It is our goal at UND to prepare students for any osteopathic medical school in the country. Our undergraduates have been accepted at numerous osteopathic medical schools in the United States. Seats in osteopathic medical school entering classes are limited – all together less than 6,600 seats are available across the country each year. The national ratio of qualified applicants per available seat is approximately 3:1. Getting accepted into any osteopathic medical school is done through a highly competitive, two stage application process. It is extremely important that you are well prepared and able to present the best possible application to medical schools when you apply - good planning is key!

The Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Program is not a major or degree granting program at UND. In order to graduate with a degree from UND, you will need to:

- Choose a Major and complete the specific requirements determined by the department responsible for that major
- Complete the Essential Studies Requirements
- Complete 120 semester credits (36 of which must be upper divisional credits)

You will be assigned two advisors while pursuing your degree and the Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Program at UND:

- A major advisor (from your major department) to help with the planning of your major curriculum
- The Health Sciences Advisor (from the College of Arts & Sciences) to help with all aspects of osteopathic medical school preparation

**Joining** the Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Program is easy!:

1. Incoming freshmen students should plan to attend Summer Orientation - you can declare Pre-Osteo Med at that time
2. Current or transfer students can declare Pre-Osteopathic Med in the A&S Advising Office or by calling 701-777-4974

**Staying** in the Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Program is hard!:

1. **Incoming Freshmen** must:
   - Attend all freshmen group advising meetings during the fall semester
   - Attend one freshmen group advising meeting during the spring semester
   - Complete the following courses, with a C grade or better, before the start of sophomore year:
     - Biol 150-151, with labs
     - Math 103 (may test out of this with an ACT Math score of 26, or appropriate Math placement test score)
     - Chem 121-122, with labs
   - Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.300 or higher during freshman year

2. **Transfer students, or current students** switching to Pre-Osteopathic Medicine after freshman year, must:
   - If not already completed at UND or transferred in, complete the following courses with a C grade or better:
     - Biol 150-151, with labs
     - Math 103
     - Chem 121-122, with labs
   - Have a cumulative GPA of 3.300 or higher

3. **All continuing Pre-Osteopathic Medicine students** must:
   - Take Pre-Osteopathic Medicine courses as advised
   - Prepare for and take the MCAT
   - Keep cumulative GPA and science GPA competitive
Osteopathic medical schools consider the following when reviewing applications:

1. **Academics**
   a. Undergraduate Preparation
   Admission into osteopathic medical school typically requires completion of a Bachelor’s degree or at least 90 credits from an accredited college or university. All osteopathic medical schools have specific content or course prerequisites which are included in the UND Pre-Osteopathic Med Program. UND accepts AP and post-secondary transfer credits toward the completion of a bachelor’s degree in accordance with the NDUS policies of [General Education Requirement Transfer Agreement](http://und.edu/academics/registrar/fields-of-study.cfm) (GERTA) and [Common Course Numbering](http://und-public.courseleaf.com/4yearplan/) (CCN). UND also has numerous articulation agreements and course equivalencies with other academic institutions. You should, however, check with the osteopathic medical schools on your wish list regarding the post-UND implications of any AP, IB, CIS, CLEP, on-line, distance learning or community college work you plan to complete prior to your undergraduate matriculation.

   b. Major

   The choice for a major is entirely up to you! You should pick something you are good at, or enjoy studying, or fits your “plan B” if you don’t end up going to osteopathic medical school. A list of each major and degree offered at UND may be found at: [http://und.edu/academics/registrar/fields-of-study.cfm](http://und.edu/academics/registrar/fields-of-study.cfm). Click on a particular major to see what you will be studying, as well as opportunities and careers associated with that major. For specific requirements and course descriptions, click on the Academics – Check out the courses you'll take link on the right side of each major page. Four year plans (i.e., schedule of courses) for each degree are listed by college and are posted online at: [http://und-public.courseleaf.com/4yearplan/](http://und-public.courseleaf.com/4yearplan/).

   The combination of the Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Program with a major in the College of Arts and Sciences can usually be finished in 4 years if both major and Pre-Osteopathic Medicine classes are started freshmen year. The combination of the Pre-Osteopathic Medicine program with a major in Athletic Training, Aviation, Dietetics, Engineering, Education, Nursing, Nutrition or Medical Laboratory Science will take longer. Because these majors include busy curricula and/or practicums, in most cases if you plan to combine one of them with Pre-Osteopathic Medicine, you will need at least 5 years of undergraduate studies to do so.

   c. GPA
   Since osteopathic medical school curriculum is considerably more challenging than any undergraduate curricula, you need to leave no doubt of your academic ability by excelling at the undergraduate level. Average cumulative GPA of recent osteopathic medical school matriculants: 3.50 - 3.60.

2. **MCAT**
   a. Timing
   This rigorous, full day exam is required by all osteopathic medical schools. Students planning to finish their undergraduate degrees in 4 years typically take the MCAT in May or June after their 3rd year (junior year) of college. While retakes are allowed, it is best to “do it right the first time”.

   b. Preparation
   Since considerable time (30+ hours/week) needs to go into MCAT preparation, UND students are encouraged to take a lighter load (12 credits) during the spring semester of their junior year to give them room for reviewing and practice testing. UND offers an optional MCAT Review Course every spring facilitated through Kaplan. This course is billed separately and does not count for credit at UND.

   c. Scores
   The national average MCAT composite score for recent osteopathic medical school matriculants was 503 (representing the 61st percentile range).
3. Life Experiences
   a. Direct patient care experience => 500+ hours
      • Osteopathic medical schools expect you to spend considerable time working in health care. You need to get a job in which you give direct medical care to patients, have a chance to observe osteopaths and other health care team members, and have a supervisor observing you (most osteopathic medical schools require a letter of recommendation from a health care work supervisor).
      • You may need to combine several jobs to get the experience and understanding of medicine and osteopathic medicine that you need. Work settings can include hospital, rehab, clinic, group care home (nursing, disabled children or adults, Alzheimer’s unit, VA, etc.), hospice, home health, support services, phlebotomy, EMS, etc.
   b. Shadowing => 20-40 hours
      • The majority of hours need to be with basic care osteopaths: family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics
      • A few of the hours can be with specialists
      • Be sure to include both rural and city experiences
   c. Community Service => These activities will set you apart!
      • Do things that you love, have a passion for, demonstrate your desire to serve others and give back, show your love of learning, let your leadership skills shine, etc.
      • These volunteer activities/paid jobs include, but are not limited to:
         o Lifeguards, first responders
         o Coaching/teaching sports (for park boards, travelling leagues, Special Olympics, etc.)
         o Camp counseling (church camps, day camps, medical camps, music camps, etc.)
         o Big Brother/Big Sister, Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, etc.
         o Volunteering at your local city mission, free clinic, humane society, etc.
         o College organization participation or leadership (clubs, honor societies, sororities/fraternities, etc.)
         o College tutoring or TA positions
         o Medical missions trips (through college organizations, national organizations, or local churches)
         o Church work/sponsored activities (Sunday school teacher, youth worker, mission trips, etc.)
         o American Red Cross, Peace Corps
   d. Keep a log of all hours
      Although formal documentation is not needed, you should keep a simple personal log for all experiences/work in a notebook – be sure to include dates, times, activities, impressions, and note any meaningful patients or experiences. You will also need to provide contact information for someone who witnessed you in each experience or circumstance, so make note of that as well!

4. Letters of Recommendation
   a. You will need 3-4 letters of recommendation or evaluation for most osteopathic medical schools.
   b. Letters need to address the personal attributes and academic abilities that make you a good fit for osteopathic medical school and the profession of medicine.
   c. Authors will have to include an advisor, professors, and health care work supervisors who know you very well.

5. Legal Record
   a. Keep legal records clean. All minors and felonies will need to be disclosed on applications.
   b. Keep university records clean. Any institutional actions for code of student conduct violations (behavioral, academic, legal, etc.) will need to be disclosed on applications.
   c. Keep personal social media sites clean (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Be sure to demonstrate integrity, maturity, wholesomeness and good taste in all postings (verbal, photos, pictures, etc.).

6. Home State Residency
   In general, osteopathic medical schools consider your home state of residency to be where you graduated high school and/or where your parent(s) currently live. You do not become a resident of a state by just attending college there!
Courses included in the **UND Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Program** fall into one (or more) of three categories. These categories are:

1. Requirements for most osteopathic medical schools
2. Good preparation for the MCAT (as recommended by AAMC and former UND undergraduates)
3. Good, additional elective preparation for osteopathic med schools (as recommended by current medical students)

The checklist below will help you keep track of your progress in the Pre-Osteopathic Medicine Program:

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**UND Courses required by most osteo medical schools** (all but English and Math are needed for MCAT preparation):

- Biol 150, 150L General Biology I
- Biol 151, 151L General Biology II
- Chem 121, 121L General Chemistry I
- Chem 122, 122L General Chemistry II
- Chem 341, 341L Organic Chemistry I
- Chem 342, 342L Organic Chemistry II
- BMB 301 Biochemistry
- Phys 211, 211L College Physics I
- Phys 212, 212L College Physics II
- Math (choose one) => best to complete before Physics
  - Math 146 Applied Calculus
  - Math 165 Calculus I
  - Math 165-166 Calculus I and II
  - AP credit for Calculus
- A Statistics course (choose one)
  - Psyc 241 Psychological Statistics
  - Soc 326 Sociological Statistics
- Psyc 111 Introduction to Psychology
- Engl 110 Composition I
- Engl 130 Composition II

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**Additional UND Courses needed/recommended for MCAT preparation:**

- Biol 315 Genetics
- Biol 341 Cell Biology
- A Physiology course (choose one)
  - Biol 442 Physio of Organs/Systems (for Bio majors)
  - PPT 301 Human Physiology (for other majors)
- Psych 250 Developmental Psychology
- Psych 270 Abnormal Psychology
- Soc 110 Introduction to Sociology

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**UND electives good for osteopathic medical school preparation** (take as many as desired – all are optional):

- Anat 204, 204L Anatomy for Paramed Personnel
- Biol 369, 369L Histology
- Biol 390 Endocrinology
- Biol 415 Genomics
- Biol 420 Neuroscience
- MBio 302 General Microbiology
- MBio 328 Introduction to Immunology
- Nutr 240 Fundamentals of Nutrition
Your course schedule at UND will vary depending on your major. Ultimately, all students, regardless of major, will be able to take the courses covering the content they need for the MCAT and medical school. The chart below shows complete major and Pre-Osteopathic **science and math** course schedules for both Biology and Chem/Biochem majors. For students pursuing **other majors**, since only the **science and math** Pre-Osteopathic courses are listed, they will need to “pencil in” their major requirements as well. Also, all UND students will need to add any additional major requirements, Essential Studies requirements, and other electives to each semester in the schedules below as needed or desired:

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| **WICHE Forms – AZ, MT, WY re: only** | **Take a lighter credit load (12 credits)** | **1st Osteo School Apps Due** | **(Submit to AACOMAS by June 15**) **
|                |                           |                         |                         |                         |

* Courses in **Group 1** are **required for all majors** and include: Eng 110 and 130, Psych 111, Psych 250, Psych 270, Soc 110, Comm 110, and a Statistics class such as Psych 241 or Soc 326 or ?; additionally, the Chem/Biochem major requires a level 2 proficiency in a Foreign Language (i.e., Span 101, 102)

* Courses in **Group 2** are **sensible electives** for all majors: Med 205, Nutr 240

**Courses from **Groups 3 and 4** are **options for Bio requirements/electives** or **electives for other majors**: Group 3 Fall courses: Biol 378, Biol 410, Biol 364+L, Chem 333+L; Group 4 Fall courses: Biol 390, Biol 420, Biol 460, Mbio 328;

**Group 3 Spring courses: Mbio 302**

**Group 4 Spring courses: Biol 369+L, Biol 415**