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| DESCRIPTION: | Admissions requirements for medical school at the University of North Dakota | | |
| RESPONSIBLE: | STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ADMISSIONS | | |
| PURPOSE: | Documents the requirements for admission into medical school. | | |
| FREQUENCY OF REVIEW: | Annually | | |
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Competencies expected of graduating medical students

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UND SMHS) prepares medical students to become competent, caring, and compassionate physicians. Many of our graduates will remain in the state to provide care for all its citizens including populations in rural and Native American communities. Our graduates will master the following overarching competencies:

1. Demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate one's care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to improve patient care based on continual self-evaluation and lifelong learning.
2. Apply foundational science concepts to the practice of medicine.
3. Provide patient-centered care that is compassionate, appropriate, evidence-based, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.
4. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information, empathy for, and collaboration with patients, their families, and other health professionals.
5. Demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles.
6. Demonstrate an awareness of, and responsiveness toward, the larger context and system of health care, including the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care.
7. Demonstrate skills in functioning both as a team member and as a team leader and demonstrate the ability to engage in an inter-professional team in a manner that optimizes safe, effective patient-centered and population-focused care.
8. Demonstrate the qualities required to sustain lifelong personal and professional growth.

Expectations of entering medical students

Medical education is rigorous and intensive. It is essential that entering medical student possess academic stamina as demonstrated in healthy habits and attitudes, behavioral maturity, and cognitive ability. The curriculum requires the student to apply foundational knowledge to the study and understanding of normal and abnormal processes of the human body and of the behavioral and social influences on these processes. In this context, medical students learn the skills of diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and management of disease, health maintenance, risk assessment, disease screening, public health aspects of disease, and disease prevention. In addition, modern medicine dictates the need for excellent communication skills and the ability to work in complex interdisciplinary health care environments while caring for a diverse patient population and maintaining professional and moral-ethical codes.

Entering medical students will therefore demonstrate qualities aligned with competencies expected of medical students graduating from the UND SMHS.

- An understanding of the natural science underpinnings of biomedical sciences including concepts of introductory-level biology, organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, physics, biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology.
- An understanding of foundational concepts of psychology, sociology, and behavioral biology.
- Skill in scientific inquiry and reasoning, critical analysis, research methods, and statistics as applied to the natural, social, and/or behavioral sciences.
- Interpersonal and communication skills.
- Commitment to working with people of diverse cultures and socioeconomic status.
- Professionalism.
- Adherence to ethical principles.
- Awareness and responsiveness to complex societal systems.
- Ability to function effectively within a team setting.
- Motivation to pursue lifelong learning.

Minimum academic requirement for UND SMHS program to MD degree

Completion of a bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university.

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)

The UND SMHS requires completion of the MCAT with a minimum score of 495 to be considered for admission. The MCAT assesses preparedness in foundational knowledge, scientific reasoning, problem-solving, reasoning about the design and execution of research, and data-based and statistical reasoning. Preparation for the MCAT will vary depending on the academic and personal circumstances of the applicant. Traditional MCAT preparatory courses include two semesters of general biology, two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry, one semester of biochemistry, two semesters of physics, and psychology/sociology. Follow this link to learn more about [What's on the MCAT Exam](#).

Academic coursework

The UND SMHS does not require the completion of specific academic coursework for admissions. Entering medical students must have more than an introductory level of pre-requisite knowledge and skills to master the volume and complexity of the undergraduate medical curriculum. Suggested coursework in addition to MCAT preparatory courses listed above include an extra semester of biochemistry, one or two upper-level biology courses emphasizing concepts applicable to human biology, and an upper-level intensive-writing course.

Experience and Attributes

Attributes are not easily captured in transcripts or standardized tests. Evidence of experience and attributes with written expression, research activity, creative activity, evidence of effectiveness working in groups, experience with diverse populations and medical/clinical experience are intended to be captured on the supplemental application. Unique artifacts must specifically highlight each experience.

Written expression: The entirety of the application should illustrate the applicant's ability to communicate effectively. If granted an interview, the applicant should demonstrate oral communication effectively by providing depth and insight to answers provided.

Research activity: Examples include the outcome of a formal research experience, course-dependent undergraduate research, thesis, or capstone project.

Creative activity: This should include an experience in which you demonstrated creativity and innovation where you generated an idea and implemented it to achieve an outcome such as a performance or work that enriched the lives of others.

Evidence of effectiveness working in groups: Examples include effective leadership and group work within an academic setting, volunteer work, or employment. This should describe your experience in leadership and a summary of your group work with a description of your contribution.

Cultural Awareness and Humility: This should include your experience with people of different backgrounds than yourself, what preconceived notions you had prior to the experience, and how the experience changed your preconceived notions.

Medical/clinical experience as it relates to the mission of the School of Medicine & Health Sciences: This may include a summary of physician shadowing, clinical observation, community service, volunteer work, and/or employment. Examples include, but are not limited to, work in a clinic, hospital, as a first responder, clinical lab, public health, home health visits, assisted living, nursing home care, youth camps, or relevant military duty.