

Admissions requirements for students seeking matriculation to Loma Linda University*

**Italicized statements are directly from LLU admissions sources. If considering other institutions, be in contact with Pre-Health Advising as early as possible.*

- Degree:**
- ❖ A bachelor's degree is required to attend medical school.
- Units:**
- ❖ **Number:** Satisfied by bachelor's degree. (Pre-foundational courses and/or courses with a grade of C- or below will not satisfy prerequisites.)
 - ❖ **GPA:** To be competitive, students should have a 3.5 or higher for both their overall and BCPM (Biology, Chemistry, Physics & Math) GPA. *The average GPA (both overall and BCPM) of accepted students is 3.8.*
 - ❖ **Institution:** *It is preferred that all science courses be from a 4-year institution.*
 - ❖ **AP & CLEP:** Do not satisfy science prerequisites. Can satisfy non-science prerequisites if fulfilling degree requirements (though some institutions will not accept for any prerequisites).
- Experience:**
- ❖ *All candidates are encouraged to have had direct patient care experience in order to become acquainted with medical careers.*
- Application:**
- ❖ **Service:** AMCAS (American Medical College Application Service) usually opens in May and applications can be submitted beginning June 1. It is important that students apply as early as possible as this improves one's chances of acceptance.
 - ❖ **Deadline:** Applications are submitted at the end of junior year or the summer preceding senior year. *LLU's deadline is Nov. 1.*
 - ❖ **Tests:** MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) is required. *The average MCAT score of accepted students is 30P.*
 - ❖ **Recommendation Letters:** A minimum of 3 recommendations needed: *1 from a science professor, 1 from a physician, and another from a spiritual leader.*

Coursework

Prerequisite Courses		Recommended Courses
Sciences: > General Biology __ BIOL 111 & Lab __ BIOL 111A __ BIOL 112 & Lab __ BIOL 113 & Lab > General Chemistry __ CHEM 111 & Lab __ CHEM 112 & Lab __ CHEM 113 & Lab > Organic Chemistry __ CHEM 271 & Lab __ CHEM 272 & Lab __ CHEM 273 & Lab > Mathematics __ MATH 155 Introductory Statistics	Sciences (cont'd): > General Physics __ PHYS 231 & Lab __ PHYS 232 & Lab __ PHYS 233 & Lab Communication: > College Writing __ ENGL 111 __ ENGL 112 __ ENGL 113 OR __ ENGL 124 Freshman Seminar in Writing Social Sciences: __ PSYC 104 __ SOCI 104	Sciences: > Biochemistry (Highly recommended; lab not needed) __ CHEM 491 __ CHEM 492 > Upper Division Biology Courses __ BIOL 434 Histology __ BIOL 446 Gross Anatomy __ BIOL 466 Systems Physiology > Psychology __ PSYC 104 General Psychology __ PSYC 482B Physician-Patient Communication Others: __ MDCN 204 Intro to Medicine __ MATH 131 Calculus I __ COMM 104 Fundamentals of Speech __ COMM 244 Interpersonal Communication

Timeline

Freshman	Junior
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Become acquainted with the Pre-Health Professions (PHP) advisor. 2. Join the Pre-Medical Club. 3. Explore the field of medicine, e.g., shadowing, volunteering, Intro to Medicine course. 4. Peruse different medical schools and their admissions requirements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Print out the recommendation packet (from PHP website). Complete and submit by the deadline. 2. Complete and submit the AMCAS application. 3. Take prep course for the MCAT. 4. Take the MCAT by the summer after your junior year. 5. Prepare for your interview with medical schools.
Sophomore	Senior
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet with PHP. 2. Participate, e.g., mission trips, volunteering, shadowing, clubs, SALSU. 3. Get to know your science professors (future recommendation writers). 4. Attend pre-health seminars and the Pre-Health Conference. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete all classes for your degree and medical school. 2. Complete your medical school interview. 3. Wait for your acceptance letter (this can take a while). 4. Graduate and matriculate.

Career opportunities and related occupations:

❖ A growing and aging population will contribute to the overall increase in the number of physicians needed, especially in underserved areas, such as inner city and rural areas. Outstanding career opportunities can be found in these locations. Because of efforts nationally to control health care costs and limitations on use of specialty services, a lower number of specialists will be in demand. Therefore, prospects are best for those choosing general or internal medicine, as well as geriatric and pediatric medicine. However, unlike the situation several decades ago, physicians face radically different choices of where and how to practice as new patterns of practice are becoming the norm. Physicians may choose from a variety of settings such as working in a managed care system (HMO, PPO), a clinic, hospital, laboratory, industrial, or military venues, or in a combination of these. Physicians are currently becoming more attuned to health promotion and prevention of disease by providing education and information to help individuals adopt healthier lifestyles.

Educational qualifications:

❖ The minimum educational requirement for entry into most US and Canadian medical schools is a 4-year Bachelor's degree (any major). Additionally, many applicants have formal education beyond a BA/BS, and may also have had a variety of experiences in the health care field. In medical school, students spend most of the first two years in laboratories and classrooms studying the basic sciences such as anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, pharmacology, medical ethics and other subjects with some clinical exposure. During the last two years, students proceed through clinical rotations working with patients in hospitals, which consists of on-the-job training in one or more specialties, under the direction of experts in that discipline. Once completed, the physician must pass national board exams before he/she is licensed to practice medicine. Many states also require the passing of state board exams.

Expectations:

❖ Overall, becoming a physician requires physical, emotional and intellectual stamina and lots of perseverance. It takes the desire to work with and for people, and particularly, the ability to use critical thinking to solve problems. Prospective physicians must be prepared to study throughout their careers to keep up with medical advances, and to be flexible enough to respond to changes in the healthcare system.

Salary:

❖ The national average income for physicians is \$140,000-177,000 and the average income for California is \$119,000-168,000. For the most updated information on salaries visit: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm>.

For more information:

Websites	Loma Linda University	Professional Organization(s)
La Sierra University: www.lasierra.edu/prehealth Loma Linda University: www.llu.edu	School of Medicine Loma Linda University Loma Linda, CA 92350 909-558-4467 www.llu.edu/llu/medicine	American Medical Association 515 N. State Street Chicago, IL 60654 800-621-8335 www.ama-assn.org

Pre-Health Professions is dedicated to providing quality service to La Sierra University students, faculty and staff. Our primary goal is to address your pre-professional needs. To schedule an appointment, please call 951.785.2490. We endeavor to answer all of your questions about careers in the health field; no question is too small for our attention.

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