Medical School
Doctor of Medicine/Osteopathic Doctor - M.D. or D.O.

Information below is for pre-health advisement only. Students are responsible for verifying admissions information for their programs of interest. All information is subject to change.

Career Description:
Physicians practice medicine, which is concerned with the study, diagnosis, and treatment of both physical and mental conditions. Physicians provide care to patients with a focus on the promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health. They may specialize in a specific practice area, such as psychiatry or oncology, or may be general practitioners trained in family or internal medicine. General practitioners and pediatricians have a wide range of medical knowledge, and they often the first types of doctors who patients visit. Most doctors routinely work in teams, with nurses and aides assisting.

Physicians attend either Allopathic (M.D.) or Osteopathic (D.O.) medical school. While the two types of degrees reflect different theories and practices of medicine, medical licensing authorities recognize both training paths.

Basic Education Path to Career:

4 year undergraduate degree → 4 year medical degree → 3-7 year residency program *

* After completing residency, some medical school graduates may choose to pursue additional specialty training in the form of a fellowship.

Matriculant Statistics:
- Average Overall GPA of matriculants in 2015: 3.70 (M.D.); 3.52 (D.O.)
- Average Science GPA of matriculants in 2015: 3.64 (M.D.); 3.45 (D.O.)
- Exam Required: MCAT (Medical College Admission Test)
- Average Exam Score of matriculants for 2015: 31.4 (M.D.); 27.2 (D.O.)
- To be competitive for this career, schools want to see at least 2 years of pre-health semesters, which include multiple 3000/4000 level science courses before applying.
  - Pre-medical semester are: semesters consisting of minimum 14-16 credit hours, with 8-11 hours of science courses. Science courses consist of biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics.

Required extra-curricular activities:
1) Physician shadowing experience
2) Other healthcare experience (e.g. clinical volunteering, internship, paid employment)

Recommended extra-curricular activities:
1) Undergraduate research
2) Leadership experience
3) Community service
4) Non-healthcare work experience

Resources:
- Association of American Medical Colleges: https://students-residents.aamc.org/
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: https://www.aacom.org/
- MCAT: https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/about-mcat-exam/
- For more information please contact the USF Division of Health Professions Advising at healthprofadvise@usf.edu