

Pre-Med Course Scenarios

Each year about half of the Grinnell applicants to medical school have graduated already. Most of them took the MCAT exam as a senior. These students spread the required coursework over 8 semesters and many participated in off-campus study.

That means the other half of the Grinnell applicants to medical school are entering fourth-year students, finishing required courses in their first three undergraduate years.

The scenarios below are only examples. Grinnell College students should consult regularly with their academic advisors regarding their course selections.

Scenario 1

You have 4 AP credits in chemistry and you plan to take the MCAT in the spring or summer of your junior year. You might do summer research at Grinnell but aren't sure. You plan to major in **Biology**. About half of Grinnell's applicants majored in Biology.

Semester 1*: Tutorial, Biology 150, Calculus I, one elective

Semester 2: Chemistry 210, Calculus II, two electives

Semester 3: Biology 251, Chemistry 221, two electives

Semester 4: Biology 252, Chemistry 222, English, one elective

Semester 5: Biology, Physics 131, two electives

Semester 6: Biology, Physics 132, two electives [take MCAT]

Semester 7: Biology, Biology, two electives

Semester 8: Biology or Biological Chemistry 262, three electives

**Chemistry 129 can be taken in the Fall and Biology 150 can be taken in the Spring*

Scenario 2

You have no AP credits coming into Grinnell and you plan to take a year or two off before beginning medical school. You want to study abroad too. You plan to take the MCAT in the spring of your senior year. You plan to major in **Biological Chemistry**. About 25% of our applicants majored in Biological Chemistry.

Semester 1: Tutorial, Biology 150, Calculus I, one elective

Semester 2: Chemistry 129, Calculus II, two electives

Semester 3: Biology 251, Chemistry 221, two electives

Semester 4: Biological Chemistry 262, Chemistry 222, English, one elective

Semester 5: Off Campus Study

Semester 6: Physics 131, Chemistry 210, two electives

Semester 7: Physics 132, Chemistry 363, two electives

Semester 8: Biology 252, 300-level Biology or Chemistry, two electives [\[take MCAT\]](#)

Scenario 3

You have no AP or advanced credits coming into Grinnell and you plan to take the MCAT in the spring of your junior year. You cannot take any courses during summer school. You plan to major in **Chemistry**.

Semester 1: Tutorial, Chemistry 129, Calculus I, one elective

Semester 2: Chemistry 210, Calculus II, two electives

Semester 3: Biology 150, Chemistry 221, English, one elective

Semester 4: Chemistry 222, Physics 131, two electives

Semester 5: Biology 251, Chemistry 363, Physics 132, one elective

Semester 6: Biology 252, Chemistry, two electives [take MCAT]

Semester 7: Chemistry, three electives

Semester 8: Chemistry, three electives

Scenario 4

You have 8 AP calculus and 4 biology credits coming into Grinnell and you plan to take the MCAT in the spring of your junior year. You plan to take organic chemistry during the summer following your first or second year. You plan to major in **Psychology**.

Semester 1: Tutorial, Chemistry 129, two electives

Semester 2: Chemistry 210, Psychology 113, English, one elective

Semester 3: Physics 131, Psychology, Statistics 115 or 209, one elective

Semester 4: Biology 150, Physics 132, Psychology 225, one elective

Semester 5: Biology 251, Psychology, two electives

Semester 6: Biology 252, Psychology, two electives [take MCAT]

Semester 7: Psychology, Psychology, two electives

Semester 8: Psychology 495, three electives

Scenario 5

You have no AP or advanced credits coming into Grinnell and you plan to take the MCAT in the spring of your junior year. You cannot take any courses during summer school. You do not plan to major in a science and want to take the minimum number of courses required for admission to medical school.

Semester 1: Tutorial, Biology 150, Calculus I, one elective

Semester 2: Chemistry 129, Calculus II, two electives

Semester 3: Biology 251, Chemistry 221, two electives

Semester 4: Biology 252, Chemistry 222, English, one elective

Semester 5: Chemistry 210, Physics 131, two electives

Semester 6: Physics 132, three electives **[take MCAT]**

Semester 7: four electives

Semester 8: four electives