

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA**  
**PRE-HEALTH ADVISING**  
**ACADEMIC ADVISING AND TRANSFER SERVICES**  
**111 Jaguar Drive, Suite 1375**  
[www.southalabama.edu/departments/academicsuccess/pre-health/](http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/academicsuccess/pre-health/)

**UAB SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**  
**Birmingham, Alabama**

**APPLICATION TO UAB COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

The UAB School of Medicine (UAB SOM) welcomes applications from students with strong undergraduate records and scores on the MCAT which indicate their ability to handle the rigors of medical school. They are seeking applicants who have a proven record of community involvement, solid academic performance, integrity, leadership ability, sense of purpose and strong interpersonal skills. One hundred and eighty six (186) students are matriculated into the UAB SOM each August. Preference is given to Alabama residents. Applicants committed to the primary missions of UAB SOM including meeting the needs of Alabama's underserved populations (rural and minority), careers in biomedical research/academics and primary care are strongly encouraged to apply.

Students apply one year prior to their planned start date. Generally this will occur during the summer between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of undergraduate studies. The UAB SOM does have an Early Decision Program for in-state residents. Early Decision applicants must submit all application materials (including MCAT score) to the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) by August 1<sup>st</sup> with the secondary application due by August 15<sup>th</sup>. The primary AMCAS deadline for all other applicants is November 1<sup>st</sup> with a secondary deadline of November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**STATISTICS FOR THE 2017 UAB COM ENTERING CLASS**

	<b>IN-STATE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Verified Applications	512	3802
Interviewed	274	456
Early Decision Program	13	13
Accepted	195	261
Matriculated	164	186
Median GPA		3.77
Median MCAT		507.9
Early Decision Program		
Minimum GPA	3.6	
Minimum MCAT	506	

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR UAB COM**

The UAB SOM seeks applicants with a demonstrated commitment to medicine as evidenced by their undergraduate experiences. These include experiences in a medical setting, service and volunteer activities, demonstrated capacity for critical thinking and a passion for learning. All majors, both science and non-science, are considered for acceptance. Although a bachelor's degree is not required for admission, the majority of successful applicants will have completed a baccalaureate degree which includes the completion of the minimum required course work.<sup>1</sup> Required course work for UAB should be included with degree

requirements. Please refer to the USA Major Guides for information about course requirements for specific majors.

- General Chemistry with Lab: Two semesters<sup>2</sup>
- General Biology with Lab: Two semesters<sup>2</sup>
- Mathematics: Two semesters<sup>3</sup>
- Organic Chemistry with Lab: Two semesters
- General Physics with Lab: Two semesters
- English Composition or Literature: Two semesters
- Biochemistry is not currently required but is highly recommended

<sup>1</sup>U.S. AP and IB credits accepted only with proper denotation on the undergraduate transcript.

<sup>2</sup>Students with AP or IB credit in math, biology and/or chemistry are expected to complete additional upper level credit hours.

<sup>3</sup>A 3 hour college level course in biostatistics or statistics is expected but not required.

**RECOMMENDED ACADEMIC PLAN**

<b>FIRST YEAR</b>	<b>CREDIT HOURS</b>
CAS 100	2
EH 101 & EH 102	6
Mathematics	3-6
CH 131/L & CH 132/L	8
BLY 121/L & BLY 122/L	8
CA 110	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30-33</b>

**SECOND YEAR**

CH 201/L & CH 202/L	8
Physics I & II and Labs	8
PSY 120	3
ST 210	3
English Literature	3
Courses in Major	<u>6</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>

**THIRD YEAR**

Biochemistry I & II <sup>4</sup>	6
BLY 302	3
SY 109	3
Fine Arts	3
English Literature	3
Courses for Major/Minor	<u>12</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

**FOURTH YEAR**

History (US or Western Civilization)	3
Humanities	3
Completion of Major and Minor	
Courses required for the degree	<u>24</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

<sup>4</sup>CH 440/441, BMD 321/322, or BLY 440/441 will satisfy this requirement.

## **MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST (MCAT)**

In addition to maintaining a strong GPA, participating in volunteer activities and shadowing, students will need to take the MCAT. Students should plan on taking the MCAT during the spring of their junior year. The MCAT is composed of four sections: Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems; Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems; Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior; and Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills. Each section is scored from a low of 118 to a high of 132. The scaled scores for each section are combined to give the overall MCAT score. A score of 500 is considered the midpoint score. Mean MCAT score for accepted applicants nationwide (2016-2017 application cycle) was 508.7. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) website contains useful information on preparing for and taking the MCAT.

## **COMMITTEE EVALUATION**

Pre-Health Advising at the University of South Alabama provides current students the option of a committee evaluation. In order to be eligible for a committee evaluation students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and attend a required informational workshop in February prior to starting the application process in June. Students will need to ask between three and five faculty members to complete an evaluation form. A minimum of two letters must be from science faculty. The committee will base their letter of recommendation on these evaluation forms and committee interview. The deadline to request a committee evaluation is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **PRE-MEDICAL PROGRAM**

Pre-Health Advising is dedicated to helping students succeed as they work towards a graduate education in medicine. We are here to help students craft a workable plan by providing structure, guidance and information about University and Pre-Medicine resources.

## **CHOOSING A MAJOR**

There is no perfect “pre-med” major at the University of South Alabama. A student can major in any subject area and apply to medical school. If the desired career path changes students need to be in a major that will allow them parallel opportunities for success. Academic and Pre-Health advisors work together to help students with the coordination of courses for both the major and medical school.

## **IMPORTANCE OF GPA**

Medical schools will require students to provide their academic GPA which includes all grades earned at any institute of higher learning and dual enrollment. In addition, a second GPA will be calculated which includes only those courses in biology, chemistry, math and physics (BCPM). The mean GPA of those students who are accepted into a medical school program is 3.7 (2016-2017 application cycle). The mean BCPM GPA of accepted students is 3.64 (2016-2017 application cycle).

## **SHADOWING AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Medical schools desire students with diverse backgrounds and experiences, strong GPAs (especially in math and sciences), sustained volunteer activities, leadership skills and most especially shadowing or experience in the health profession of interest. The UAB SOM strongly recommends that all

applicants shadow a general practitioner such as a pediatrician, internist or family medicine physician.

Pre-medical students are entering fields with very strong and well established service orientations. Students need to get involved in service at the start of their college career. There are volunteer activities that one can participate in over the semester as well as during summer break. Physicians will be part of a team as a health professional, and one way to learn how to be part of a team is to get involved and develop leadership skills.

Students also need to be culturally aware and actively pursue experiences that allow them to learn about themselves and others. It is important for pre-medical students to choose experiences that will allow them to stand out, demonstrate their value, and enable them to work with diverse populations at home and abroad. For instance, if a student studies abroad at some point during your academic career, they will learn the issues affecting the health and well-being of populations in other countries.

## **ALPHA EPSILON DELTA (AED)**

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is the national honor society for pre-health students. The University of South Alabama has a very active AED chapter, Alabama Zeta. In addition to providing service activities for pre-health students, health care professionals and professional school admissions officers present at bi-monthly meetings. All pre-health students are encouraged to become actively involved in the University's chapter of AED. In order to become a national member, students must have a minimum 3.2 GPA and have been a local member of the Zeta chapter for three consecutive semesters.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

University of South Alabama  
Pre-Health Advising  
Academic Advising and Transfer Services  
111 Jaguar Drive, Suite 1375  
Mobile, AL 36688  
(251) 445-9280  
prehealth@southalabama.edu

University of Alabama Birmingham School of Medicine  
Medical Student Services/Admissions  
Birmingham, AL 35294-3412  
(205) 934-2433  
medschool@uab.edu

American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC)  
<https://apps.aamc.org>