

Program in
Liberal
Medical
Education



The Program in Liberal Medical Education offers a unique experience in medical education. Designed as an eight-year program, it combines liberal arts and professional education to enable each student to develop advanced-level competence in a chosen field of scholarship culminating in a medical degree.



BROWN
Alpert Medical School



So you're considering a life in medicine.

Countless paths are open to you after you receive your medical education. You might become a primary care physician, a surgeon, or an obstetrician-gynecologist. You might become a physician-scientist, working to develop new cures for disease. Whatever field you choose, you will be joining the ranks of a profession as challenging as it is noble, as complex as it is rewarding. A career in medicine will give you the satisfaction that comes from making a meaningful contribution to the world.

While there are many different medical specialties, the route to earning an MD degree is often similar from one medical school to the next. By and large, premedical students complete four years of undergraduate studies with an emphasis on the basic sciences and a focus on preparation for the MCATs. If you want something more, something unique, read on.

Brown University has pioneered a distinctive approach to medical education. Based on the belief that a great physician is one whose mind has been enriched by the broadest possible social, cultural, and historical contexts, the Program in Liberal Medical Education at Brown merges undergraduate and medical studies into an experience that spans eight years.

What follows is a map of sorts, a guide to the experience of becoming a doctor through the Program in Liberal Medical Education.

For even more information on the Program in Liberal Medical Education, visit <http://www.brown.edu/academics/medical/plme/>.

Read on to find out if Brown's vision is a good match for you.

The goal of Brown's Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME) is to graduate doctors, scholars, and leaders in medicine who have been exposed to a wide, sensitizing view of the human condition and who are committed to bettering human health.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The PLME offers a unique opportunity to join undergraduate and professional studies in medicine in an eight-year program. By combining the open curriculum concept of Brown (the College) and the competency-based curriculum concept of The Warren Alpert Medical School, the PLME encourages students of medicine to pursue in depth their interests in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences even as they prepare for their careers as physicians.

The PLME provides both structure and flexibility in curriculum planning. During the early years, students design an educational plan that charts their course through humanities and studies based on PLME competencies rather than traditional pre-medical requirements. The plan ensures both that they receive a broad liberal education and that they acquire the competencies required of all Alpert Medical School students. It includes courses in the natural, social, and behavioral sciences and in mathematics, which provide the foundation for the medical science and clinical courses they will take later.

As undergraduates, PLME students may choose to work toward an AB or ScB degree in the sciences, or toward an AB in the humanities, social sciences, or behavioral sciences. Several interdisciplinary concentrations, such as public policy and international relations, are also available. The undergraduate experience is designed to best prepare students for the last four years of the program, which constitute the Medical School years and culminate in the MD degree.

During the undergraduate portion of the program, the summer period is free but may be used for independent study, elective coursework, or laboratory research.

During the Medical School years, students may pursue, in parallel with the MD degree, an advanced degree in their area of interest or other professional development such as a Scholarly Concentration, Masters in Public Health, or combined MD-ScM in Primary Care/Population Medicine (see Advanced Scholarship).



The expected duration of the PLME is eight years. However, students may choose to take advantage of the Flex Plan and extend their program by one or two years. The Flex Plan offers undergraduates the option to defer their entry to the Medical School while they pursue opportunities in other fields such as education, research, public service, government, health care, or business.



The Curriculum: What's your plan?

You want to be a doctor but don't want to sacrifice your passion for painting, interest in environmental science, or dream of studying Renaissance art in Florence. As a PLME student, you're encouraged to build an education that lets you explore diverse paths, develop new interests, and pursue longstanding talents.

DESIGNING YOUR EDUCATION

Each PLME student, in close consultation with his or her advisor who is a physician advising dean, develops an individualized educational plan consistent with his or her particular interests. The plan, submitted in the spring of the student's sophomore year, includes an outlined program of studies; a statement of personal goals and enrichment activities; plans for honors work, study abroad, and advanced degrees; and a copy of the student's approved concentration program.

The PLME Educational Plan outlines the means of acquiring competencies required for entry into the medical portion of the program. With their PLME advisor, students plan their studies as a rational sequence of courses in which competence in the fundamentals is achieved prior to more advanced work. Periodic benchmarks for evaluating progress are established and progress is reviewed semi-annually.

A SAMPLING OF CONCENTRATION SELECTIONS BY PLME STUDENTS

All Brown students must declare a field of concentration by April of sophomore year along with plans for meeting their course requirements for the baccalaureate degree. PLME students may choose anyone of the departmental and interdepartmental concentration programs offered at the University. Concentrations chosen by PLME students have included Africana studies, anthropology, biology, biochemistry and molecular biology, biophysics, chemistry, classics, community health, computer science, East Asian studies, economics, education studies, English, environmental studies, Hispanic literatures and culture, history, independent concentrations, international relations, literatures and cultures in English, mathematics, Middle East studies, music, neuroscience, philosophy, political science, psychology, public health, public policy, religious studies, and visual art.

ADVANCED SCHOLARSHIP

PLME students who wish to earn an advanced degree (MA, ScM, MPH, PhD) must meet the requirements of the Graduate School. Many academic departments at Brown offer graduate programs. After matriculation into the College, students should discuss their interests and goals with a director of a graduate program in planning any study that might lead to an advanced graduate degree.

The Scholarly Concentrations Program is an elective program through which medical students may choose to pursue a course of study beyond the conventional medical education curriculum. Scholarly Concentrations allow students to translate personal interests and activities into scholarship. For PLME students, the program represents an opportunity to continue and expand a current area of interest such as their undergraduate concentration or extracurricular activities, or to potentially explore a new medically-related topic.

As medical students, they may undertake rigorous independent scholarship in a cross-disciplinary field of interest related to medicine, public health, engineering, or a bio-medically relevant topic in the sciences, arts, or humanities. Currently, medical students can pursue concentrations in Advocacy and Activism, Aging, Caring for Underserved Communities, Contemplative Studies, Disaster Medicine and Response, Global Health, Health Policy, Integrative Medicine, Medical Education, Medical Humanities and Ethics, Medical Technology and Innovation, Physician as Communicator, and Women' Reproductive Health.



The Primary Care–Population Medicine (PC-PM) Program is an innovative, dual-degree curriculum that focuses on preparing students for a career in medicine while providing comprehensive, longitudinal training in population medicine.

Changes in health care have increased the need for leaders in community-based care to effectively coordinate efforts to improve the health of Americans. The best care will come from doctors who are trained to understand and improve the community health context of their patients.

The program will prepare medical students for leadership roles in health care on the local, state, or national level in areas ranging from primary care clinical service to research, education, and health policy.

This four-year program, the first of its kind in the United States, results in the awarding of both a Doctor of Medicine and a Master of Science in Population Medicine.

<http://www.brown.edu/academics/medical/education/other-programs/primary-care-population-medicine/about>

THE 8-YEAR PLME IS DESIGNED TO FOSTER:

- individualized education
- acquisition of competency in the preclinical sciences
- professionalism
- appreciation for the social context of medicine
- advanced scholarship

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

- A bachelor's degree in any concentration.
- Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 30 undergraduate academic credits.

Note: Advanced placement credits do not count toward this 30-credit minimum, but may be applied toward demonstration of competence in some preclinical disciplines. Students are advised to consult with PLME advisors.

- In years one through four, demonstration of competence in the preclinical disciplines (biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and the humanities and social sciences). In addition, students are encouraged to develop skills of written expression.



THE MD DEGREE

- In years five through eight, demonstration of competence in the basic medical sciences, the behavioral aspects of medicine, and core clinical areas: internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, and family medicine. Students are observed and evaluated on a daily basis as they develop their clinical reasoning and technical skills. They are encouraged to select elective experiences consistent with their interests in a variety of academic areas, such as epidemiology, public health, ethics, and human values.

The journey to becoming a physician is not one you have to make alone.

Brown's culture of collaboration prizes close faculty-student interactions. Faculty advisors and peer counselors are close at hand to offer PLME students the guidance and information they need to shape their own academic programs and make the most of research, internship, and travel opportunities

THE ADVISING PARTNERSHIP

The advising and counseling system is a key component of the Program in Liberal Medical Education. Students play an active role in planning their education and work closely with their PLME physician advising dean to design their individualized educational plan.

The relationship between PLME freshmen and their PLME advisor begins during orientation. Each student is guided by a PLME advisor in shaping his or her academic curriculum, and supported in establishing lifelong learning habits and maintaining a healthy personal lifestyle. The PLME advisors work with PLME Meiklejohn student advisors who play a key role in helping students navigate Brown. The PLME advisors play an essential role in supporting students as they make their course selections and in discussing ways in which to map out a path to meet the PLME academic competencies, guiding them to research opportunities as well as international experiences.

Concentration advisors are assigned to students in their sophomore year by the appropriate academic department. Career advisors counsel students in the latter years of the Medical School program on appropriate career paths and choices.

Ultimately, students are responsible for their own education. Advisors offer suggestions, point out difficulties, suggest alternatives, discuss options, review requirements, listen and assist students in reflection, but the final choices are the students' own. Students must familiarize themselves with the requirements for their concentration, and for the baccalaureate and medical degrees. The advising system is available to assist in the process. Students are also encouraged to approach faculty members about special areas of expertise and usually find them eager to share their knowledge and perspectives.



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Enrichment activities contribute to students' personal and professional development and enable them to reach out to others through community service. Such activities are available through several programs, departments, and centers on the Brown campus. The following are designed specifically for PLME students.

Summer medical exchange programs offer PLME undergraduate students an opportunity to integrate an international studies experience into their educational plan during the early or later years of their education. These currently include programs in China, Germany and Taiwan.

Note: PLME students are encouraged to explore options to study abroad during the academic year through the Brown University Office of International Programs. A significant number of students elect to study abroad for a semester or year.



The Community Health Advocacy Program (CHAP) works cooperatively with various Providence populations to promote the physical, mental, and emotional health of young people and the community as a whole. Composed of student volunteers, teams identify relevant health issues and then create programs to address these issues. CHAP provides the opportunity for communities and future health care professionals to meet the health care needs of areas that are often underserved due to a variety of social, economic, and cultural barriers. <http://brownchap.com/>



The Medicine in Action Program offers undergraduates and medical students a chance to observe physicians in their working environment. Students can explore a variety of clinical settings, observe physician/patient relationships firsthand, go on rounds with the medical team, and get to know individual Medical School faculty and alumni more closely. Medical students can hone their career choices by seeking mentors in their area of interest.

The PLME Senate is a student organization that works to foster a sense of community and early professional development among PLME undergraduates. The PLME Senate coordinates the Whole Patient Program (for freshmen), which is centered around patient case presentations, and the Whole Physician Program (for all PLMEs), which focuses on physician and medical student panel events. The Senate also plans social and community service activities during the year. <http://www.brown.edu/academics/medical/plme/senate/home>

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Research Assistantships (SRAs) in Biomedical Sciences or in Emergency Medicine are made available annually on a competitive basis to students enrolled in the PLME. This is an excellent opportunity to become engaged in a biomedical research project under the supervision and mentorship of a Brown faculty member [e.g. Instructor rank or above]. Students who are awarded an assistantship usually carry out their research project on campus or at a Brown-affiliated hospital between June-August. Applications for a student and a faculty member to work abroad together are considered only when both the faculty and student will be on site together.



The Directory of Research and Researchers at Brown (DRR-B), produced by the Office of the Vice President for Research, is designed to help Brown faculty promote their own research activities and to make it easy for various audiences (including Brown students and staff, investors and funding organizations, and the public at large) to keep track of ongoing research at Brown. <https://vivo.brown.edu>

The Biology Undergraduate Affairs Office maintains a searchable database of research opportunities for undergraduates at Brown that lists faculty names and their research interests and may be browsed at <http://med.brown.edu/bug/>. It can be used to identify volunteer (non-credit) research opportunities, summer projects, independent study projects, and Honors projects. <http://biology.brown.edu/bug/>



What you should know before you apply.

ADMISSION

The goal of the PLME is enrichment, not acceleration. PLME students complete their program of studies in eight years (though some decide to extend their education by pursuing a master's degree, or through the PLME Flex Plan, the MD/PhD program, MPH, MD/ScM or other individual pursuits).

A PLME applicant is, by definition, an applicant to Brown. Each PLME applicant is considered an applicant to both the College and the PLME. There is no separate application to the PLME. Applicants complete the Common Application and the Brown Supplemental Application.

University policy dictates that no candidate for admission be denied solely on the basis of the degree program for which he or she seeks consideration. Therefore, those applicants not admitted to the PLME are still considered candidates to the College for the bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree.

Candidates considered admissible by the College Admission Office are reviewed by the PLME Advisory Selection Board. Decisions are communicated to PLME applicants just as they are to other Brown applicants. It is expected that the number of PLME applicants will greatly exceed the places available each year.

Note: Applying to the PLME is tantamount to applying to the College and The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University at the same time. Students who expect to apply to other medical schools should not apply to the PLME, which is an eight-year educational program.

Applicants are assessed without regard to sex, race, religion, national origin, or handicap. The PLME maintains a strong affirmative action program and encourages applications from underrepresented minority groups as well as Rhode Island residents. Junior year high school applicants are not excluded by any rule; however, such admissions are exceptional.

Students are selected on the basis of scholastic accomplishment and promise, intellectual curiosity, emotional maturity, character, motivation, sensitivity, caring, and particularly on the degree to which they seem adapted to the special features of the program. For the PLME, Brown seeks highly qualified and strongly motivated students who are committed to a career in medicine and who wish to pursue an area of academic interest to an advanced level of scholarship within the framework of a broad liberal education.

PLME CANDIDATES AND EARLY DECISION

A student applying early decision to the College and the PLME may be admitted in December to both the College and the PLME. However, some students may be selected early decision for admission to the College only and not the PLME. In this circumstance, the student will be bound by the early decision agreement to attend the College regardless of non-acceptance into the PLME program. Those who apply early decision and are admitted to the College and not to PLME will be reconsidered for the PLME during regular decision.

Those students who do not want to be bound to the College at early decision without being admitted to the PLME program are asked to apply through Regular Decision.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION FACTORS

The PLME does not have specific high school prerequisites beyond those of the College. However, PLME applicants are encouraged to take advantage of honors, International Baccalaureate or advanced placement offerings available to them in high school.

The College Admission Office recommends that applicants have pursued the following: four years of English; at least three years, preferably four years of mathematics; three years, preferably four years of a single foreign language; at least three years of science, including two years of laboratory science; two years of history, including American history.

While there are no specific course requirements for admission to Brown, you should take all of the fundamental courses that are essential preparation for university-level studies. Ideally Brown undergraduates will have studied at least one foreign language for four years (or the equivalent). Studies will have included biology, physics, chemistry, and at least calculus. Applicants planning to concentrate in science, math, or engineering will certainly benefit from more advanced courses in their area of interest.

Students who stretch themselves in one or more academic area will stand out among applicants who choose a less demanding route. We are looking for students who are exceptionally eager to learn and willing to accept academic challenges. Brown also encourages the study of music and art.

Applicants are required to submit results of the SAT Reasoning Test and any two SAT Subject Tests. PLME candidates are advised to include a science test as one of the two required SAT Subject Tests. Alternatively, an applicant may submit results of the ACT, which takes the place of both the SAT Reasoning Test and the SAT Subject Tests. If choosing the ACT, the applicant must take it with the Writing Test option.

The current SAT will be discontinued in March 2016 and replaced by the redesigned SAT with an optional writing section. Brown will not require First-Year applicants to the Class of 2021 or beyond to take the optional writing section on the redesigned SAT. Brown will still require applicants submitting the SAT to also provide results from two Subject Tests of the applicant's choice. The PLME strongly suggests that one of these be in a science.

Brown currently accepts the ACT with Writing in lieu of the SAT and the Subject Tests. First-Year applicants to the Class of 2021 or beyond will be strongly encouraged, but not required, to include the ACT Writing Section.



VISITING BROWN

Applicants are encouraged to learn about Brown as an institution. Those who have not had the opportunity previously may visit Brown between mid-April (when they receive admission notification) and May 1 (candidate's reply date). These visits provide a chance to sit in on classes and to appreciate the environment in which the PLME operates.

INTERVIEWS

Formal, on-campus interviews are not offered for Brown applicants. Once a candidate applies to the College, a local alumnus/ alumna may contact him or her to propose an "alumni interview" in his or her hometown area. Alumni interviews are optional but recommended.

TRANSFER INTO THE PROGRAM

There is no point of transfer into the PLME. Students are not considered for transfer from other Brown degree programs or from another college.

IMPORTANT DATES

Early Decision Application Deadline - Nov 1

Early Decision Notification - By Dec 15

Regular Action Application Deadline - Jan 1

Regular Action Notification - Early Apr

Application fee: Yes

TUITION

Tuition for the first four years of the program is the same as that of the College. Tuition for the Medical School is somewhat higher than the college tuition, but consistent with other private medical schools. Tuition is determined each year by vote of the Brown Corporation.

FINANCIAL AID

Beginning with the Class of 2007, the College implemented a need-blind admission policy for all U.S. citizens and permanent residents. "Need-blind admission" simply means that your ability to pay for your education will not be a factor in the admission decision. Its basic premise is that a family's financial circumstances will not be considered when reviewing a student's application for undergraduate admission. Family and individual circumstances are considered only with respect to financial aid.

Please visit <http://www.brown.edu/about/administration/financial-aid/> to learn more about the College's financial aid.

The Medical School works closely with students to identify and secure both institutional and external sources of funding needed to meet the high cost of medical education. While the primary responsibility for payment of medical education rests with each student and his or her family, the Medical School provides financial aid from several sources, including scholarships, low-interest, subsidized loans, non-subsidized loans, and part-time employment. Please visit <http://med.brown.edu/financialaid/> to learn more about the Medical School's financial aid.



AFFILIATED TEACHING HOSPITALS

The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Rhode Island's only school of medicine, is affiliated with seven diverse teaching hospitals. Following two years of basic sciences, which are taught on campus, medical students complete two years of clinical training in these hospitals.

Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital

- 719-bed acute care hospital and the only Level 1 Trauma Center in southeastern New England
- only pediatric intensive care unit and pediatric oncology and cardiac programs in the area

The Miriam Hospital

- primary, secondary, and tertiary medical and surgical services, including 31 specialties and subspecialties
- site of Brown research program in AIDS/immunology and behavioral and preventive medicine

Women & Infants Hospital

- Rhode Island's largest obstetrical service (70% of all obstetrical deliveries) and second-largest service of its kind in New England
- some 9,300 deliveries per year

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island

- 294-bed facility serves a community of more than 180,000
- home to the Brown University Center for Primary Care and Prevention

Providence VA Medical Center

- comprehensive outpatient and inpatient health care to area veterans
- nationally and internationally recognized for clinical research in oncology, heart and lung diseases, hypertension and psychological disorders

Butler Hospital

- psychiatric hospital and national leader in research in and treatment of substance abuse, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder

Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital

- first child/adolescent psychiatric center in the U.S. and only such hospital in Rhode Island
- national center for training and research in child and adolescent psychiatry

RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Where do our medical school graduates go next? In their last year of medical school students apply to a residency program, where they begin their specialty training as doctors after receiving their MD degree. This is known as graduate medical education (GME).

Brown's MD graduates enjoy a high rate of success in the residency match process, training in outstanding residency programs at such places as UC-Davis Medical Center, Yale-New Haven Hospital, Georgetown University Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital, University Hospital of Cleveland, University of Chicago Program, and Wills Eye Hospital, to name just a few. The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and its affiliated hospitals offer 22 residency programs. Many of them, such as neurosurgery and orthopedics, are among the most competitive in the U.S.

Please visit <https://www.brown.edu/academics/medical/about/facts-and-figures/md-2015-match-list> for a complete listing of residency matches for our most recent graduating class.



PLME

<http://www.brown.edu/academics/medical/plme/>

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Warren Alpert Medical School

<http://www.brown.edu/academics/medical/>



The College Admission Office
admission@brown.edu

Brown University
<http://www.brown.edu>

Brown University admits students of any race, color, religion, handicap, sex, and national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the University. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, handicap, status as a veteran, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, or other school-administered programs.