Preparing for the MCAT

As of 2015, the MCAT has changed to include skills and knowledge that represent key prerequisites of success in medical school and practicing medicine. The four main content areas are divided up as follows:

- Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
- Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems
- Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior
- Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills

**What courses should I take to prepare…and when?**

Although not required for the MCAT, the following courses would best prepare you and should be completed before you take the MCAT:

- Molecules, Genes and Cells (BIO 142) or Intro. to Molecular Biology (BIO 150)
- Genetics (BIO240)
- General Chemistry I & II (CHM 134 & CHM 136 or 146)
- Organic Chemistry I & II (CHM 234 & CHM 236)
- Biostatistics (BIO 290)
- Biochemistry I (BIO 350)
- Physics I & II (PHY 110 & 112)

And at least two of the following:

- General Psychology (PSY 100)
- Intro to Sociology (SOC 100)
- Fundamentals of Biopsychology (PSY 210)
- Animal Behavior (BIO 306)

In addition, courses within many of the Constellations would enhance your preparedness for medical school and practicing medicine. In particular, the Health Professions Committee recommends the following Constellations:

- Diversity
- Health/Wellness
- Children and the Family

Don’t feel limited to these suggestions! Choosing an alternative Constellation does not preclude you from taking courses within any Constellation for elective credit.