Our Frequently Asked Questions

Q. After graduating from Union, what types of medical programs are there to choose from?
A. There are several doctoral programs in medicine, including Allopathic, Osteopathic, Veterinary, Dentistry, Optometry, Podiatry, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy. There are also numerous allied health and health-related professions from which to choose.

Q. How many students does Union College get into these medical programs?
A. No undergraduate institution gets its students into medical school. Students get accepted to professional schools because of their strong academic record, competitive standardized test scores*, and their personal and professional development through involvement in extracurricular activities and/or community service. However, involvement in these experiences must not interfere with your academic performance. It is better to become involved in a few select experiences than to be superficially involved in many experiences.

Q. Is there a pre-med major at Union?
A. No, and for good reason. Professional schools prefer students who are diverse and well-rounded and who pursue studies on the basis of their interests, not to get into medical school.

Q. What courses are required to enter into a medical program?
A. Students applying to any health professions program should take the following courses at Union:

Calculus: Through MTH 102 or MTH 112 or MTH 113
2 English (Preceptorial and one other English course of your choice)
Introductory Psychology or Sociology (statistics is also recommended)

3 Biology courses:
BIO 110 Heredity, Evolution and Ecology (Fall, Winter, Spring)
BIO 112 Physiology of Cells and Organisms (Fall, Winter, Spring)
BIO 225 Molecular Biology of the Cell (Fall, Winter, Spring)

4 Chemistry:
CHM 101 Introductory Chemistry I (Fall, Winter, Spring)
CHM 102 Introductory Chemistry II (Winter, Spring)
CHM 231 Organic Chemistry I (Fall, Winter)
CHM 232 Organic Chemistry II (Winter, Spring)

Note: Some health professions programs (i.e., PT, OT, Nursing etc.) require additional courses that Union offers such as Microbiology, Developmental Psychology, and Statistics. Most of these programs, however, also require Human Anatomy and Physiology, which is not offered at Union but can be taken through the Hudson Mohawk Valley Consortium at neighboring schools.

*Although Union is test optional, the SAT is a strong predictor of performance on the MCAT.
Q. When should these courses be taken and when should I apply?
A. For students with competitive credentials who wish to begin professional school the year that they graduate from Union, the prerequisite courses should be completed before spring term of junior year in preparation for the standardized test (i.e. MCAT, DAT, OAT, GRE, and PCAT) that is required for their application. It is not uncommon, however, to spread course work over the four years with an interim year between graduation and professional school. The additional time could improve your candidacy. In any event, students begin the application process a year and a half before matriculation.

Q. Does Union offer any guaranteed admittance programs?
A. Yes. Union has an Eight-Year combined B.S. /M.S. /M.D. Leadership in Medicine Program with Albany Medical College. In addition we offer an early Assurance Program with Albany Medical College for under represented students. We also have supported student applications to early acceptance programs at Mount Sinai, SUNY Syracuse, and SUNY Buffalo.

Q. Does Union offer specific health professions majors like Pharmacy, Nursing, OT, PT, physiotherapy, etc.?  
A. No. Union College is not a health professions career training school but a liberal arts institution. Students interested in specific allied health programs would follow the same curriculum at Union as a pre-medical student and then continue on for their professional/graduate level training after graduation.