



# PCOM OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

## PRE-MEDICAL STUDENT'S GUIDE TO A COMPETITIVE APPLICATION

The Office of Admissions has assembled the following timeline to assist you in the admissions process to PCOM's DO programs. Please visit [pcom.edu](http://pcom.edu) for opportunities to connect with us in Philadelphia, Georgia or South Georgia.



### FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE YEARS

- » Academics: Maintain competitive academic standing in all coursework.
- » Advising: Make contact with your school's pre-health advisor.
- » Activities: Carefully select extracurricular activities on campus and in your local community that are of interest to you. Choose a wide variety of activities; however, do not get so involved that you jeopardize your academic performance. Do not join an activity because you think it will "look good." Rather, do what you enjoy. Gain experience working with others and building leadership skills. Reflect on those experiences and consider how they will assist you in a future career in medicine.
- » Licensure: Look for licensure programs to gain valuable skills such as certified nursing assistant, medical assistant, EMT, or for work/volunteer opportunities in healthcare settings with a variety of medical professionals such as osteopathic physicians. Keep track of your accrued hours.
- » Prerequisite Coursework: Along with your degree program's freshman/sophomore coursework requirements, you should begin completing required coursework for admission to PCOM listed in this brochure or on [pcom.edu](http://pcom.edu). If your schedule permits, you should begin fulfilling your English requirement in your freshman year.
- » Apply early for any summer research/workshop positions if you are interested. Although not a PCOM requirement, a research background will aid you in any science field you may choose, including medicine.
- » Begin building relationships with your faculty; when it is time to request letters of recommendation, they will be able to speak to your abilities as a student and potential future physician.
- » Begin to identify and meet with individuals who can speak to your academic academic performance and aptitude, clinical experiences and overall fit for the profession.

### JUNIOR YEAR

- » Academics: Continue to maintain competitive academic standing.
- » Activities: Stay involved in your selected extracurricular activities. If you haven't volunteered or experienced the healthcare field, now is a good time to do so. If you have already, keep up the good work! Remember, interesting clinical cases increase your exposure and help you develop insights around healthcare in America. Keep an experience journal for use in the application process. Look for DO physicians to shadow.
- » Prerequisite Coursework: Complete course requirements for PCOM. Ideally, these should be completed before taking the MCAT exam so as to enhance your performance.
- » MCAT: In February, apply for a spring MCAT exam date. Plan ahead and apply early to reserve your seat. The MCAT exam dates, times and locations can be found on the AAMC website. Be sure to request your scores be sent directly to AACOM. You can also access your scores online at [aamc.org](http://aamc.org).

- » Letters of Recommendation: A minimum of three (3) letters of recommendation are required from individuals who know the applicant in a professional capacity and can comment on one's character, work ethic, academic history, scientific acumen, empathy, compassion, resilience, emotional intelligence, commitment and knowledge of the healthcare environment.
- » Start brainstorming and preparing a personal statement for your application. Review your experience journal for ideas.

### SENIOR YEAR

- » Application Process: Beginning in May, you may apply to AACOMAS online at [www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org).
- » DO Letter of Recommendation: Obtain a letter of recommendation from an osteopathic physician; while not required, this credential is strongly recommended.
- » Academics: Maintain competitive academic standing and take upper-level science courses to improve your scientific foundation needed for success in medical school.
- » Graduation: Be sure you complete your college's graduation requirements for your selected degree program.
- » Leadership: Seek leadership roles and responsibilities within the organizations in which you are involved.
- » AACOMAS: Submit your AACOMAS application ASAP. PCOM has a rolling admission process and early applications are strongly recommended. (Interviews begin in September.) Also, be sure to check with AACOMAS to verify that all of your transcripts have been received and verified so that the processing of your application is not delayed. It is your responsibility to ensure a completed application!
- » Supporting materials: Submit all supporting materials (including letters of recommendation, MCAT score reports, etc.) to PCOM as soon as possible.

### POST-BACCALAUREATE, GRADUATE AND/OR GAP YEAR(S)

- » GPA/Knowledge Enhancer: Enhance your science GPA and scientific knowledge by choosing a curriculum that provides hard science coursework at the graduate level. PCOM offers a graduate program in biomedical sciences that serves as a stepping stone to our DO programs. Candidates who meet minimum criteria are assured an interview for the DO program and many Biomed students enter our DO programs each year.
- » Career Changer: Post-baccalaureate programs offer the opportunity to complete the undergraduate prerequisite courses for medical school. Focus on your studies during this time period.
- » MCAT: Consider repeating the MCAT exam. Remember the exam score expires after three years.
- » Make the most of non-academic periods by expanding your experiences in clinical settings, research, and/or community service.
- » Keep an open mind to career alternatives.



## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- » PCOM requires satisfactory completion of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university. If an applicant has completed a degree(s) from institutions outside of the United States, he or she must request an official course-by-course evaluation from World Education Services ([www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)); that validates equivalency to a U.S. degree.
- » The committee does take into consideration post-baccalaureate and/or graduate coursework.

### COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

- » 8 semester hours each of:
  - » General Biology with lab
  - » Physics with lab
- » 16 semester hours of:
  - » Chemistry: At least 4 semester hours of laboratory; 4 of the 16 required semester hours must be Organic Chemistry (with lab) and at least 3 semester hours must be Biochemistry.
- » 3 semester hours each of:
  - » English Composition
  - » Literature

PCOM reserves the right to make all admission decisions based upon all information available to the DO Faculty Committee on Admissions.

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (267-284-5000) [www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org). The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

The College is also approved by the Department of Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which granted recognition in 2004 to PCOM Georgia as an approved PCOM branch campus. PCOM Georgia is authorized by the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission of Georgia as a branch campus of PCOM and PCOM South Georgia is authorized by the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission of Georgia as an additional location of PCOM.

The doctor of osteopathic medicine programs at PCOM's main Philadelphia campus, a branch campus in Suwanee, Georgia and an additional location in Moultrie, Georgia are accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation of the American Osteopathic Association.

## RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK

- » Anatomy
  - » Histology
  - » Microbiology
  - » Genetics
  - » Immunology
  - » Psychology/Sociology
  - » Physiology
  - » Genetics
- » Note: We do not accept CLEP coursework, and foreign coursework will not count toward meeting any of the prerequisites. All prerequisite coursework must be completed at a U.S. regionally accredited college or university. International coursework will not count towards meeting any prerequisite coursework.

## MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST (MCAT)

- » The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) is required.

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

- » A minimum of three (3) letters of recommendation are required from individuals who know the applicant in a professional capacity and can comment on one's character, work ethic, academic history, scientific acumen, empathy, compassion, resilience, emotional intelligence, commitment and knowledge of the healthcare environment.

## U.S. CITIZENSHIP OR PERMANENT RESIDENCY (GREEN CARD) REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION.

## PLEASE VISIT [PCOM.EDU](http://PCOM.EDU) FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

### PCOM

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### PCOM GEORGIA

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### PCOM SOUTH GEORGIA

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