

Careers in Medicine

OVERVIEW:

Students have an opportunity to ask questions of medical students in order to gain insight into the requirements of becoming a physician. Physicians diagnose illness and injury, prescribe and administer treatment, and advise patients about how to prevent and manage disease. The American Medical Association (AMA) has guidelines for anyone considering a medical career.

CONCEPTS:

National Science Foundation Standards:

Standard G: History and Nature of Science

(Science as a Human Endeavor)

Kinds of people engaged in science and engineering and ways they work.

Human capacities and qualities required for science.

Benchmark 1: The Nature of Science

C: The Scientific Enterprise

Scientists are employed by colleges and universities, business and industry, hospitals, and many government agencies. Their places of work include offices, classroom, laboratories, farms, factories, and natural field settings ranging from space to the ocean floor.

OBJECTIVES:

Student will learn about the different careers in medicine.

Student will learn the criteria needed to be accepted into medical school.

BACKGROUND:

Ever wonder how many years it takes to become a doctor? Well let's calculate it. It takes about 12 years from Kindergarten through high school, 4 years of undergraduate studies, 4 years of medical school, and then 3-5 years of residency (specialized training in a specific area in medicine). So what is the total? It takes approximately 23-25 years to become a doctor.

How do I get into medical school? There are a lot of things that are put into consideration for one to be accepted as a medical student here at University of Kentucky. The board considers your grades, (they have to be good), your social skills via an oral interview, activities, (includes volunteer work), your exposure to the medical profession, and most importantly, your MCAT score.

To get into medical school, you will need a lot of schooling and training. Once in medical school, the first two years are mainly classroom oriented, with a bit of practical training too. But after those years, you are not in the classroom a lot; you attend more training sessions in the hospital than in class. These sessions are termed as medical rotation where you as a medical student get to work in the different fields at the hospital. Also in the third and fourth years of medical school, the students are also required to train in off-site rotations in fields like pediatrician, or family practice, for a month each, and a total of four months.

After these, the students then move onto their residency in the field of their choice, which takes between 3-5 years.

MATERIALS:

Background information

Medical School Student (1-2)

Student handouts: University of Kentucky College of Medicine; “*Questions to ask yourself*”, and “*Preparing for your medical school application, Points to remember.*”

PROCEDURES:

Allow 1 hour to present the background information and to complete the activity.

Present the background information.

Complete the activity (Part A.)

Follow up activity with discussion questions (see Part B under Activity.) These questions may be used for assessment purposes.

ACTIVITY:

Part A:

Question and Answer Session with Medical Students

The following questions are used to facilitate the disbursement of information:

How many years of school does it take to become a doctor?

What do you need to major in as an undergraduate in order to get into medicine?

Can one be a doctor and still have a family?

What do you look for when accepting medical students?

When did you decide to become doctors?

What color is blood?

What color is blood from a puncture wound?

Is financial aid available?

Do you need to volunteer in a medical setting before applying to medical school?

How did you decide to become doctors?

Are there as many women applicants as there are men?

How do you cope when your patient dies?



Part B:
Ask the following questions and allow time for discussion.

Share

In what field of medicine are you interested? Why?

Process

Why does the education of a physician continue even after graduating from medical school?

Generalize

Do all physicians have the same education? Explain.

Apply

Besides having knowledge of the human body, disease, causes and treatments of disease, what other qualities should a physician possess?

