

MSU Freshman Premed Q & A Sheet

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Question: **I want to go to medical school. What should I major in?**

Answer: You may major in any subject offered at McNeese. Please realize, however, that medical schools have a number of required as well as recommended undergraduate science courses (more on this later) which may or may not fit well into your chosen major's degree plan. If these courses do not fit into your degree plan you can still take them but they will not count toward your graduation.

Question: **What do McNeese premedical students major in?**

Answer: Over the past 10 years, 47 students who graduated from McNeese have been accepted to medical school. Here is a table showing those 47 students' majors:

<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Major</u>
34	(72%)	Biological Science
8	(17%)	Chemistry
1	(2%)	Engineering
1	(2%)	Engineering & Biological Science
1	(2%)	Nursing
1	(2%)	Physics
1	(2%)	Psychology & Biological Science

Question: **How important are grades?**

Answer: Grades are **extremely** important. Consider yourself on the right track to medical school if you maintain a GPA between 3.6 and 4.0. The average GPA of all McNeese students accepted to medical school over the past seven years is 3.8.

Question: **Will a high GPA get me into medical school?**

Answer: Not necessarily. You should consider a very high GPA as a door-opener that will want to make the medical school admissions committee look more closely at your application. There are four additional major factors they consider in addition to your GPA: MCAT score, clinical or related experience, letter of evaluation from the McNeese Health Professions Committee, and medical school interview (by invitation only).

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Question: I have mediocre grades in science, but I'm doing well in all my other classes so my GPA isn't really that low. Will that help?

Answer: No, it won't. When you apply to medical school, there are 3 different GPA's that the schools look at: Science GPA, All Other GPA, and Cumulative GPA. Medical schools are primarily concerned with your Science GPA.

Question: I'm not doing well in a class—should I drop it so it will not affect my GPA?

Answer: No! Medical school admissions committees consider "W's" to be equivalent to "F's" as far as they are concerned. One "W" on your transcript probably will not keep you out of medical school but more than one will raise a red flag that something is wrong. Why is this? Do students drop courses in which they have "A" averages? Please consider the impact more than one "W" will have on an admissions committee.

Question: What courses should I take if I want to go to medical school?

Answer: Many medical schools require these courses as minimum requirements (meaning your application will not even be considered if you have not taken them): BIOL 101, 101L, 102, 102L, CHEM 101, 102, 301, 301L, 302, 302L, PHYS 201, 202. Some medical schools require additional courses as well (e.g. calculus). Most medical schools strongly recommend applicants take additional, upper level science courses. Medical school web sites usually list these recommended courses.

Question: Should I join the McNeese Premedical/Predental Society?

Answer: Yes! Through your membership in this student organization you will meet and interact with like-minded students, attend seminars by local physicians and medical school representatives, learn about volunteer opportunities, visit medical schools, and receive first-hand information on McNeese Health Professions Committee requirements and deadlines.

Question: What is the McNeese Health Professions Committee?

Answer: The McNeese Health Professions Committee, composed of seven College of Science faculty members, prepares and sends letters of evaluation of McNeese applicants to medical, dental, and optometry schools. One of several requirements is a personal interview with the Committee.

Question: What are my chances of getting accepted into medical school?

Answer: There is no answer to this question. Many more students apply to medical school than there are places available. Your best chance for acceptance is into a state medical school in your state of residence because these medical schools admit state residents either overwhelmingly or exclusively. McNeese students traditionally experience a high acceptance rate—the acceptance rate of McNeese graduates over the past 10 years currently averages 70% as compared to the national average of 42%.