

# Doctor of Medicine, MD

**Website:** <https://medicine.uiowa.edu/md>

## Requirements

The Doctor of Medicine is a full-time, four-year program that prepares students to practice primary care medicine and to pursue further education and training in specialized areas of medicine. The program admits 152 new students each year. The MD curriculum is built on a triple-helix model whose three strands extend through all four years of medical school: the clinical and professional skills strand, the mechanisms of health and disease strand, and the medicine and society strand.

Clinical experiences begin during the first few weeks of medical school, and clinical clerkships start after just three semesters of preclinical instruction. By the end of the fifth semester, students have completed all of their core requirements and have the remaining three semesters to tailor their educational experience in preparation for their selected specialty.

Students complete in-depth clinical coursework and serve clinical clerkships primarily at University of Iowa Health Care, the VA Iowa City Health Care, and the Des Moines Area Medical Education Consortium. Students may also have opportunities to gain experience in private medical offices and community hospitals.

Students are required to pay a minimum of eight semesters of full-time tuition. At the conclusion of medical school, students will match into a residency program and complete their training in a chosen specialty.

## Preclinical Curriculum (Phase I)

The first three semesters of the MD program present an integrated core of sciences basic to the study of medicine. They also introduce students to the foundations of clinical practice.

Coursework includes human anatomy, foundations of cellular life, clinical and professional skills (a three-course series), medicine and society (a three-course series), and mechanisms of health and disease (a five-course series).

Some elective courses are available to students during the first and second years, normally for 1 or 2 s.h. of credit. Topics include areas not specifically covered in the regular curriculum and areas related to medical practice and the role of the physician. Courses vary from year to year, but typical subject areas are global health issues, U.S. health care systems, and community health outreach.

The MD program's preclinical curriculum requires the following coursework.

### First Semester

Course #	Title	Hours
ACB:8101	Medical Gross Human Anatomy	5
MED:8121	Clinical and Professional Skills I	3
MED:8122	Medicine and Society I	3

MED:8123	Foundations of Cellular Life	5
MED:8124	Mechanisms of Health and Disease I	8

### Second Semester

Course #	Title	Hours
MED:8131	Clinical and Professional Skills II	4
MED:8132	Medicine and Society II	4
MED:8133	Mechanisms of Health and Disease II	7
MED:8134	Mechanisms of Health and Disease III	11

### Third Semester

Course #	Title	Hours
MED:8221	Clinical and Professional Skills III	4
MED:8222	Medicine and Society III	4
MED:8223	Mechanisms of Health and Disease IV	10
MED:8224	Mechanisms of Health and Disease Keystone	7

## Clinical Curriculum (Phase II and III)

Students complete one week of skills training in MED:8320 Transition to Clerkships prior to the start of clinical clerkships. The two-and-one-half-year clinical component of the medical curriculum is comprised of supervised hands-on clinical training at the bedside of inpatient units, in outpatient clinics, and in communities throughout the state. In contrast to the preclinical semesters, the clinical years vary according to a student's individual needs. This period of training begins in January of the second year with 44 weeks of core clerkships (Phase II). Students then enter various pathways where they complete a minimum of 10 weeks of electives, four weeks of critical medicine, one four-week subinternship, and 32 weeks of advanced electives (Phase III).

After completing the core clerkships, students must successfully complete Step 1 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) before they may be promoted to the pathways component of the curriculum. Students take Step 2 of the USMLE during Phase III of the MD program, and must pass Step 2 in order to graduate.

Primary venues for clinical training of medical students include University of Iowa Health Care, the VA Iowa City Health Care, and the Des Moines Area Medical Education Consortium. Students also participate in the family and community medicine clerkship, which is an off-campus rotation. Other courses may be assigned to off-campus sites.

The MD program's clinical curriculum requires the following clerkships and selectives.

### Generalist Core (Phase II)

MD students complete the generalist core during the fourth and fifth semesters. It consists of the following 44 weeks of clerkships.

Course #	Title	Hours
<b>Internal Medicine Block</b>		
IM:8310	Internal Medicine (10 weeks)	10

**Family Medicine/Pediatrics Block**

FAM:8302	Family and Community Medicine (6 weeks)	6
PEDS:8301	Clinical Pediatrics (6 weeks)	6

**Obstetrics and Gynecology/Surgery Block**

OBG:8301	Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology (6 weeks)	6
SURG:8301	Clinical Surgery (6 weeks)	6

**Neurology/Psychiatry/Emergency Medicine Block**

EM:8301	Core Emergency Medicine (2 weeks)	2
NEUR:8301	Clinical Neurology (4 weeks)	4
PSYC:8301	Clinical Psychiatry (4 weeks)	4

**Selectives**

MD students complete 10 weeks of selectives chosen from the following.

Course #	Title	Hours
ANES:8301	Clinical Anesthesia (2 weeks)	2
DERM:8301	Clinical Dermatology (2 weeks)	2
OPHT:8301	Clinical Ophthalmology (2 weeks)	2
ORTH:8301	Clinical Orthopedics (2 weeks)	2
OTO:8301	Clinical Otolaryngology (2 weeks)	2
RAD:8301	Clinical Radiology (2 weeks)	2
URO:8301	Clinical Urology (2 weeks)	2

**Advanced Required Clerkships (Phase III)**

MD students complete the following required clerkships and other work during the three advanced clinical-year semesters. In addition to the clerkships, students complete training modules in advanced clinical topics that include MED:8470 Self-Directed Learning in Advanced Clinical Topics.

Requirements	Hours
Critical care medicine (4 weeks)	
Advanced inpatient subinternship (4 weeks)	
Advanced electives (total of 32 weeks)	

**Combined Programs**

Students must be admitted to both of the individual degree programs before they may be admitted to a combined degree program. Those interested in the combined programs must make arrangements with the appropriate departments and with the Carver College of Medicine associate dean for student affairs and curriculum.

**MD/JD**

The Carver College of Medicine and the College of Law offer the combined Doctor of Medicine/Juris Doctor program; see Juris Doctor, JD in the catalog.

**MD/MBA**

The College of Medicine collaborates with the Tippie College of Business to offer the combined Doctor of Medicine/Master of Business Administration. For more information about the MBA, see the Iowa MBA in the Master of Business Administration, MBA section of the catalog.

**MD/MPH**

The College of Medicine collaborates with the College of Public Health to offer the combined Doctor of Medicine/Master of Public Health program; see the Master of Public Health, MPH in the catalog.

**MD/PhD (Medical Scientist Training Program)**

The Carver College of Medicine offers a combined MD/PhD program for students who are interested in a career that combines clinical and academic medicine with basic and clinical research; see the Medical Scientist Training Program in the catalog.

**Admission**

The Carver College of Medicine participates in the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS), a nonprofit centralized application processing service for applicants to U.S. medical schools. AMCAS applications are available for completion in May of the year preceding the beginning of the class for which the application is being made. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit application materials by Oct. 15. The deadline for AMCAS submission is Nov. 1. All application materials are due by Dec. 15.

Secondary applications are extended to applicants meeting minimum qualifications.

Admitted applicants must have an official transcript from each college they have attended sent to University of Iowa Admissions.

**Technical Standards for Admission and Retention**

The College of Medicine seeks candidates who will be able to best serve the needs of society and strives to graduate skilled and effective physicians. To achieve this goal, the following principles and technical standards will be applied to candidates for admission and continuing students. Review the current Technical Standards on the Carver College of Medicine Admissions website.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants for admission to the Carver College of Medicine must have a bachelor's degree, or they must be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program with the expectation of receiving their degree prior to enrollment. Applicants should refer to the Carver College of Medicine Admissions website for current admission requirements.

All students who enter the Carver College of Medicine are required to comply with the pre-entrance and annual health screening program developed by the University of Iowa Student Health in cooperation with University of Iowa Health Care; see Student Requirements and Forms on the Student Health website.

All registered Carver College of Medicine students are required to maintain health insurance (or an equivalent care plan) that satisfies minimum standards of coverage. Insurance coverage must be maintained continuously throughout each year of attendance at the University of Iowa.

## Financial Support

The Carver College of Medicine's philosophy is that no student should be denied a medical education due to a lack of financial resources. The college's financial services staff actively seeks sources of aid so that every student interested in medical education will be able to finance that education.

Financial assistance is provided by the Carver College of Medicine primarily on the basis of demonstrated financial need. Although a limited number of collegiate or institutional grants are available for the most economically disadvantaged students, most aid is in the form of loans. Examples of federal loan programs are the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Student Loan, the Federal Direct Grad PLUS loan, and the Primary Care Loan (PCL). Students may also qualify for collegiate loans or private loans to supplement their financial aid package.

In addition, the college supports scholarship and loan programs through permanent endowments and/or contributions from alumni and friends of the Carver College of Medicine. These funds are administered by the college's financial services staff and are awarded as a part of a student's total financial aid package. Funds to support short-term emergency loans are available for students with immediate financial need.

A small number of Dean's Scholarships are awarded by the college's admissions office to highly qualified candidates on the basis of their academic excellence, leadership abilities, and their potential to enrich the college. Dean's Scholarships are included in the recipient's overall financial aid package. About 15% of students enrolled in each class receive some level of Dean's Scholarship.

The Carver College of Medicine has a fully integrated Financial Literacy Program, CCOMmon Cents, which provides medical students the knowledge, tools, and resources to better understand the financial aid process, to manage their student loans more effectively, to make better informed decisions, and to encourage students to minimize their educational debt whenever possible. This program also strives to help students reach their personal financial goals while pursuing their medical education.

To learn more about financial aid, contact the Carver College of Medicine Financial Services office.

## Career Advancement

An interest in science, the healing arts, helping people, and medical research can lead to a great number of satisfying careers. For information about career options in health care, review the Road to Becoming a Physician on the College of Medicine website and the Occupational Outlook Handbook on the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics website.