

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE – PRE-PROFESSIONAL MEDICINE
DONALD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UPDATED: April 2022

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer Polytechnic and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer (if applicable). You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit (if applicable), admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from Red Deer Polytechnic. Please consult with an Advisor if you have any questions.

Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- See the Academic Calendar of your goal institution for admission requirements to their program

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards your desired program.
- If you are transferring to another institution to complete your degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

WHAT IS THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL MEDICINE PROGRAM AT RDP?

- Pre-Professional Programs at RDP are starting points to help students understand, and work towards, future admission into programs such as the Doctor of Medicine (DM).
- Admission requirements can vary between DM institutions; however, the majority of students will require completion of a baccalaureate degree before gaining admission. Some institutions, such as the University of Alberta (UAlberta) require a degree before being eligible to apply.
 - Admission into DM programs is very competitive, and admission is not guaranteed.
 - Virtually every DM institution recommends that students pursue an undergraduate degree in their area of interest (Major does not matter!), and RDC recommends the same.

HOW DO I BECOME ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO MEDICAL SCHOOL?

Read and review admission requirements for your chosen institution. It is your responsibility to understand these admission requirements as this guide will provide basic information to help you start your studies. Each institution will have differing academic and non-academic requirements, and will also provide more information regarding completing the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).

- [UAlberta Medical School](#)
- [UCalgary Cumming School of Medicine](#)

HOW DO I CHOOSE COURSES?

- Ultimately, we encourage students to pursue a four-year baccalaureate degree. This degree can be in any discipline. **Remember: there are no courses you specifically need to complete to gain entry into Medical School.**
- This guide recommends courses that may help a student prepare for the [MCAT](#), as well as mirror a first year Science program.
 - The journey to Medical School is unique for all students, so this guide is merely one example of a path to get started on. You should take courses you feel help you gain the knowledge you need while still taking a course load that is suitable to your needs.
- Plan to gain admission after completing an undergraduate degree! [If you would like to stay at RDP to complete a four-year degree, you can in our RDP Biological Sciences degree!](#)
- Your schedule should be a mixture of:
 - Taking a course load that is appropriate for you
 - Taking courses to help you with MCAT preparation.
 - Taking courses that work towards an undergraduate Bachelor's degree

WHAT IS A TERM? TERMS ARE THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES TAKE PLACE. AT RDP, WE OFFER FOUR TERMS.

- Fall term (September through December)
- Winter Term (January through April)
- Spring term (May through June): Spring term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.
- Summer Term (July through August): Summer term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- It is recommended to take a full course load (5 courses per term) where possible. However, you may have flexibility depending on your destination university and degree.
- Pay attention to course load requirements recorded by the Medical School you wish to attend in the future.
- When determining your course load keep your funding in mind, if applicable. For course load requirements for funding purposes, please visit www.rdpolytech.ca/psfunding.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I TAKE LESS THAN 10 COURSES A YEAR?

- You may need an extra term or year to complete your program.
- Your admission may be impacted if your goal institution has course load requirements.

WHAT IF I COMPLETED COURSES AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION?

Once you are admitted to RDP, you can then apply to have your post-secondary courses assessed for transfer credit through our [Recognition of Prior Learning Office](#). Once admitted to RDP you can complete an [RPL application form](#), provide the Polytechnic Assessors with any and all transcripts, course outlines/descriptions, or other documentation necessary to support your PLAR application.

NOTE: To qualify for a Red Deer Polytechnic program credential, students must complete at least 50% of the credit requirements for the credential through enrolment in RDP courses.

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM AUDIT

- Refer to the **Registration** tab on your Loop account to view **Registration Tips and Tricks** for information on:
 - Registering in classes
 - Waitlisting
 - Checking Prerequisites and Corequisites
 - Courses listed as **prerequisites** must be completed before you start the course in question.

- Courses listed as **co-requisites** must be taken at the same time as the course in question.
 - Viewing Your Schedule
 - And much more!
- After you have completed your registration, if you would like an advisor to review your registration please submit a [Registration Review Form](#).

SAMPLE YEAR 1 PATTERN OF COURSES

The courses below are recommendations to help students start their path towards Medicine and to help prepare for the MCAT. Not every course that is recommended will need to be completed by each student. **Students should take courses that work towards future degree goals, and that help them prepare for their journey to Medical School.**

Students should identify an undergraduate degree to pursue by Year 2.

It is highly recommended that students complete sample MCAT exams to help decide which courses you may/may not need to take. For more information on the MCAT, please click [here](#).

SAMPLE YEAR 2 PATTERN OF COURSES

As you start planning for Year 2, we recommend that students have an undergraduate degree and transfer University in mind. Most students will complete a 4-year degree prior to being admitted into Medical School. The degree you are pursuing can be anything! Students will transfer after Year 2 to a University. If you would like to stay at RDP to complete a four-year degree, you can in our Bachelor of Science Biological Sciences degree!

Refer to the [planning guide](#) of your desired undergraduate degree path

FALL	WINTER
CHEM 351 or CHEM 352	CHEM 352 or Art/Science Elective
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	BIOC 301 or 393 or Art/Science Elective
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	Course Towards Undergraduate Degree
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	Course Towards Undergraduate Degree
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	Course Towards Undergraduate Degree

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE AND CHECKLIST

REQUIREMENT	PREREQUISITE(S)	COMMENTS	DONE
TERM 1			
BIOL 217 (3 Credits)	Introduction to Cell Biology	BIOL 30 & CHEM 30	Can be taken either term
CHEM 211 (3 Credits)	General Chemistry I	CHEM 30 & MATH 30-1	
PHYS 205 or Elective	Introductory Physics I	MATH 30-1; PHYSICS 30 strongly recommended	
Elective (ENGL 219 recommended) (3 Credits)			
Elective (3 Credits)		200-level PSYC or SOCI recommended	

TERM 2

BIOL 218 (3 Credits)	Evolution & Biological Diversity	BIOL 30	Can be taken either term	
CHEM 351 (3 Credits)	General Chemistry II	CHEM 211 or CHEM 102	See Important Note 1 below	
CHEM 212 or Elective			See Important Note 1 below	
MATH/STAT course or Arts/Science Elective			See Important Note 2 below	
Elective			200-level PSYC or SOCI recommended	

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Completing CHEM 351 and CHEM 212 in year 1 can offer students more versatility in course scheduling in their second year, however taking these courses concurrently in Winter term can also create a heavier schedule. CHEM 212 and CHEM 351 are also available in the Spring term. Students wishing to lighten their first-year course load can take one of CHEM 212/351 in the Winter term of Year 1, and then take the other course in the Spring term of Year 1, or complete in Year 2.
2. Most BSc degrees will require students to take a Statistics or Math course (or both). Introductory STAT/MATH courses at RDP are: STAT 251, MATH 202 or 203 (calculus), and MATH 221 (algebra). If you know what undergraduate degree you are pursuing, consult that planning guide or connect with studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca for advice on what course to register into. Students can also take this requirement in Year 2 or later for most degree programs.

COURSE CATEGORIZATION/ELECTIVE LIST

- Examples of available Arts & Science Electives for the current academic year can be viewed [here](#).

TRANSFER INFORMATION

The information below are snapshots from broader admission documents. Refer to each website for more in-depth information.		
	UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA	UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Admission Requirements + GPA Calculation	It is highly advised you read and consult the UAlberta Doctor of Medicine website for the most up to date admission requirements and information.	It is highly advised you read and consult the UCalgary Doctor of Medicine website for the most up to date admission requirements and information. Cummings School of Medicine publishes an Applicant Manual each year. It is highly recommended you read this, as it details everything you need to know about admission in great detail. You can find the manual on their site .
Non-Academic Requirements	In addition to the education requirements, student's applications will also be assessed on the basis of their MCAT score (successful applicants will require a minimum score of 124 in all MCAT categories), personal activities, reference letters, interview and	In addition to the education requirements, student's applications will also be assessed on the basis of their MCAT score, reference letters, employment history, and various other requirements.

	additional testing. Click here to learn more about the specifics of each requirement field.	For example, UofC applicants are given the opportunity to identify up to 10 activities or experiences they feel help to define them as individuals. It is from these Top 10 experiences that file reviewers develop a sense for who the applicant is as a person and what they will bring to the practice of medicine.
Minimum Transferable Grade	A minimum grade of C- is recommended to maximize transferability to most universities ("D" grades do not transfer to UAlberta). <i>Please talk to an Academic Advisor as soon as possible if you feel you may be in jeopardy of not getting at least a C- in a course you are enrolled in.</i>	
Spring Term	If you are planning to take a Spring term course, please connect with the Student Connect Centre .	
Application Deadline	Please refer to each Medical School website for important dates and deadlines.	

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

Red Deer Polytechnic Student Connect Centre	studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca www.rdpolytech.ca/SCC 403.342.3254
Red Deer Polytechnic website	rdpolytech.ca
Transfer Alberta Guide	transferalberta.alberta.ca