Pre-Medicine

To pursue graduate study in medical school, students must have a strong undergraduate background in science. At Illinois Wesleyan, pre-medicine students receive the strongest science preparation possible, along with challenging coursework in the liberal arts, personal instruction from a well-qualified faculty and hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment. In addition, the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee gives each student the help and support they need to gain entrance to top medical school programs.

As is the case at most universities, students at Illinois Wesleyan University do not major in pre-medicine. While the most popular majors for pre-medicine are biology and chemistry, students are encouraged to major in the field they are most interested in, while also working to complete the courses required by the pre-medicine program.

Why Pre-Medicine at Illinois Wesleyan?

- Illinois Wesleyan’s medical school acceptance rate averages 70-90 percent in any given year, compared to under 50 percent nationally.
- Active involvement is stressed in every aspect of an IWU education. Pre-medicine students will participate in frequent classroom discussions, work with top-quality scientific equipment in the labs and pursue independent research projects under the supervision of Ph.D. professors.
- The Medical Extern Program pairs students with a local physician, often an Illinois Wesleyan alum. This provides the opportunity to follow a mentor throughout the workday, observing everything from patient examinations to hospital committee meetings to surgery.
- The curriculum includes courses in liberal arts disciplines outside the major, including ethics, literature, foreign language and fine arts.
- Students benefit from the assistance and expertise of the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee, which comprises professors from the sciences and the other liberal arts who assist students with the pre-medicine curriculum, as well as the medical school application and admission process.
- The Hart Career Center houses materials detailing a range of programs and careers in medicine, as well as information on the registration dates and preparation for the MCAT.

Courses Required for Pre-Medicine:
- General Biology
- General Chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Introduction to Sociology
- Introduction to Psychology
- Introductory Statistics
- Organic Chemistry
- General Physics

Additional Courses Recommended for Pre-Medicine
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Histology
- Cell Biology
- Microbiology
- Experimental Zoology
- Molecular Genetics
- The Microbial World
- Biostatistics and Experimental Design
- Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Neurophtsiology
- Medical Ethics
- Advanced courses in psychology and sociology
- Calculus
The Illinois Wesleyan pre-medicine program offers several advantages. Our courses, which are taught by professors, emphasize problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. We also provide many opportunities for laboratory and field experiences. The close interaction among students and between students and faculty is critical for the development of strong candidates for admission into professional schools. Our Pre-Medical Advisory Committee assists students in all aspects of applying to professional programs, including advising, in-depth interviews and the writing of thoughtful, thorough letters of evaluation. As a result, we have had great success in placing many of our students into a large variety of medical schools."

Dr. Loni Walker
Chair, Pre-Medical Advisory Committee