Tip 1: Use the Internet

Choose a school or program that you are truly interested in & get surfing! Visit the websites below to find program descriptions, admission requirements and other useful information for Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Optometry and other professional programs. Specific questions must be directed to the department or university offering the program—the Faculty of Science cannot legally offer advice on non-Science programs.

MEDICINE

MDadmission@ualberta.ca
University of Alberta, Medical Doctor Program:
https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/programs/md/applying
MCAT information:
https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/faq/mcat-faqs/

DENTISTRY

admissions@dentistry.ualberta.ca
University of Alberta, Doctor of Dental Surgery & Dental Hygiene Programs:
https://www.ualberta.ca/school-of-dentistry/programs-and-admissions
DAT information:
http://www.cda-adc.ca/en/becoming/dat/

PHARMACY

phstud@ualberta.ca
University of Alberta, Doctor of Pharmacy [PharmD] Program:
https://www.ualberta.ca/pharmacy/programs/proposed-doctor-of-pharmacy

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

medlabsc@ualberta.ca
University of Alberta, Medical Laboratory Sciences Program:
https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/programs/mls/admission

RADIATION THERAPY

radth@ualberta.ca
University of Alberta, Radiation Therapy Program
https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/programs/radiation-therapy

OPTOMETRY

University of Waterloo, School of Optometry (English language Instruction):
opt-admissions@uwaterloo.ca
www.optometry.uwaterloo.ca/
University of Montreal, School of Optometry (French language Instruction):
www.opto.umontreal.ca/
Optometry Admissions Test (OAT):
https://www.ada.org/en/oat
Alberta College of Optometrists:
www.collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca/

DID YOU KNOW?

The OAT must be written by all applicants, and is required by all Optometry schools in both the United States and Canada. Many schools also require an interview, an essay, letters of recommendation, as well as volunteer experience.
Tip 2: Plan Early & Be Realistic

Professional programs are competitive, so be realistic about your prospects.

- Be aware of the admission requirements and make sure you have completed all of them.
- Research the competitive averages for admission, and be realistic about whether they are achievable.
- Have and open mind and a back-up plan just in case things don’t go exactly as you planned. Remember, there are several other careers related to the Health Sciences that may be different form your original plan (Medical Microbiologist, Informatics Specialist, Physiologist, Medical Physicist, Forensic Scientist, Protein Biochemist, Physical Therapist etc.)

Tip 3: Talk to your peers

We are fortunate to be part of a University with numerous support services and clubs. Speak to other students who share the same goals, and find out what they have been doing. Ask questions and share information!

The Pre-Medical Students’ Association, offered through the Students’ Union, is a student club that can offer useful tips and peer support. Check them out!

Pre-Medical Students’ Association  
http://www.pmsa.ca/

International Students

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry does not accept applications from international students to the Medical Doctor Program.

A little more advice...

- Once you have chosen your desired professional program and reviewed all the admission requirements, take the time to schedule these necessary courses carefully while completing your degree. Do not put too much stress on yourself by cramming all of your requirements into one year if you do not need to. There is nothing wrong with spreading out your courses and giving yourself the opportunity to do well.

- Check all course pre-requisites and course times to ensure that you have set up your timetable properly. Do not take a course if you do not have the pre-requisite already completed; chances are you could be jeopardizing your grades.

- Try not to schedule more than three laboratories in a term as one laboratory course contains several components – each with its own work: lecture, pre-lab, lab, and post lab exams.

- Keep your options open and apply to more than one school. Make sure you know the admission requirements for all institutions you are interested in as they may vary.