

I'm Pre-Med. What else, besides Natural Science, is good to study? Philosophy!

Philosophy trains you for the MCAT CARS Section

In 2015 MCAT will consist of 3 sections, (1) natural science, (2) psychological, social and biological foundations of behavior, and (3) **critical analysis and reasoning skills (CARS)**. The CARS section tests:

Reasoning Within the Text:

- integrating different components of the text to increase comprehension

Reasoning Beyond the Text:

- applying or extrapolating ideas from the passage to new contexts;
- assessing the impact of introducing new factors, information or conditions to ideas from the passage.

MYTH: The MCAT tests science skills. You don't need to worry as much about the verbal section. (Verbal Section replaced by CARS Section)

FACT: Good reading skills are very important for the MCAT, even in the science sections. For example, humanities majors out-perform biological sciences major on *every part of the MCAT, not just the verbal section!* Medical school admissions officers actually weight the verbal reasoning section the heaviest of the entire MCAT, because they view it as a measure of a student's ability to learn and communicate. From:

www.princetonreview.com/medical/mcat-myths.aspx
(retrieved 8/22/2014)

Philosophy develops your reading analysis and comprehension skills.

Skills Philosophy Teaches:

- Critical Reasoning
- Ethical Reasoning and Sensitivity
- Analyzing and Synthesizing Complex Information
- Clear and Effective Communication
- Understanding of the Nature of Evidence in Science
- Appreciation for the Role of Beliefs and Values in Choices

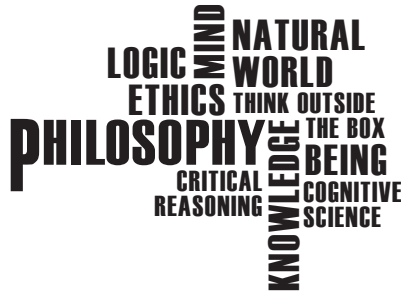
Philosophy Students Dominate GREs

(See: <http://goo.gl/2OPhfu>)
and do just as well on MCATs, as well as or better than Biology majors.

How Studying Philosophy Helps in Medical School

from a Hofstra Biology/Philosophy double-major who went to Medical School (2010):

“I can safely say that as a medical student, what I learned as a philosophy major has benefited me infinitely more than anything [else] I learned ... during undergrad.... In philosophy I feel like I developed a more effective and open way of thinking that has had endless applications to EVERYTHING I've studied and will study...I really feel like I am able to stay comparatively saner than the majority of my classmates because my background has helped me so much in organizing, processing, evaluating, etc. the endless amount of information that they throw at us in medical school. It's also helped me to keep an open mind when interacting with patients and even classmates....”



PHILOSOPHY for Pre-Medical and Science

I'm too busy with science courses. How would I fit in Philosophy?

- You could minor in Philosophy; a minor is only 18 credits.
- You could take some Philosophy courses. There are courses in Critical Reasoning, Ethics, Bioethics, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy and Medicine. Many have distribution credit.
- You could even double-major; there's a BS in Philosophy, not just a BA program. It doesn't add a lot of extra credits to your degree.

What if I change my mind and want to major in Philosophy instead of Science? Can I still get into medical school?

- Yes. It doesn't matter what you major in, as long as you do the necessary science courses for Medical School. In fact, medical schools are interested in students with broad interests and background, not only science majors. If you love science and want to major in it, then by all means do so. But, if you have other interests and want to explore them, the time to do so is when you are an undergraduate. Even if you're interested in a career in scientific *research* and a major in science, you could still study philosophy in some form.

Philosophy Programs:

http://www.hofstra.edu/Academics/Colleges/HCLAS/PHI/phi_prog.html

Philosophy Major Programs:

- B.A. in Philosophy
- B.S. in Philosophy
- B.A. in Prehealth with a concentration in Philosophy

Philosophy Minor Programs:

- Minor in Philosophy of Science
- Minor in Philosophy of Law
- Minor in Philosophy, Society and Business
- Minor in Cognitive Science (administered by Philosophy Dept.)

Philosophy Concentration Area:

- Concentration in Applied Ethics