

Timeline: Medical School

FIRST YEAR:

- **Think about your options.** Ask yourself: Are you committed to medicine? Allopathic or osteopathic? Shadow and volunteer. Talk to physicians and medical school staff to gain more information. Learn about the health care system.
- Strive for a science GPA of 3.5; 3.7 or 3.8 is competitive. Layout academic plan with your premed advisor.
- **Fall of your first and second years:** Apply for REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) and internships.

SECOND YEAR:

- Look into different medical programs. Decide where you would like to apply (select 8-20 schools).
- Determine coursework/grades needed to be successful in the application process. Make sure you are taking these courses!
- Continue to volunteer and gain medical experience.
- Begin your personal statement. (Helpful to have this complete by end of summer).

THIRD YEAR:

- Register for and take the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test). You must register at least six months prior to taking the test. Prepare an MCAT study schedule (will you take a preparatory course or study alone?)
- Decide if you will take a gap year.
- Speak with your premed advisor about who to ask for letters of recommendation in Jan—they are due in April.
- Meet with the Olin Health Professions Advisory Committee in May for a mock interview.

SUMMER AFTER THIRD YEAR:

- Begin your CV (Curriculum Vitae), prepare for interviews.
- Publish research if possible. This is required if you would like to apply to an MD/PhD program.
- AMCAS (American Medical College Application Service) applications open in June. Finish your applications and send these in early.
- Prepare applications: include application, essays, letters of recommendation, transcripts and MCAT scores.

FOURTH YEAR:

- Receive and complete secondary applications.
- Receive and accept interview invitations (throughout winter and spring).
- Receive acceptance offers (spring and summer).
- You can hold a spot at an institution until May 15; after this date you will need to make a final decision on where you will attend.