

## Quinsigamond Community College Pre-health Professions Planning—Medicine

Medicine is a profession that requires significant academic and clinical training. It includes undergraduate/baccalaureate preparation as well as post-baccalaureate/medical school preparation.

Use your time at QCC to learn about medicine as a career, to complete general college coursework, and to develop competencies in math and science that you will expand on in the bachelor's degree. You'll focus on preparation for medical school when you transfer to a four-year/baccalaureate institution and work on specific course prerequisites.

Here are some basic questions and answers to help you prepare while at QCC.

### 1. What do you know about medicine as a career? Explore these sites.

- Association of American Medical Colleges-aspiring doctors info: [www.aamc.org/students/aspiring/](http://www.aamc.org/students/aspiring/)
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine-for prospective students: [www.aacom.org/InfoFor/applicants/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.aacom.org/InfoFor/applicants/Pages/default.aspx)

### 2. Where are you in your academic experience at QCC?

- You should be taking college-level coursework—see #3 below.
- You should be enrolled in Liberal Arts-Biology, Liberal Arts-Chemistry, or Engineering.
- You should be aiming for a GPA between 3.3 and 3.5, or higher.
- You should be aiming for “B” or better grades, especially in college-level math and science courses.

### 3. What kinds of college-level courses should you take while at QCC?

- ENG 101 and ENG 102
- Humanities Electives
- Behavioral/Social Sciences Electives (specifically Sociology, Psychology)
- Lab Sciences—introductory courses in Biology (BIO 107, BIO 108), Chemistry (CHM 105, CHM 106), and Physics are o.k. Advanced science courses should be taken at the baccalaureate institution where you transfer to from QCC.
- Math—aim for Calculus I, or higher. Statistics is also recommended.
- General Electives—a mix is o.k. Avoid taking too many science courses.

### 4. What are essential skills, experiences, and personal characteristics to develop while at QCC?

- Strong critical thinking skills
- Strong communication skills
- Strong reading comprehension skills
- Leadership
- Exceptional motivation
- Strong writing skills
- Service/volunteerism

### 5. What should you plan for and expect at the school where you transfer to complete your Bachelor's degree?

You'll pick a regular major. “Pre-med” is usually specialized advising where you'll focus on course prerequisites, preparation for the MCAT (medical school test), and the medical school admissions process. For details, search for “pre-med” at college websites and read about the services offered. Then connect with the Pre-Med or Health Professions Advisor(s) at the four-year school as soon as you successfully transfer.

### 6. Next Steps/transfer planning, explore

- Majors & Colleges: [www.qcc.edu/services/transfer/transfer-resources](http://www.qcc.edu/services/transfer/transfer-resources)
- New England colleges/universities with pre-med programs: [www.neaahp.org/institutions.html](http://www.neaahp.org/institutions.html)
- Enrichment experiences: [students-residents.aamc.org/choosing-medical-career/medical-careers/ways-explore-more/](http://students-residents.aamc.org/choosing-medical-career/medical-careers/ways-explore-more/)