

Pre-Med Curriculum Advice on Advanced Placement (AP) Credit

Hilbert College allows AP credit to substitute for the introductory courses we normally require of our students. However, many medical schools do not. Pre-med students must be aware of how medical schools will treat their AP credit. Policies vary at different medical schools. Students are urged to contact a Pre-Professional advisor if they have questions regarding specific schools.

Some general trends in medical school admissions requirements as of 2012 are described below. Note that premedical requirements are changing and students should consult Pre-Professional advisors for the most up-to-date information.

Biology

Most medical schools require students to take two semesters of biology (with lab) in college. AP credit cannot be used to substitute for this requirement.

If a student has AP Biology credit and is a Forensic Science major, they may be able to satisfy the medical school biology requirement with more advanced biology courses required in the major, including Genetics, Cell Biology, and Molecular Biology. It is imperative students speak to a pre-professional advisor early regarding exceptions to this rule.

Chemistry

Most medical schools require two semesters of general chemistry, with lab, and two semesters of organic chemistry, with lab. However, students with AP credit for introductory chemistry will satisfy most medical school admissions requirements by taking one year of organic chemistry (with lab) followed by one semester of biochemistry (with lab).

Physics

Physics is the most difficult area to negotiate with AP credit. The majority of medical schools do not allow AP credits to fulfill college physics, and require college physics with lab.

Math

Some medical schools require two semesters of mathematics to be taken in college, and will not allow AP credit to substitute. AP credits can generally be used for prerequisite courses that lead to the required statistics and calculus courses.