MEDICINE — M.D.

Curriculum

The curriculum in medicine consists of four academic years. The first two academic years are oriented to the sciences basic to the practice of medicine. Exposure to patient care is integrated within these two years. The remaining two academic years consist of clinically-oriented core instruction and twenty weeks of clinical electives.

THE FIRST YEAR of medical education will begin to establish a foundation in the sciences basic to the practice of medicine—with emphasis on the principles and mechanisms of normal development, structure, and function—including the normal changes of aging and the behavioral considerations that influence normal development. Course content will be organized around individual organ systems whenever possible. The first year will also begin to develop the skills, values, attitudes, and professional behaviors that are integral to the safe, competent, compassionate, ethical, and Christian practice of medicine—both now and in the future. The educational program will make use of a wide variety of pedagogical methods—including but not limited to traditional lecture, small group, problem-based and case-based learning, personalized computer-based instruction, quantitative laboratory experiences, and patient-care experiences.

THE SECOND YEAR of medical education will continue to establish a foundation in the sciences basic to the practice of medicine—with emphasis on the principles and mechanisms of abnormal structure and function, principles of therapy, and behavioral considerations that affect disease treatment and prevention. Course content will be organized according to individual organ systems whenever possible. The second year will continue to develop the skills, values, attitudes, and behaviors that are integral to the safe, competent, compassionate, ethical, and Christian practice of medicine—both now and in the future. The educational program will make use of a wide variety of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to traditional lecture; small group; problem-based and case-based learning; personalized computer-based instruction; quantitative laboratory experiences; and longitudinal patient-care experiences.

THE THIRD YEAR of medical education will establish a body of knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, and behaviors in seven core clinical science disciplines to build a foundation for patient care in ambulatory and hospital-based settings. Students will obtain this foundation through a process of self-directed learning, independent study, and supervised instruction and teaching by house staff and faculty. Students will have ample opportunity to learn the values of honor, shared responsibility, and accountability by directly participating in patient-care activities as junior colleagues on the health-care team.

The didactic program will emphasize: a) understanding the pathophysiology of disease, b) establishing diagnoses through interpretation of physical examination and diagnostic data, and c) applying management principles to patients with acute and chronic conditions. Recurring experiences in whole person care, medical ethics, laboratory medicine, radiology, health maintenance, and disease prevention will be integrated into the seven core disciplines. Students will have the opportunity to explore an area of interest during an elective experience to begin the process of choosing a career in medicine.

THE FOURTH YEAR of medical education will require students to integrate the entirety of their medical knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes gained during the first three years and apply it more autonomously to patient care. Students will participate in supervised patient-care experiences in emergency medicine, intensive care medicine, and preventive medicine and public health; and a sub-intern-level experience in medicine, surgery, family medicine, or pediatrics. Although repetitive clinical duties during the fourth year are a necessary part of preparing students for the rigor of postgraduate training, students will still have ample opportunity to pursue individual interests during a minimum twenty weeks of elective rotations. To reestablish the importance of science in medical practice, up to one month of elective must be in the basic science discipline of the student’s choosing. Students will have adequate vacation time to study for Step II of the USMLE and successfully participate in the residency selection process.

Departments

Anesthesiology (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-anesthesiology)

Basic Science (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-basic-science)

Cardiothoracic Surgery (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-cardiothoracic-surgery)

Dermatology (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-dermatology)

Emergency Medicine (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-emergency-medicine)

Family Medicine (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-family-medicine)

Gynecology and Obstetrics (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-gynecology-and-obstetrics)

Medical Education (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-medical-education)

Medicine (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-medicine)

Neurology (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-neurology)

Neurosurgery (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-neurosurgery)

Ophthalmology (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-ophthalmology)

Orthopedic Surgery (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-orthopaedic-surgery)

Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-otolaryngology-and-head-and-neck-surgery)

Pathology and Human Anatomy (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-pathology-and-human-anatomy)

Pediatrics (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-pediatrics)
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-physical-medicine-and-rehabilitation)

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-plastic-and-reconstructive-surgery)

Preventive Medicine (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-preventive-medicine)

Psychiatry (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-psychiatry)

Radiation Medicine (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-radiation-medicine)

Radiology (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-radiology)

Surgery (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-surgery)

Urology (http://llucatalog.llu.edu/medicine/professional/department-urology)

Admissions

Applicants are selected based on a holistic review of the collegiate academic record, MCAT scores, medical and service experiences, mission fit, recommendations, personal characteristics which include personal integrity, and personal interviews. The Admissions Committee seeks individuals who have demonstrated a serious personal commitment to the practice of medicine and have altruistic goals and ideals.

The School of Medicine is owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church; therefore, preference for admission is given to members of the Church. However, it is a firm policy of the Admissions Committee to admit applicants from other faiths who have demonstrated a commitment to Christian principles and are best suited to meet the educational goals of the School. No candidate is accepted on the basis of religious affiliation alone.

The study of medicine

To prepare for a career in medicine, applicants should seek for a broad understanding in the major areas of knowledge—the natural sciences, the behavioral sciences, and the humanities—which will assist them in learning throughout their lives.

The School of Medicine Admissions Committee selects applicants who are best suited to fulfill the mission of the school and to successfully practice medicine. The committee selects applicants who demonstrate the ability to learn independently, to think critically, and to articulate clearly—both orally and in written form—their ideas and opinions. It is important that applicants to the School of Medicine demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills and show evidence of sensitivity to the needs of humanity.

The Admissions Committee puts forth considerable effort to ensure that an applicant is qualified for medical school. The applicant’s academic record and MCAT scores are reviewed to assess the applicant’s ability to handle the academic rigor of the medical curriculum. The committee also looks for prerequisite qualities of character and personality, potential for self-direction, good judgment, and dedication to the ideal of service to humanity.

General entrance information

On rare occasions, academically exceptional applicants may be considered for admission who have completed 90 semester/135 quarter hours at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States or Canada. Preference is given to college/university graduates.

Credit for the following courses is required of all applicants:

General biology (excludes Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology), one year sequence with lab

General or inorganic chemistry, one year sequence with lab

Organic chemistry, one year sequence with lab

General Physics, one year sequence with lab

Biochemistry, one year sequence with lab

CLEP, pass/fail performances, and online classes are not acceptable for the science required courses. Additionally, science credits earned in professional schools (e.g., allied health professions, business, dentistry, nursing or pharmacy) do not fulfill requirements for admissions to medicine. Advanced Placement (AP) credits for the required science courses generally are not accepted.

Science credits earned in professional schools (e.g., allied health professions, business, dentistry, nursing or pharmacy) do not fulfill requirements for admission to medicine. CLEP and Pass/Fail, and online performances are not acceptable for the required courses.

Required

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

All applicants must complete the MCAT prior to consideration by the Admissions Committee. The MCAT is based on the knowledge gained from the required science courses. The exam must be taken no later than September of the year prior to application. MCAT scores older than three years from the date of matriculation are not considered.

Health Care Experience

Applicants are required to obtain physician shadowing experience and direct patient care exposure to better inform their decision for a career in medicine.

Technical Standards

All applicants must meet the Admission and Graduation Standards with or without reasonable accommodations. Please take a moment to view our Technical Standards:

Loma Linda University School of Medicine candidates for the M.D. degree must have abilities and skills of five varieties, including: observation; communication; motor function; intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; and behavioral and social attributes. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in certain areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner without the use of a surrogate.

OBSERVATION: The student must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations in animals, microbiologic
cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. A student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

COMMUNICATION: A student must be able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to elicit information; describe changes in mood, activity, and posture; and perceive nonverbal communications. A student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, colleagues, and other personnel. Communication includes not only speech but also reading and writing. The student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

MOTOR FUNCTION: Students should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to do basic laboratory tests (urinalysis, CBC, etc.); carry out diagnostic procedures (proctoscopy, paracentesis, etc.); and read EKGs and X-rays. A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment of patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physicians are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL INTEGRATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES: These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES: Medical students must possess the emotional health required for appropriate utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, and the timely completion of all responsibilities attendant to their academic work, team work, and patient care. They must demonstrate the ability to develop mature, sensitive and effective professional relationships with peers, faculty, staff, members of the healthcare team, and patients. Medical students must demonstrate empathy, and concern for others while respecting appropriate personal and professional boundaries. Medical students must demonstrate integrity as manifested by truthfulness, acceptance of responsibility for one’s actions, accountability for mistakes, and the ability to place the wellbeing of the patient above their own when necessary. They must be able to tolerate demanding workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the medical education and clinical practice settings.

Recommended
Introductory courses in basic statistics, psychology, and sociology

Application
Application to Loma Linda University School of Medicine must be submitted through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). Application for the next year’s entering class opens approximately May 1. For more information or to fill out an application, visit https://students-residents.aamc.org/. The deadline to submit an AMCAS application is November 1. The AMCAS application, transcripts, and fee must be submitted to AMCAS by the deadline.

Secondary application
Invitations to submit the secondary application are sent to all our applicants. Upon receipt of an AMCAS application (allowing up to 6 weeks after submission of the application to AMCAS), an email is sent inviting the applicant to complete the secondary application. The deadline for submission of the secondary application is November 15. There is a non-refundable fee for the secondary application. Secondary application fee waivers are granted to those who have received a fee waiver from AMCAS.

Letters of recommendation
Letters of recommendation/evaluation are required for all applicants. Letters of recommendation must be submitted to the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS).

Fees
The AMCAS fee is required each time an application is submitted. An additional fee to the School of Medicine is required with each supplementary application.

Procedure
The application procedure is as follows:
1. Applicants submit a formal application through AMCAS, with requested transcripts and fee. AMCAS verifies the data and forwards the information to the School of Medicine.
2. After receiving verified applications from AMCAS, the School of Medicine invites applicants to complete the secondary application.
3. After the secondary application and letters of recommendation have been submitted and reviewed, applicants may be invited for an interview.
4. The Admissions Committee evaluates AMCAS applications, secondary applications, letters of recommendation, and the interview reports. The Admissions Committee determines whether an applicant is accepted or rejected. All applicants are notified of the Admission Committee decision regarding their application. Admission Committee decisions are final. Acceptance notices are sent to regular applicants beginning December of the year preceding admission to the School of Medicine, continuing until the class is filled.
5. Accepted applicants respond online to his/her offer of admission as a student, and accepts the technical standards.
6. In summary, the Office of Admissions requires the following:
   • Verified AMCAS application
   • Loma Linda University School of Medicine secondary application and application fee
   • A pre-professional recommendation packet, if available, from an applicant’s undergraduate college/university
   • Appraisal of an applicant’s character, ability, and suitability for a medical career by persons knowledgeable about the applicant’s past performance, if a pre-professional recommendation packet is not available
   • Applicant’s availability for interviews, should an interview offer be extended
Early decision program
Qualified applicants who wish to secure a seat in the next year’s entering class may apply through the Early Decision Program (EDP). Applicants considered for acceptance through EDP have demonstrated exceptional performance in academics, non-academics, and mission fit. Applicants select EDP on the AMCAS application and agree to comply with the program restrictions. Application submission is between June 1 and August 1. The secondary application and other documents must be received by August 15. Applicants are notified of Admissions Committee decisions no later than October 1. EDP applicants may not apply to other medical schools during this time period. If the applicant is accepted at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, the applicant is committed to that decision. If the applicant is not accepted by October 1, the applicant may then apply to other medical schools. Applicants not accepted by October 1 will be considered in the regular applicant pool.

Pre-entrance health requirement and health coverage
Medical students are exposed to patients beginning in the first year of medical education. Because of this, it is necessary for students to have immunizations against certain infectious diseases. In order to complete registration for the first academic quarter, students must give evidence in the form of physician records or college health service records that they have met immunization requirements. Students without proper verification will be required to receive immunizations, and the charges will be billed to the students’ account. The pre-entrance requirements may be found at https://home.llu.edu/campus-and-spiritual-life/student-health-service/new-students-health-requirements. Students are also required to have certain injections and immunizations repeated at various intervals during their enrollment, including an annual skin test for tuberculosis.

Medical students are required to have an influenza vaccination on an annual basis in order to meet the requirements of clinical sites where students will be working. These vaccinations will be administered by the Student Health Service at the beginning of each flu season.

Incoming students are expected to have routine dental and medical care as well as elective surgery attended to before registering for medical school.

All School of Medicine students are provided with health coverage through the University’s Department of Risk Management. The Student Health Plan remains in effect for students who are regularly enrolled, provided they register and pay tuition and fees on time each quarter. For Student Health Plan benefit information, visit https://home.llu.edu/campus-and-spiritual-life/student-health-service. The plan does not cover optical care and provides only limited dental care. For these reasons it may be to the student’s advantage to maintain a current personal policy if they have one. A student who does not have health insurance coverage for his/her spouse/children may purchase it through the University’s Department of Risk Management at the time of registration or during specified enrollment periods. Government regulations prohibit the use of student loan funds to provide medical insurance or services for a student’s spouse or children.

Students who wish to review a copy of the current student health plan or have further questions about the plan should contact Risk Management at (909) 558-4467 between April 15 and May 1 of the year of desired transfer to determine whether transfer positions are available or for further information.

Program requirements

Transfer applications are not accepted if there are no transfer positions available.

If a transfer position should be available, applications are accepted only from students in good standing at LCME-accredited allopathic medical schools in the United States. Acceptance is limited to students who have successfully completed the second year and not yet started the third year, without any breaks. Students must have completed all preclinical coursework and passed USMLE Step 1.

Please call the Office of Admissions at 909-558-4467 between April 15 and May 1 of the year of desired transfer to determine whether transfer positions are available or for further information.

Transfer
Loma Linda University School of Medicine accepts transfer applications if transfer positions are available. Opportunities for transfer are rare.
**NEUR 701**  Neurology Clerkship (4 weeks)  6
**PEDS 701**  Pediatrics Clerkship (8 weeks)  12
**PRVM 791**  Applied Preventive Medicine  2
**PSYT 701**  Psychiatry Clerkship (6 weeks)  9
**RADS 791**  Integrated Clinical Radiology  2
**RELE 714**  Advanced Medical Ethics  2
**SURG 701**  Surgery Clerkship (10 weeks)  15

**Fourth Year**

**Clinical clerkships**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMDN 821</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine Clerkship (2 weeks)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDCJ 821</td>
<td>Preventive Medicine and Population Health (4 weeks)</td>
<td>6</td>
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Select one rotation (4 weeks):

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDN 822</td>
<td>Medicine Intensive Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDS 822</td>
<td>Pediatrics Intensive Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURG 822</td>
<td>Surgery Intensive Care</td>
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Subinternship: Select one rotation (4 weeks)  6

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<tr>
<td>FMDN 821</td>
<td>Family Medicine Subinternship</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDN 821</td>
<td>Medicine Subinternship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDS 821</td>
<td>Pediatrics Subinternship</td>
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<td>SURG 821</td>
<td>Surgery Subinternship</td>
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Select 30 units (20 weeks) of the following:  30

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<tr>
<td>ANAT 891</td>
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<td>ANES 891</td>
<td>Anesthesiology Elective</td>
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<td>BCHM 891</td>
<td>Biochemistry Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>DERM 891</td>
<td>Dermatology Elective</td>
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<td>Emergency Medicine Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMDN 891</td>
<td>Family Medicine Elective (General Family Medicine)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GYOB 891</td>
<td>Gynecology and Obstetrics Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDCJ 891</td>
<td>Whole Person Care</td>
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<td>MEDN 891</td>
<td>Medicine Elective</td>
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<td>Neurology Elective</td>
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<td>NEUS 891</td>
<td>Neurosurgery Elective</td>
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<td>OPHM 891</td>
<td>Ophthalmology Elective</td>
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<td>ORTH 891</td>
<td>Orthopaedic Surgery Elective</td>
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<td>Physiology Elective</td>
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<td>PMRH 891</td>
<td>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>RDMN 891</td>
<td>Radiation Medicine Elective</td>
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<td>SURG 891</td>
<td>Surgery Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>UROL 891</td>
<td>Urology Elective</td>
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Total Units  244.5

**Normal time to complete the program**

4 years — full-time enrollment required