

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTC SOM)

Statement: Academic Requirements

Subject: Admissions

Administrator: M. Prusakowski

Rev.: 2

Original date: 10/07/2013

Revision dates: 6/12/2017

VTC SOM is dedicated to providing exceptional medical education to students who are prepared to benefit from this specialized curriculum and instruction. The primary objective is to produce physician thought leaders through an educational experience grounded in inquiry, research, and discovery.

VTC SOM aims to identify candidates with clear evidence of leadership, scholarship, and motivation for a career in medicine. VTC SOM is looking for individuals who are committed to serving the needs of members of society and whose accomplishments reveal originality and a capacity for independent, critical thinking. Applicants must demonstrate a great affinity to a broad educational and personal experience that includes the humanities, social science, and social services.

As a private school, VTC SOM offers a four-year doctor of medicine (M.D.) degree, and admits both Virginia in-state residents and out-of-state residents. However, only U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents will be considered for admission.

VTC SOM has developed a list of required coursework and academic requirements for applicants to the School of Medicine. VTC SOM believes that this coursework is necessary to provide the medical student with an adequate foundation for their medical education. These requirements and recommendations are similar to those required by other institutions and those outlined by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

- General Biology with laboratory: 2 semesters
- General Inorganic Chemistry with laboratory: 2 semesters
- Organic Chemistry with laboratory: 2 semesters
- Physics with laboratory: 2 semesters
- Mathematics: two semesters of calculus or one each of Calculus and Statistics
- English, two semesters, or one semester each of English and Philosophy

Awarding of the bachelor's (baccalaureate) degree is required for all students matriculating at VTC SOM. All coursework must be completed in a satisfactory manner in an educational institution located in the United States or Canada and approved by a regional accrediting body.

Applicants with baccalaureate degrees from accredited institutions outside the US will be considered on a case-by-case basis. To provide reasonable grade compatibility with their peers, these applicants must, at a minimum, have taken all required courses for admission to VTC SOM, regardless of prior foreign academic history, at an educational institution located in the United States approved by a regional accrediting body.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits may not be used to fulfill any of the premedical course requirements listed above. Online courses for prerequisites may be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Advanced Placement (AP) credits or International Baccalaureate (IB) credits for English, Biology, Math, Physics and Inorganic Chemistry are acceptable so long as they appear on college transcripts and are verified by the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). However, in these instances, graded advanced courses in these subject areas are highly recommended.

VTCSOM encourages applicants to sample a broad range of academic disciplines and to explore one or more areas of in-depth research. Of particular interest to VTCSOM are activities that demonstrate the applicant's spirit of discovery and inquiry and potential to be a "thought leader" in some aspect of medicine. Such activities should demonstrate advanced skills in problem solving and might be in upper level complex work. These activities may be in traditional areas of biomedical research, but could also be in the humanities, in community service, in education, or in the arts.

The following courses are not required, but have been identified by graduating medical students as having been "helpful" in their medical school education. VTCSOM will inform students in their application materials that these courses are not required for admission, but may be chosen because of their potential benefit to their education. Students who feel their performance in the "required" courses is marginal may strengthen their application with excellent performance in these courses.

- Anatomy
- Biochemistry
- Cell Biology
- Genetics
- Microbiology
- Physiology
- Psychology (preparation for MCAT 2015)
- Sociology (preparation for MCAT 2015)

VTCSOM will be seeking students who are, in addition to their clinical services, interested in making contributions to greater society through clinical and basic science research.