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DESCRIPTION:	Admissions requirements for medical school at the University of North Dakota		
RESPONSIBLE:	STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ADMISSIONS		
PURPOSE:	Documents on 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 medical degree graduates will remain in the state to provide care for all its citizens including those living in rural and Native American communities. Our medical 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 as well as demonstrating the ability to engage with 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 an entering medical student possess academic stamina as demonstrated by healthy habits, 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 as well as the behavioral and social influences on these processes. In this context, medical students learn the skills of diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, management of disease, health maintenance, risk assessment, disease screening, disease prevention, and public health aspects of disease. 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 as well as maintaining professional and moral-ethical codes.

Entering medical students will therefore demonstrate qualities aligned with the competencies expected of medical degree graduates of the UNDSMHS.

- An understanding for 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 for the foundational concepts of psychology, sociology, and behavioral biology.
- Skill in scientific inquiry and reasoning, critical evaluation, research methods, and statistical analysis 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. There is a minimum score of 495. The MCAT assesses preparedness in foundational knowledge, scientific reasoning, problem solving, reasoning about the design and execution of research, as well as 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, as well as one semester each of introductory psychology and sociology. Follow this link to learn more about [What's on the MCAT Exam](#).

Academic coursework

The UND SMHS does not require completion of specific academic coursework for admissions. However, applicants should be aware that 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, includes an extra semester of biochemistry, two upper-level biology courses emphasizing concepts applicable to human biology such as, physiology, immunology, genetics, histology or anatomy as well as 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.

Communication skills: The entirety of the application should illustrate the applicant's ability to communicate effectively through written expression. The applicant should respond to prompts in a well-structured manner that is clear, polished, and professional. If granted an interview, the applicant should demonstrate all their interpersonal communication skills by expressing ideas clearly and insightfully, actively listening, presenting themselves confidently and using appropriate nonverbal cues.

Research activity: The applicant's experience with the process of scientific discovery should include aspects the applicant found frustrating or rewarding, and how these lessons might be transferable to the practice of medicine.

Creative activity: This should include an experience in which the applicant demonstrated creativity and innovation where they generated an idea and implemented it to achieve an outcome such as a theatrical performance, work of art, publication, invention, start-up, public service or any other major production or instillation. The applicant should explain how this work enriched the lives of others, contributed to their personal growth, and describe the skills they gained to help them as a future physician.

Evidence of effectiveness working in groups: Examples include an applicant's role in a particularly impactful leadership or team experience in which their efforts resulted in a meaningful outcome and how it might apply to the applicant's future role as a physician in an interprofessional healthcare setting.

Cultural awareness: This should encompass your interactions with individuals from different socioeconomic, ethnic, racial, cultural or religious/spiritual backgrounds, the preconceived notions you held prior to these experiences, and the way these experiences challenged your initial perceptions.

Medical/clinical experiences: This may include a summary of physician shadowing, clinical observation, community service, volunteer work, and/or employment. Examples include, but are not limited to, working 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. The applicant should explain how these experiences are consistent with the primary purpose of the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences which is to educate physicians and other health professionals for subsequent service in North Dakota and to enhance the quality of life of its people.