Aspiring to become a physician is a challenging and exciting career choice. Your undergraduate preprofessional preparation will be a key element in your overall comprehensive master plan for success (i.e., ACCEPTANCE). You should be aware that competition for admission to medical schools is very intense. Fewer than 1 in 10 applicants to the Medical College of Georgia are admitted each year. And each year the number of applicants increases while the number of positions remains constant at 230. Thus, competition for admission is becoming even more intense. Admission to some other medical schools is not as difficult, but all are highly competitive.

SELECTION OF A MAJOR
Pre-medicine is not a degree at GRU but rather a pre-professional intention. Medical schools would like to admit applicants possessing widely varying interests and with majors in different fields. All medical schools profess that applicants should have a “broad education,” by which they mean:

1. strong foundation in natural sciences - biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics
2. highly developed communication skills - the use and understanding of written and spoken language
3. a solid background in the social sciences and humanities

Within this broad framework, a student is free to major in whatever subject or subjects they may find most interesting and challenging, and in which they perform best. The AAMC states, “It should be strongly emphasized that a science major is not a prerequisite to medical school, and students should not major in science simply because they believe this will increase their chances for acceptance.” There is no significant difference in the acceptance rate for students majoring in the natural sciences, most social sciences, the humanities, or engineering.

Medical schools claim that the discipline in which a student majors does not influence directly their acceptance into medical school. However, many medical schools urge students who major outside of the natural sciences to be sure to take more than just the minimum number of science courses required for admission. The GPA in science courses is one of the criteria that is evaluated by admissions committees. Thus, it should be emphasized that non-science majors, even more so than science majors, cannot afford poor grades in their science courses. But because science majors take many more science courses than non-science majors, they have a greater opportunity to improve their science GPA if they do suffer one poor grade. It should be stressed that the final responsibility for planning the academic program rests with the student and not with an advisor.

PRE-MEDICAL ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
Required Courses (MCG†):

- 1 year of college* biology
- 1 year English
- 1 semester of probability or statistics
- 1 year physics
- 2 years of college* chemistry, including at least one semester of organic and one of biochemistry

Recommended classes:
- sociology (strongly**)
- psychology (strongly**)
- cell biology
- genetics
- microbiology
- calculus

*This refers to courses taken in college. AP credits do not count toward the requirement.
†These are GRU requirements, but they are typical and sufficient for most medical schools.
**There is now a social science section of the MCAT. These courses should be sufficient prep.

2011-2014 MCG stats:
Average GPA = 3.7
Average Science GPA = 3.65

Interested students are advised to speak with a pre-med advisor to create an academic plan to help meet these requirements, and to discuss other criteria evaluated by medical school admissions committees. Additional information can be found at http://spots.gru.edu/smyers1/Premedical%20Information.htm.