

MEDICAL SCHOOL AND ORGANIC CHEMISTRY: DO I NEED TWO QUARTERS OR THREE?

There have been a lot of questions surrounding the third quarter of Organic Chemistry. Please utilize the following as a resource to determine the best option for you!

Context

Medical schools typically fall into one of three categories regarding this requirement:

- Category 1: Competency-based schools, which have no specific course requirements, and therefore no preference on two vs. three quarters of organic chemistry
- Category 2: Schools that want a specific number of credits for science sequences, where the two quarter organic chemistry sequence along with biochemistry would suffice
- Category 3: Schools that have a rigid, 8 semester hour requirement and will require all three quarters of organic chemistry

How Do I Figure Out What Schools Require?

- First, review **The Medical School Admission Requirements™ (MSAR®) Premedical Coursework Chart** - if a school requires "8 semester hours" of organic chemistry, it is possible they will want to see all three quarters of organic chemistry in addition to the biochemistry course, but it is also possible they consider the "8 semester" hours to be two quarters of organic chemistry and a quarter of biochemistry.
- Next, explore the medical school's admissions website where prerequisite courses are outlined to better understand their specific requirement.
- Lastly, create a medical school tracking excel document for yourself, where you can keep track of relevant information about each school you are interested in. This will also be useful to you once you get close to the medical school application process, as there will be other pieces of information you want to track for each school related to the application cycle. Click [here](#), to see an example template.

What Should I Do If I Don't Know What Medical Schools I Will Apply To?

It is completely normal to be unsure of the medical schools to which you hope to apply. Below are two scenarios to consider:

- Take two quarters of organic chemistry and see what happens with regard to the schools you eventually choose to apply to, knowing it's possible a particular set of schools could require the third quarter of organic. **NOTE: If a school requires the third quarter and you haven't taken it yet, you can still apply to the school, obtain an interview and get accepted. The requirement would become a condition of matriculation, meaning you have to take it before you start at that particular school.**
- Take all three quarters of organic chemistry and not have any possibility of needing to worry about this later.

How Medical Schools Align:

Please note: This list is not exhaustive. Schools can change their requirements/requirement structure at any time of their choosing. Applicants are responsible for understanding the requirements of the schools to which they plan to apply.

Category 1: Example of competency based schools

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Drexel University College of Medicine
Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple
Rush Medical College at Rush University
Tulane University School of Medicine
University of Michigan Medical School

Boston University School of Medicine
George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences
New York University Grossman School of Medicine
Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine

Category 2: Examples of schools that want a specific number of credits for science sequences, where the two quarter organic chemistry sequence along with biochemistry would suffice

Georgetown University School of Medicine
Medical College of Wisconsin
New York Medical College
Tufts University School of Medicine
University of Illinois College of Medicine
Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University

Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Category 3: Examples of schools that have a rigid, 8 semester hour requirement and will require all three quarters of organic chemistry

Emory University School of Medicine
Indiana University School of Medicine

The Ohio State University College of Medicine
University of Nebraska College of Medicine

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