

Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Program

The **Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical program** at Washington University enables qualified college graduates to take core and elective science and math courses that satisfy medical school admission requirements. Students also may take approved elective courses in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities that provide a broad context and skill set for the practice of medicine today. The program is flexible to accommodate individuals changing careers, including those without a science background. For students who enter the program with most pre-medical course requirements complete, the program offers numerous upper-level biology courses to enhance a previous academic record and demonstrate science mastery. Courses are typically taken during the evening and are available during the fall, spring and summer terms. Day courses are also available to students, although tuition rates are higher.

Students earning at least 30 units of credit — 24 units of which must be completed at Washington University, with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.2 or higher — will be awarded a Certificate of Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Study.

Students wishing to complete fewer than 24 units of course work are not eligible for admission to the program, but they are welcome to register for courses at Washington University on a non-degree basis. Some courses may require instructor or program director approval.

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Requirements The Curriculum

The core courses of the Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical program meet the general requirements for American medical schools as well as those for dental, veterinary, osteopathic and other health professional programs. Students are urged to check individual schools and programs for specific entry requirements. All courses taken as part of the Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical program must be taken for letter grades, except for courses offered only on a pass/fail basis. No more than two units of pass/fail work may apply toward certificate requirements. Students who wish to take courses other than those that fulfill the core requirements must have adviser approval.

Up to 6 credits of appropriate course work taken prior to acceptance to the Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical program may be applied as transfer credit toward the certificate. Once students begin the certificate program, all course work must be taken in residence at Washington University. Cover letters will be written only for students who observe this policy.

Core Courses

- **Biology:** two semesters with laboratory
- **General Chemistry:** two semesters with laboratory
- **Organic Chemistry:** two semesters with laboratory
- **Biochemistry:** one semester
- **Mathematics and Statistics:** two semesters of college math (This varies according to school. Statistics is recommended. For the broadest range of schools, Calculus I and II should be completed.)
- **General Physics:** two semesters with laboratory
- **English:** two semesters, one of composition

In addition to the core courses, elective courses in biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics and statistics are also available.

Additional Information

- The post-baccalaureate premedical studies certificate requires 30 units of appropriate course work. Up to 6 of the 30 units may be applied in transfer, and at least 24 units must be completed at Washington University.
- Appropriate course work includes the prerequisites needed to apply to professional school as well as upper-level biology courses that are relevant to human or animal biology. Course work that does not meet those criteria must be approved by an adviser, in advance, in order for it to count toward the certificate.
- To qualify for a cover/committee letter from the program, students must successfully complete at least 18 units of course work at Washington University by the end of the spring semester that precedes the opening of the professional school application cycle. They must also be registered for their 24th unit, which must be successfully completed no later than the summer of that same year.
- Students who complete course work at another academic institution after beginning the post-baccalaureate premedical program at Washington University will lose eligibility for a cover letter from the program. Exceptions to this rule are allowed in extenuating circumstances and must be approved by a program adviser in advance.
- While most students complete the program in two years or less, students are limited to a three-year period in which to complete the program. They may take up to 45 units total while enrolled in the post-baccalaureate certificate program.