

Philosophy as Pre-Med Second Major/Minor*

In this ever-changing world, there is reason to look outside traditional channels for success and flourishing in your primary field of professional study. Philosophy offers Pre-Med students a competitive advantage on the MCATs and in coursework by developing your passion for inquiry, critical thinking, and skills of oral analysis. You can prepare for medical school by majoring in Biological Sciences as well as Philosophy or other Humanities tracks. In this handout you will find some statistics and quotes to support your choice of philosophy as a second major.

Table A-17: MCAT and GPAs for Applicants and Matriculants to U.S. Medical Schools by Primary Undergraduate Major, 2015-2016 (Source: AAMC 8/17/2016)

Applicants	MCAT VR		MCAT PS		MCAT BS		Total MCAT	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Biological Sciences	8.9	2.1	9.3	2.3	10.0	2.1	28.2	5.5
Humanities	9.8	1.9	9.5	2.2	10.1	2.1	29.4	5.1
Math and Statistics	9.6	2.2	10.7	2.2	10.4	2.2	30.6	5.6
Other	8.9	2.2	9.2	2.3	9.7	2.2	27.8	5.6
Physical Sciences	9.4	2.1	10.4	2.3	10.3	2.1	30.1	5.4
Social Sciences	9.3	2.1	9.2	2.3	9.7	2.2	28.2	5.5
Specialized Health Sciences	8.4	2.4	8.4	2.3	9.0	2.3	25.8	6.0
All Applicants	9.0	2.1	9.4	2.3	9.9	2.1	28.3	5.6

Humanities majors tend to do better than average on the MCAT. Interestingly, humanities majors as a group do better than biological sciences majors on the MCAT.

"The admissions committee will already have your GPA, science grades and MCAT, but you can show how your nonscience major can take your class to the next level. Make it the icing on the cake." - Kathleen Franco, M.D., is associate dean of admissions and student affairs at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University.

- "[Shine on Medical School Applications Without a Pre-Med Major](#)" (US News and World Report, 8/12/15)

"Your love of philosophy, literature, psychology, and even art will work to your advantage as an undergraduate major applying to medical school. The traditional path to acceptance has changed".

- "[NON-SCIENCE MAJORS AND MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSIONS: STANDING OUT AMONG THE APPLICANT POOL](#)" (Gap Medics blog post, 1/13/14)

Medical School acceptance rates by major, according to 1998 statistics of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Philosophy 50% Physics 42% History 49% Chemistry 39% English 46% All Majors 37% Biochemistry 43% Biology 35% - source: American Medical Student Association (1998)

*Assembled with help from Dr. Becky Yarrison (UK)