successfully complete the prerequisite courses you can compete for admission regardless of your major. Allow yourself to explore a wide range of different interests early in your college career. When you find something you enjoy, chances are you will do well in it. Let your curiosity be your guide.

## Perks of the Profession

### EXCELLENT INCOME

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a median annual income of \$208,000 (2021 data).

### GREAT JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of physicians is projected to grow 3% from 2021-2031.

### SPECIALIZATION

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education accredits training programs in 133 specialties and subspecialties. The American Board of Medical Specialties represents 24 board-certified specialties, with many subspecialties.

## Medical Schools in Virginia

- Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Liberty College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine
- Virginia Tech/Carilion School of Medicine
- University of Virginia School of Medicine



## Students in the Pre-Medicine minor must take courses in:

- Biology (5)
- Chemistry (5)
- Physics (2)
- Statistics (1)
- Calculus (1)
- Social & Behavioral Sciences (3)
- Writing (1)
- Literature (1)

## Contact Information

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### OTHER LINKS

American Medical Association  
[www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)

Association of American Medical Colleges  
[www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
[www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)

Explore Health Careers  
<https://explorehealthcareers.org/>

## JMU Pre-Medicine Minor



JMU students who are interested in becoming a physician can choose to enroll in the Pre-Medicine minor. The minor includes courses required for admission to both allopathic and osteopathic schools of medicine.

Admission to medical schools is very competitive. In addition to the prerequisite course work, students will most likely need to

- Shadow (observe) a physician.
- Pursue clinically related activities including paid or volunteer work.
- Complete the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) – a test assessing problem solving ability and reasoning skills based on core content from the natural, physical, behavioral and social sciences.
- Participate in research opportunities and/or leadership experiences.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 grading scale). To be a competitive applicant, students generally need a much higher GPA.
- Demonstrate experience with diverse individuals – from children to elderly, including able-bodied as well as physically or cognitively challenged and those that are disadvantaged.
- Obtain letters of recommendation.

At JMU pre-professional health advisors are available to guide students in course selection, the application process and other activities required for a medical school applicant to be competitive.

**For the 2022 entry year, JMU students were accepted to 17 different M.D. programs in 12 states and 14 different D.O. programs in 11 states.**