

Premedical Graduate Certificate Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1) **What materials do I need to submit for a complete application?**

An application package consists of the following: Official Transcripts from all colleges attended, Official Test Score(s), Personal Statement, Three Reference Letters (a Committee Letter Packet, or service providers such as Interfolio will be fine).

2) **How do I complete an application and where do I mail the materials for my application?**

Please complete an online application at <https://ssb.vcu.edu/> Application instructions can be found at <http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/admission/prospective/domestic/index.html>

**All applications materials should be mailed to The Graduate School Admissions Office:**

Virginia Commonwealth University  
Graduate School  
Moseley House  
1001 Grove Avenue  
P.O. Box 843051  
Richmond, Virginia 23284-3051

3) **Is there a minimum GPA or MCAT cutoff?**

No, but accepted applicants have GPA above 3.0, MCAT above 25, DAT above 16, or GRE above 1,200 (Verbal plus Quantitative) and 4.0 Analytic

4) **When should I submit my application?**

The application cycle starts in January for Fall semester enrollment. It is ideal to submit your application as early as possible and before the July deadline.

5) **If I am approved based on my Fast Track application, am I officially accepted?**

No, you still need to complete the official graduate application and submit all the necessary materials to be considered for admission.

## Premedical Graduate Certificate Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

- 6) **If I recently decided to change my career and I want to apply to medical or dental school, will this program help me fulfill the prerequisites required?**

No. This is a graduate program designed for students who already have completed the pre-requisites. It is not a program for those who have few or none of the pre-requisites and wish to complete courses not yet attempted. Professional schools want to see progress in graduate level course work if you already attempted undergraduate course work but have not performed at the "A" or "B" level. This program is to help improve your application if you lack the competitive grades necessary to enter graduate level programs in the health sciences.

For those who have not taken these required courses, VCU also has an undergraduate program: [Post-Baccalaureate Health Sciences Certificate](http://www.vcu.edu/uc/prehealth/Prehealthpostbach.htm).

(<http://www.vcu.edu/uc/prehealth/Prehealthpostbach.htm>)

- 7) **If I have fulfilled the prerequisites required but have not taken the recommended upper division courses for medical or dental school (i.e. Biochemistry, Physiology, Genetics), would you recommend this program for me?**

Due to the rigorous course load and volume of material presented in the graduate courses, this program is not recommended for students without prior exposure to upper division science courses such as Biochemistry and Physiology. It would be ideal for applicants to take the undergraduate level courses before applying to the CERT program.

- 8) **If it has been years since I have taken a science course, is this program for me?**

No, the courses in this program are graduate level courses that are both rigorous and comprehensive. It would be better for you to take undergraduate level upper division science courses.

- 9) **I have transcripts and test scores from my undergraduate career. Can I meet with someone prior to applying to the Certificate program to have my questions answered?**

We would gladly schedule an appointment if you feel your questions cannot be answered clearly through email or telephone.

- 10) **If I apply to the medical school while attending VCU CERT program, does VCU School of Medicine automatically hold my AMCAS application for Fall semester grades?**

Enrollment in the CERT program does not guarantee VCU SOM will hold your application for Fall semester grades. Generally, VCU SOM will place CERT student applicants on hold for grades if they have qualifying attributes, such as strong upward trend in GPA over past one or two years, competitive MCAT score of 30+, and significant clinical experience.

## Premedical Graduate Certificate Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

11) **If my MCAT or DAT is below admissions standards of professional schools, should I retake the MCAT or DAT prior to or during the course of this program?**

No. You should wait until at least June following the program to retake the standardized exam. The exposure to basic sciences is likely to improve your scores. There is also an MCAT refresher course offered in the Spring semester.

12) **How do I submit my MCAT score when I am applying to the program?**

This is accomplished by logging on to the 'MCAT Testing History (THx) System' at <https://services.aamc.org/mcatthx/>. Because you are sending your scores to the VCU Graduate Office and NOT VCU's SOM, you cannot choose to electronically send your scores in the 'Send my scores to medical schools and other programs I designate' section. You will need to print and send the hard copy of your score report. Once you log in to the THx, look under the heading 'What Would You Like To Do?' and click on the link for 'Create and Print my own official score report.' The website will take you to another page with a link that instructs you to 'Retrieve my Score Report,' click this link and it will open your newly created score report. Print this score report and send the hard copy in with the rest of your application materials to the address listed in questions #2 of this section. There will be a 16-character verification code underneath your name at the top of the report. The Graduate Office uses this verification code to confirm your score with the AAMC. ***We do not accept score reports sent via email.***

March 5, 2011