

# Frequently Asked Questions about Drexel's BA/BS+MD Early Assurance Program

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Below is some helpful information about Drexel's Early Assurance Medical School program, including frequently asked questions about the program, admissions information, and academic requirements. If you have any questions after reading through this information, please contact [enroll@drexel.edu](mailto:enroll@drexel.edu) or call 1.800.2.DREXEL.

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## PROGRAM INFORMATION

### How long is the BA/BS+MD program and what undergraduate majors are eligible?

The BA/BS+MD program is eight years long (4 years undergraduate + 4 years medical school). Students can select from one of the following undergraduate programs: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, and Biomedical Engineering.

### What are the minimum requirements? What are the averages for admission to the program?

For consideration to the BA/BS+MD Early Assurance Program, applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident applying for first-year admission.
- Have graduated from a high school in the United States.
- Have a minimum 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 weighted scale (subject to change).
- Have a combined score of at least 1420 on the SAT (for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math sections) or a minimum ACT score of 31. SAT and ACT scores are Super Scored. The Admissions Committee is aware that the SAT Subject Tests are no longer being offered by College Board. However, if you did take them, please request that they be submitted electronically by College Board.

The average for admission is higher than the minimum requirements. The current averages for admission to the program are a GPA of 4.26, SAT of 1535, and an ACT of 35.

### Are international students or transfer students eligible to apply?

Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and graduates of an American high school accredited by a United States agency. Transfer students are not eligible because of the preset structure. Ineligible students can still participate in the pre-med advising program and apply to medical school in the traditional format.

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## APPLICATION PROCESS

### How do I apply?

In addition to the traditional undergraduate application, a supplemental application is required for the BA/BS+MD program. Students will need to submit the following items:

- Full-time undergraduate Common Application or Coalition Application
- Essay
- SAT II scores in the sciences (if taken)
- Official high school transcripts
- SAT or ACT scores (scores must be sent directly from College Board or the ACT — self-reported scores will not be accepted)
- Two letters of recommendation (one from a science teacher, one from a school counselor)
- College of Medicine supplemental application — accessed through the Enrichment and Scholarship Applications tab of the Discover Drexel Portal approximately three days after submitting the Common Application or Coalition Application (\$100 application fee may be requested)

More details are available at [drexel.edu/undergrad/bsmd](http://drexel.edu/undergrad/bsmd).

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### When is the deadline? Can I apply Early Action?

It is a strict deadline that all application documents are received by Drexel Undergraduate Admissions by November 1. Please note, students will not have access to the College of Medicine supplemental application until approximately three days after the Common Application or Coalition Application is submitted. If an applicant is selected, an interview will occur in mid- to late-February or early March and will be scheduled by the Drexel University College of Medicine. The deadline is one of the most important items to remember during the application process.

Students applying for the BA/BS+MD program are eligible to apply Early Action by the November 1 deadline, but they will not receive notification from the College of Medicine until April 1 about the BA/BS+MD program. You cannot, however, apply for Early Decision.

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## **What is the admission review process and timeline for response?**

The Admissions Committee will review your application first to determine eligibility to your undergraduate major and then for eligibility for the BS/MS+MD program.

If minimum requirements and deadlines are met, the application is provided to the College of Medicine. The College of Medicine will then review the eligible applications. (The College of Medicine will email students in late December for an application processing fee, if appropriate.)

Students are notified by email from the College of Medicine about BA/BS+MD program interviews that typically take place in mid- to late-February to early March, with additional invitation-only interviews held shortly thereafter. Notification of admission or denial to the BA/BS+MD program is sent electronically by the College of Medicine to all interviewees.

All BA/BS+MD Early Assurance applicants who are invited for an interview must provide Drexel College of Medicine with a CASPer test score. Applicants that have previously taken the test during this application cycle may have the scores sent to the College of Medicine by CASPer.

Students will be notified after each step if they have proceeded to the next review stage.

## **What do you look for in an admission review? What can I do to enhance my application?**

Applicants will be reviewed for undergraduate admission holistically based on their high school coursework and transcripts, standardized test scores, essay, and letters of recommendation. If the undergraduate application is deemed eligible and the supplemental application is complete, then the College of Medicine will review and potentially interview the applicant for admission to the program.

Beyond taking challenging high school courses and scoring well on standardized tests, Drexel recommends expanding your awareness of medicine and the health care system. Try gaining exposure to a medical setting through research, volunteering, or work experience, such as volunteering at a hospital, shadowing a doctor, or observing patient interaction. These are types of opportunities to list on your résumé or discuss in your interview. Also, think about why you want to go to medical school beyond what inspired you to choose this career path.

## **How many applications do you receive? What is the program's admission rate?**

Most recently, Drexel received 2,348 applications. Of those applications, 716 met the minimum GPA, SAT/ACT, and deadline requirements to be reviewed by the Medical School; around 123 were selected for an interview. Approximately 60 students who applied to the program were admitted.

## **Can I apply to the Honors Program if I'm applying to the BA/BS+MD program?**

Yes, you are encouraged to apply to the Honors Program by the February 1 deadline for first-year students. Students in this college receive priority registration for their classes, can select to be in specific Honors sections of their required classes (with appropriate placement exams), and can choose to live in the Honors Learning Community in one of the residence halls. To learn more about the benefits of the Pennoni Honors College, visit [drexel.edu/pennoni/honors](http://drexel.edu/pennoni/honors).

## **Can students still participate in co-op?**

Drexel Co-op is a valuable and required component of the BA/BS+MD program and what makes Drexel's Early Assurance program unique from others in the country. Students embark on six months of full- or part-time employment in careers related to their fields of study.

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## **UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **Do students still have to take the MCATs? If so, what scores are required?**

Students in the BA/BS+MD program will still need to complete the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) prior to matriculation. Students must receive minimum MCAT scores of 128 in three sections: Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems; Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems; and Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior. Students must also receive a score of 127 in Critical Analysis and Reasoning (511 total) or a total of 513 with no section score less than 127.

Students may take the MCAT no more than three (3) times to attain the required scores. They must meet the required scores in an exam taken no later than April 30 of the year they will matriculate into the College of Medicine.

### **Are there GPA requirements to remain in the program?**

Yes. Students must complete a required rigorous plan of study in the sciences developed with their advisor, and they must achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.6 and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.6 in BCPM courses (all biological sciences, chemistry, physics, and mathematics courses). The GPA requirements must be met by the end of their third undergraduate year and at the end of their fourth year.

### **What preparation takes place at the undergraduate level?**

Undergraduate students receive academic advising by an advisor specifically assigned to BS/MD students according to their major. In addition, they are guided by the BS/MD Advisory Committee, which includes the director of the BS/MD Program, the advisors for the specific majors, the assistant dean head of Biology, and the pre-health advisor in the Steinbright Career Development Center. Among other requirements, students must complete 100 hours of service.

### **What are the tuition and costs of the program?**

Students are billed at the undergraduate rate for the four years of their BA/BS+MD program. Once they begin at the College of Medicine, tuition will be billed at the Drexel College of Medicine rate. Information about tuition and fees is available at [drexel.edu/drexelcentral/tuition](https://drexel.edu/drexelcentral/tuition).

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## **ALTERNATIVE PATHS TO MEDICAL SCHOOL**

### **If I don't get admitted to the BA/BS+MD program, can I still be admitted to Drexel's undergraduate program?**

Yes. Drexel's Office of Undergraduate Admissions will always review applicants for admission to the undergraduate program first. Many of Drexel's "pre-med" undergraduate students are not in the BA/BS+MD program but are still planning to apply to medical school in their senior year. Academic advising is through the academic department. In addition, they will have access to the same pre-health advisor in the Steinbright Career Development Center as the BS/MD students. The pre-health advisor will guide them through the requirements and application process for medical school.

### **Are there other chances to get into medical school?**

Yes. Students can apply to medical school the traditional way, during their last year of undergraduate study before graduation. Students will still be able to work with pre-health advisors regarding classes to take and preparing to apply to medical school.

### **Can students apply to other medical schools?**

Drexel students currently enrolled in the BA/BS+MD program with the College of Medicine are reserved a space in the medical school class. If they choose to apply to other medical schools, they will forfeit their space at the College of Medicine and will have to apply in the traditional format in order to be admitted.

Students who are not in the BA/BS+MD program are able to apply to multiple medical schools in their last year of undergraduate study, including the Drexel University College of Medicine.