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**Medical Doctors** diagnose illnesses and prescribe and administer treatment for people suffering from injury or disease. Physicians examine patients, obtain medical histories, and order, perform, and interpret diagnostic tests. They counsel patients on preventive healthcare including diet, sleep and exercise. It usually takes at least 11 years to become a doctor: 4 years of college, 4 years of medical school, and 3 years working in a hospital. For some specialties, doctors may have to work in a hospital for up to 8 years before they are trained.

**Degrees:** There are two types of medical physicians: M.D.—Doctor of Medicine—and D.O.—Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. M.D.s are known as allopathic physicians. While both M.D.s and D.O.s may use all accepted methods of treatment, including drugs and surgery, D.O.s place special emphasis on the body’s musculoskeletal system.

**Admission to Medical Schools:** Acceptance to medical school is highly competitive. In order to compete for admission, students will need to complete a Bachelor Degree at an undergraduate institution **with a reputation for academic excellence.** Although students come from a variety of undergraduate degree programs, majoring in Biology or a related field is typical. Students will need to complete the AMCAS Application (or AACOMAS for Osteopathic Medicine) and supplemental applications for specific colleges if required.

**Criteria of Importance for Acceptance Include:**

- Undergraduate grade point average
- Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) score – Strongly suggested this be taken by April of the junior year (see: <http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm>)
- Practical experience with patients (ex. volunteering at a hospital or as an EMT)
- Research activities
- Excellent communication skills
- Evidence of maturity, integrity, service to the community
- Work experience, extra-curricular activities, proven leadership ability
- Letters of recommendation from Pre-Health Advisor and/or Professors at the 4 year college
- Personal Statement
- Personal Interview (by invitation)

**Typical Minimum Prerequisite Courses for Medical School:** One year of biology with laboratories; One year of physics with laboratories; Two years of chemistry with laboratories, including organic; One year of English. Calculus is required in order to take physics. Examples of MCC courses are below:

BIO 155 - General Biology I	CHE 151 – General College Chemistry I
BIO 156 - General Biology II	CHE 152 – General College Chemistry II
PHY 154 - General Physics I	CHE 251 - Organic Chemistry I *
PHY 155 - General Physics II	CHE 252 - Organic Chemistry II *
or	MTH 210 – Calculus I
PHY 161 - University Physics I	ENG 101 or ENG 200 (200 is recommended)
PHY 261 - University Physics II	ENG literature course (200 level recommended)

**\* It is very important to note that Medical Schools may prefer prerequisite courses be completed at a 4-year institution. For example, many medical schools prefer organic chemistry be taken at the 4 year college.** It also may not be advisable to take pre-requisite courses over the summer sessions. In addition, courses which tend to duplicate those offered in medical school may not be optimal selections.

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Although possibly not required, courses in biochemistry, statistics, genetics, physiology, and cell biology are **highly** recommended. Courses dealing with building interpersonal and communication skills are very important; these include courses in writing, ethics, speech communication, psychology, sociology and anthropology. Typically, a minimum of 12 – 16 credit hours of social behavioral sciences and/or humanities courses are recommended. **Contact the Pre-Med Advisor at your four-year school for further information and assistance.**

### Partial Listing of Colleges in New York State Offering a Degree in Medicine:

Albany Medical College	SUNY University at Buffalo
Columbia University	SUNY University at Stony Brook
Cornell University Medical Center	SUNY Upstate Medical University
New York University	University of Rochester
New York College of Osteopathic Medicine	

### Partial Listing of Specialized Areas of Medicine:

Anesthesiologist	Neurologist	Psychiatrist
Cardiologist	Obstetrician	Radiologist
Dermatologist	Ophthalmologist	Surgeon
Gynecologist	Pediatrician	Urologist
Internist		

**Please note:** while every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with a counselor in the MCC Career Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.