



DOWNSTATE  
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
**ADMISSIONS**  
INFORMATION BOOKLET



SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University  
College of Medicine  
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# 2026–2027 GENERAL INFORMATION

The State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Health Sciences University is the only academic Health Sciences University for health education, research, and patient care serving approximately 2.6 million residents of the borough of Brooklyn. Brooklyn is the most populous of the five boroughs of New York City. The borough is estimated to be the seventh largest county in the United States, and if it were a city, it is estimated it would rank as the fourth largest city.

Located on an urban campus in central Brooklyn, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University includes a College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Health Professions, School of Graduate Studies, School of Public Health and the University Hospital of Brooklyn (UHB). UHB expands access to medical services and sees patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Hospital also operates several satellite health centers to serve community healthcare needs.

Over 1,800 students pursue certificate programs, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, Master of Public Health, Doctor of Public Health, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Doctor in Nursing Practice, Ph.D. and M.D. degrees.

The Center is heir to a tradition that began more than a century ago, with the founding in 1860 of the Long Island College Hospital — this country's first teaching hospital and the prototype for all subsequent Health Sciences University's. SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University has a three-fold mandate: education to train physicians, nurses, research scientists and allied health professionals; research in the medical sciences; and the provision of clinical care to the population of New York State.

This complex organization serves the needs of a larger and more diverse urban constituency than any other such center in the country. It upholds a special responsibility to solve difficult problems found primarily in urban areas, and to serve those who are underserved.

For more information about the College of Medicine, see our website at <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/college-of-medicine/admissions/index.html> Topics include: institutional history, facilities, curriculum, application policies and procedures, research opportunities, residency placement information, student life, residential life, and financial aid.

## CURRICULUM

### OVERVIEW

The primary goal of the College of Medicine is to graduate excellent physicians. Whether the student's ultimate goal is general or specialty practice, research, medical administration or academic medicine, the College provides a comprehensive educational experience for all students.

The educational objectives of the curriculum are intended to provide students with the basics that they will need to embark upon graduate medical education in the field of their choice, and ultimately to become competent and compassionate physicians. To achieve these objectives,

the College has set standards of knowledge, teaches the skills and engenders attitudes necessary to enable students to reach their goals.

The Integrated Pathways curriculum emphasizes learning across disciplines with an emphasis on understanding core principles.

It is a competency-based curriculum designed to prepare our graduates to enter any field of medicine and will include attaining the knowledge, attitudes, and skills contained within the six **Domains of Competence**. These Domains of Competence are modeled after the six competencies, which are followed by residency programs. Our curriculum will provide a form of continuity for our graduates into residency, and better prepare them for the next level in their careers.

### GOALS

#### THE SIX COMPETENCIES

- Patient Care
- Medical Knowledge
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills
- Medical Professionalism
- Practice-based Learning and Improvement
- Systems-based Practice

Upon graduation from SUNY Downstate, the student will have demonstrated the following:

#### 1. Domain of Patient Care

Graduates must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

#### 2. Domain of Medical Knowledge

Graduates must demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and cognate (e.g., epidemiological and social-behavioral) sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care.

#### 3. Domain of Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Graduates must be able to investigate and evaluate their patient care practices, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and improve their patient care practices.

#### 4. Domain of Interpersonal and Communication Skills

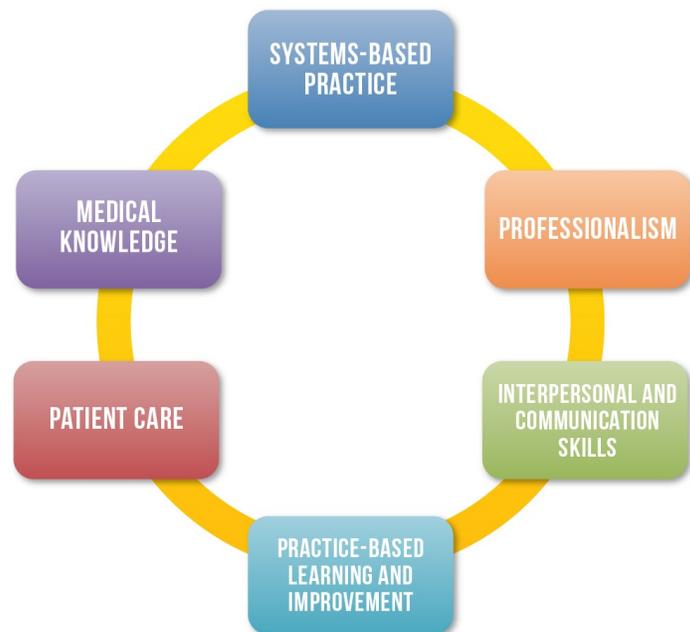
Graduates must be able to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their patients' families, and professional associates.

#### 5. Domain of Professionalism

Graduates must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population. Graduates must also assess personal values and priorities in order to maintain an appropriate balance of personal and professional commitments.

## 6. Domain of Systems-Based Practice

Graduates must demonstrate an awareness of the relationship between themselves and the patient, community, and healthcare system as well as recognize the impact on optimizing patient care.



Both clinical medicine and foundational basic science will be taught over the entire four years in a three-phased curriculum

Foundations of Medicine.....	18 months
Core Clinical Medicine (Clerkships).....	12 months
Advanced Clinical Medicine.....	14 months

### FOUNDATIONS OF MEDICINE

There are six major interdisciplinary units in the Foundations of Medicine that promote learning in all six competencies and integrate learning normal and abnormal structure and function. Students will begin practicing clinical skills from the beginning of the curriculum allowing them to develop their mastery of basic techniques over an 18-month period prior to entry into Core Clerkships.

#### Foundations of Medicine: Year 1

The Foundations of Medicine uses a multidisciplinary, systems-based approach to teach the normal structure and function of the body while introducing students to basic clinical skills and abnormal structure and function. The disciplines (i.e., Gross Anatomy, Biochemistry, etc.) are integrated and organized into Units based either on foundational concepts (Units 1–3) or on organ systems (Units 4–6).

Each Unit incorporates multiple teaching modalities including lectures, case-based learning, team-based learning, Problem Oriented Patient Sessions (POPS), laboratories, and patient skill laboratories. Students are expected to take responsibility for ensuring that they obtain a conceptual understanding of subject matter in addition to knowledge of factual information. Weekly formative assessments, similar to those used at the

end of unit summative assessments, will help students track their progress.

#### Unit 1. Systems Overview: Human Structure and Function

The first Unit begins with an overview of major organ systems as well as principles of physiology and pharmacology. Students will begin learning and practicing clinical skills such as listening to heart and lung sounds, palpation of major organs, measuring pulse and respiration rates and examining the musculoskeletal system. Students will also begin to learn the structure of the human body by examining dissections and then performing dissections intended to demonstrate the musculoskeletal systems and consequences of injury to these systems. This learning will be supplemented by the use of medical imaging such as radiographs and ultrasound.

#### Unit 2. Molecules to Cells

In Unit 2 students will develop an understanding of the biochemical, molecular and cellular biological and genetic basis for disease. During this Unit, students continue to practice and develop clinical skills introducing elements related to the diseases under study and begin to work with physician preceptors in ambulatory offices. Among topics to be covered in the medical knowledge portion will be the expression of genetic information, differences in structure and function of differentiated cells, protein and enzyme structure and function, energy generation by metabolism of basic foodstuffs and the role of nutrition in health and disease, early embryonic development, the cellular basis of neoplasia and the life cycle and function of red blood cells., as well as an introduction to immunology. Students will also study cancers of the lymphoid system, leukemias and lymphomas, and their treatment.

#### Unit 3. Infection & Host Immunity

Unit 3 introduces students to infectious diseases, the biology of the causative agents and the defense systems that protect against them both as defenders of the human body and as causes of disease when regulatory systems fail. Students will first extend their knowledge of immunology by studying white blood cells and their role in defense against pathogens. They will study the role of lymphocytes and antigen-presenting cells in humoral and cell-mediated immune responses along with understanding the body-wide distribution of lymphoid tissues and organs. To understand the anatomical distribution of defense mechanisms and the sensitivity of respiratory passages to infectious agents' students will explore the anatomy of the head and neck and the susceptibility of these structures to infections by respiratory viruses. Diseases caused by disorders of the immune system such as allergies, inflammation, HIV infection, and auto-immunity will be examined in relation to specific diseases. The role the immune system plays in diseases of skin, muscles, bones and joints will also be a focus of this Unit. Concepts developed during this Unit will also be applied to further development of clinical skills.

#### Unit 4. Gastrointestinal, Endocrine and Reproductive Systems

Unit 4 is the first of three units focused on defined organ systems. Fundamental knowledge acquired in Units 1 to 3 will be applied to disorders and diseases that affect the gastrointestinal, endocrine and reproductive systems. Initially students will explore the structure of the gastrointestinal tract through anatomic dissection and the physiology and

pathophysiology underlying its normal function and disorders that arise, as well as pharmacologic treatment of these disorders. Imaging techniques will help students relate the anatomy of the organs to their microscopic structure and the mechanisms underlying functionality. Inter-relationships between organs will be explored to understand digestion and uptake of nutrients and the role of nutrition in normal health or disease. In the endocrine section, normal function and diseases of the endocrine glands, including diabetes will be covered. Students will learn diagnostic techniques and treatments and imaging will be used to reinforce concepts. Later, students will examine the structure and function of male and female reproductive systems and the control mechanisms that regulate their functioning. In an integrated fashion student will become familiar with diseases and disorders that affect these systems including cancers and dysfunctions of the endocrine systems that regulate such organs. Disorders of the breast, and normal and abnormal pregnancy are also covered in this section. Students continue to practice taking histories, doing physical exams and applying the information they gather to making diagnoses.

## Foundations of Medicine: Year 2

### Unit 5. Cardiovascular Respiratory & Renal Systems

After the summer, this Unit begins the second year of Foundations. Students will learn about the structure and function of the cardiovascular system and the effect of various diseases affecting it such as valvular disease and myocardial infarction, as well as pharmacologic treatment. Later, students will explore the functioning of the lungs and kidneys and their roles in maintaining homeostasis together with the consequences of diseases affecting these organs and their treatment. Since these organs act together to regulate normal conditions within the body, students will learn how their functions are integrated and what happens when this normal state is disrupted. Throughout the Unit students will apply their clinical skills and incorporate new information related to examination of the patient including EKG data interpretation and imaging techniques. In this unit, students begin to interview and examine patients in the hospital setting to refine their clinical skills and to practice the fundamentals of clinical reasoning.

### Unit 6. Brain, Mind & Behavior

Unit 6 is the last component of the Foundations of Medicine and is focused on understanding the central nervous system as well as psychiatric disorders. Initially students will examine the gross and microscopic structures of the various regions of the human brain using prosecutions, imaging and virtual microscopy. These studies will be combined with recognizing the effects of tumors and infections on the brain. Students will then learn to apply concepts of central neural pathways to the neurological aspect of the physical examination together with the effect of disorders such as epilepsy and stroke and demyelinating diseases. Finally, students will explore how the brain determines aspects of human behavior and consciousness and the consequences of defects that lead to abnormal function and behavior (dementia, delirium, psychosis and anxiety or

depression). **Students continue to practice their clinical skills in order to prepare them for their Core Clinical, or clerkship year.**

Following the assessment week for Unit 6, students will have an interval to study for and pass the Step 1, United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE), one of the three exams required for licensure,

## Core Clinical Medicine (Clerkships)— 12 months

The Core Clinical Medicine year includes paired clerkships which serve to enhance interdisciplinary teaching and support integration of relevant basic science knowledge

## Advanced Clinical Medicine— 14 months

The Advanced Clinical Medicine period requires students to take at least 4 weeks of a directed research experience, a Diagnostic Imaging rotation, a Critical Care rotation, an Emergency Medicine rotation, four weeks of Geriatrics and Palliative Care, and a Sub-Internship in either Medicine, Surgery or Pediatrics. Students will have approximately 4 months of elective time and a 4-month period that includes time for vacation, Step 2 studying, and residency interviews.

## Third and Fourth Year Curriculum

The requirements for graduation are as follows:

Core (third year) Clerkships	Number of Weeks in Rotation
Transition to Clerkship	1
Internal Medicine	8
Surgery	8
Anesthesiology	2
Pediatrics	6
Women's Health	6
Psychiatry	6
Neurology	4
Primary Care/Family Medicine.*	4

The third year includes 4 weeks of elective time that can also be used as flexible time or vacation as long as the total clinical time requirements are met by graduation. In the spring of the third year students are required to successfully pass a mandatory standardized patient experience, which is designed to be preparation for the Clinical Skills, United States Medical Licensing Exam (Step 2CS, USMLE).

\* The Primary Care/Family Medicine clerkship extends one half-day per week, through the Medicine and Surgery clerkships, to allow students a longitudinal ambulatory care experience.

Fourth Year (Advanced Year) Rotations	Number of Weeks in Rotation
Emergency Medicine	4
Geriatrics/Palliative Care	4
Critical Care	2
Sub internship (Medicine, Surgery or Pediatrics)	4
Diagnostic Imaging	4
Research Experience Project (REP)	4
Clinical electives	16
<b>Total Clinical Requirement</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Number of "Unscheduled" Weeks</b>	<b>22</b>

In addition to the clinical requirements listed above, students are required to take the USMLE Step 2CK and USMLE Step 2CS examinations no later than October 31 of their fourth year and to pass them prior to graduation.

## CLINICAL FACILITIES

Clinical rotations providing students with a broad spectrum of experience in varied clinical settings are available in other hospitals throughout New York City. For a current list of our clinical sites, please go to <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/student-services/registrar/catalog/college-of-medicine/clinical-affiliates.html>

## Learning Methods

The curriculum emphasizes methods that will prepare students for the type of learning they will need to engage in as physicians. Teaching methods have been selected which promote student centered, active learning and promote problem solving and clinical reasoning, rather than rote memorization.

The curriculum supports active learning through a variety of learning methods described below that promote learning in groups and are linked to frequent feedback via formative assessments allowing both students and faculty members to monitor progress. These methods are chosen to promote learning at an application level with long-term retention.

## Interactive Lecture

Lectures are used to ensure conceptual understanding of difficult material, emphasize key concepts and principles and provide an organizational structure on which to build new learning. Lectures are meant to be interactive—that is, they will involve students in problem solving, demonstrations, or discussion.

## Laboratory-based exercises

These exercises require students to learn directly from biological materials, such as dissecting cadavers. In addition to the acquisition of medical knowledge, students in laboratory-based exercises learn to work in teams and can practice communication skills by presenting results of their work to other students and to faculty.

## Virtual microscopy exercises

These exercises require students to learn about the normal structure of human tissues and the pathologies affecting them using state of the art technology both in groups and by students on their own.

## Problem Based Learning

Students work in groups of 9 or 10 with a facilitator, developing research questions based on a patient case. Cases might begin with students gathering case information from a standardized patient to practice patient interviewing skills. Students will derive research questions from the case by group discussion. After working on the research questions, groups will meet in the following sessions to present their findings. This mode lends itself to integrating learning of medical knowledge with clinical skills and mirrors the “discovery learning” skills needed by physicians for a lifetime of learning.

## Patient Oriented Problem Solving (POPS)

Students work in teams of 4, discussing a set of 4 cases that relate to the topics they have been learning. One student is provided with the answers to questions regarding the cases, and student help each other in discovery learning. A subject expert Facilitator is available for clarification of difficult concepts.

## Facilitated Small Group Clinical Skills Training

Students work in small groups with a faculty member to learn basic clinical skills. They will develop their command of these skills by practicing on each other, on patients in clinics or doctors' offices or by working in the Simulation Center with standardized patient actors or teaching associates.

## Team Based Learning (TBL)

Team based learning occurs throughout the curriculum, including both the Foundations and Clinical Years and is an example of a “flipped classroom” approach to education. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with topics assigned prior to the session. They are assigned to teams in class. The session begins with a pre-test, which is taken by the individual student, and then repeated by the team. The teams then address a problem or problems to solve regarding specific topics and asked to answer questions. All teams come together and discuss their rationale for answer choices and a subject matter expert is present to help facilitate the discussion of confusing concepts.

## Patient Care Centered Learning

Students will work with patients during all four years but learning from patients is most intense in the Core and Advanced Clinical Medicine years. Students will learn medicine in the office and at the bedside during clerkships, other clinical rotations and electives. Standardized patients will be used during the Core Clinical Year to help students refine their clinical skills and to prepare them for the Step 2 Clinical Skills exam.

## ASSESSMENT (GRADING)

Foundations of Medicine utilizes a Pass/Fail grading system. The Core Clinical Medicine and the Advanced Clinical Medicine utilizes a five (5) tier grading system (Honors, High Pass, Pass, Conditional, Fail).

Formative assessments are designed to prepare students for summative assessments at the end of units or clerkships. The use of assessment methods other than multiple-choice tests includes essays, laboratory practical's, objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs), and other methods.

All six competencies are represented in the learning objectives and assessment outcomes for each unit and clerkship. Students are not allowed to progress to the next phase of the curriculum without satisfying the requirements for each competency.

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

We are very proud that research from SUNY Downstate has been acknowledged as breakthrough work by other scientists. SUNY Downstate Medical Center emphasizes the importance of research to physicians and encourages its medical students to participate in research as part of their medical training. Our medical students can learn how to use available information to formulate hypotheses that can be tested and extend knowledge in their research area. They learn how to be effective members of a research team and gain training in collecting, analyzing, graphing, interpreting and presenting their results to the team at regular meetings with mentors and collaborators on the team. Research opportunities are available throughout all four years of medical school. There are a large number of research choices with training provided by mentors in many different Downstate clinical departments, laboratories and/or at other collaborating NYC area laboratories. Mentors provide research training in basic science, clinical and in translational medicine disciplines. A list of Downstate Faculty and their areas of interest is provided on the institutional Research website:

<https://www.downstate.edu/research/index.html>

Many students begin doing research as early as the summer of their first year in medical school. The Alumni Association Fund provides support to summer research students through the submission of small grant applications submitted by students with the help of their identified mentors. The grant applications are scored and students receive awards for the best applications through an assigned committee. Full descriptions of these opportunities are available on our website <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/college-of-medicine/student-research/summer.html>

Students can and do decide to continue this work beyond the summer period, thus gaining more training and involvement with their project and potential for inclusion in abstracts and papers emanating from the work. Those students who wish to pursue research on a full-time basis for a year or more at NIH or many other available granting institutions/foundations are also encouraged and supported to do so. At Downstate, each year the Alumni Association also sponsors one student for a full year of research between the third and fourth years of school. The newly developed Research Experience Project (REP) which is required of all 4<sup>th</sup> year students, involves the writing of a hypothesis driven research paper, under the guidance of a Faculty mentor. This 4-8 week program allows students to further develop and write up projects they may have participated in earlier, or to analyze literature or databases that already exist. Many of the Pathways, including the

Medical Educator Pathway and, the Clinical Neurosciences Pathway encourage and mentor students in completing research projects..

Medical students who have participated significantly in research are acknowledged at graduation with specific departmental awards or others including "Distinction in Research" or "Commendation in Investigative Scholarship". Approximately 15 students per year receive this recognition.

The MD-PhD program at Downstate graduates approximately 3 dual degree medical students every year. The College of Medicine in conjunction with the School of Graduate Studies sponsors an annual Research Day where students are given the opportunity to present their research to the Downstate community. Students compete in the poster competition at Research Day and have the opportunity to be acknowledged for the quality of their poster presentation and can receive awards that can include travel support to scientific meetings where the students present their research to other scientists.

## MD/PHD PROGRAM

The College of Medicine and the School of Graduate Studies jointly sponsor a program leading to an excellent, combined MD/PhD degree. This program combines a medical education with an intensive research experience and is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a career in academic medicine. Students will pay for the first two years of medical school and then the 4 lab years plus the last two years of COM will be covered by a stipend. This program, which graduated its first MD/PhD in 1967, has been highly successful.

In evaluating applicants for the program, considerable emphasis is placed on prior research experience. Applicants to this program must apply for admission separately to the College of Medicine and to the School of Graduate Studies. Applicants interested in the MD/PHD program will apply to the PHD program in their second year of medical school.

## MD/MPH & MD/MHA PROGRAM

Medical students at SUNY Downstate can earn a Master of Public Health degree or a Masters in Health Administration degree while at the same time they earn their MD degree. Some students choose to complete the MPH or MHA by taking summer courses starting before the first year of medical school. Others take a year off between the third and fourth year of medical school to complete the MPH or MHA; either way, the MPH or MHA gives a physician the power to do more.

Our programs focuses on the health of immigrant and urban populations and administration. The student may choose to complete the MPH in one of five core areas: Biostatistics, Community Health Sciences, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Health Care Administration or Health Policy and Management

To learn more about the MD/MPH or MD/MHA program please click on the following <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/school-of-public-health/programs/md-master-of-public-health/index.html>

It is not necessary to complete a second application. We will use your AMAS application for the MD/MPH or MD/MHA program. The application

deadline for MD/MPH or MD/MHA applicants is May 1 for the Summer-entering class.

When filing your AMCAS application, you should indicate “Combined Medical Degree/Graduate.”

## RESIDENCY PLACEMENT

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University has an excellent reputation for clinical preparation and training for residency. In addition, another variable used by many residency programs to determine who will be granted a residency program interview is Step 1 of the USMLE (licensing exam). SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University's students have consistently passed Step 1 on the first attempt at higher than the national average, and with scores above the national average.

Among the institutions where the Class of 2024 went for their residency training are: New York Presbyterian (Columbia), New York University, Einstein and Einstein Affiliates, Mount Sinai, Northwell Health Systems, Beth Israel, Boston Univ., Emory, USC, Temple Univ, Johns Hopkins, Rochester, UCLA, U. Pennsylvania, Yale, Cleveland Clinic, and many others.

Residency placement lists for more than 20 years (including 2024) are posted on the web site at: <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/student-affairs/residency-placement-lists/index.html>

## RESIDENTIAL LIFE

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University maintains two residential facilities for students in the Colleges of Medicine & Nursing and Schools of Graduate Studies, Health Professions, & Public Health. There are two Residence Halls located on the SUNY Downstate Campus. Each building can accommodate approximately 200 residents for a total capacity of 400 residents, in traditional residence hall rooms and apartments. For additional information on-campus, please visit our website at <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/student-services/residential-life/index.html>

Students may also elect to live off-campus. The Office of Residential Life & Services provides interested students with off-campus housing information as a service. SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University employees do not inspect, approve/supervise any off-campus premises. The SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University does not become a party to any private landlord-tenant matters. Students wishing to obtain our current off-campus housing list can do so in person at our office located at 811 New York Avenue. To find out more about the borough of Brooklyn please visit <https://www.brooklyn-usa.org/>.

## FINANCIAL AID

SUNY Downstate Medical Center is committed to helping students meet their educational expenses through various types of financial assistance. Grants are offered on the basis of need, determined in accordance with Federal regulations. Some scholarships based on academic achievement are available.

The major portion of our assistance is derived from federal and state funding. We offer grants, scholarships, loans and federal work study. Loans are the most common form of assistance. The amount of assistance you may receive is determined by the cost of attendance. Although, the primary responsibility for financing graduate education rests with you, we are able to provide assistance to all students.

To apply for aid, you must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible. As a Graduate Health Professions student, you must submit parental information on the FAFSA in order to be considered for the economically disadvantaged grants we are able to offer. We highly recommend that you visit our website for applications, deadlines, and further information regarding financial aid. If you are accepted to the College of Medicine, instructions for applying will be e-mailed to you, but they are also available on the website.

## COSTS OF EDUCATION

The current tuition rates for the College of Medicine is on the Bursar's web site located at <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/student-services/bursar/index.html>

Estimated budgets for each of the four years are posted on the financial aid website <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/student-services/financial-aid/index.html>

Tuition and fees are subject to change by the State University System Board of Trustees.

Living expenses will vary depending upon the type of accommodations and lifestyle selected by you; however, aid will only be based on your cost of attendance as determined by the Office of Financial Aid, not your lifestyle choices. You should always try to economize to the greatest extent possible so as to prevent unnecessary debt.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, private medical schools reported an average indebtedness level of their 2024 graduating students of \$222,381, while public medical schools reported an average indebtedness of \$197,843 for the same period.

For the Downstate class of 2024, the estimated average medical school indebtedness of our graduates is \$227,446.

## ADMISSION INFORMATION

### ADMISSIONS POLICY

The Committee on Admissions considers the total qualifications of each applicant without regard to sex, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital status or disability. Decisions regarding admission are based on multiple factors including prior academic performance; completion of the courses required for

admission; the potential for academic success including performance on standardized tests such as the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT); communication skills, character, personal skills, health related experiences, and motivation for a career in medicine. New York State residents are given admissions preference, although well-qualified out of state applicants are also accepted. We welcome and encourage applications from women and members of groups underrepresented in medicine.

## TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The College of Medicine strives to select students who possess the intelligence, integrity and personal and emotional characteristics that are considered necessary to become an effective health professional.

Students admitted to the College of Medicine should have the intellectual and physical abilities to acquire the knowledge, behaviors and skills taught in the program of study. The curriculum is designed to provide the general education necessary for the students selected for medicine. Students will learn fundamental principles needed to develop critical judgment, and learn to apply principles and skills wisely in solving scientific and health related problems. Curricular goals and/or minimal graduation requirements have been developed to fulfill these objectives and to prepare graduates to pursue post-doctoral education, if desired.

In addition to satisfactory academic performance in all coursework, students are expected to fulfill the non-academic essential functions of the curriculum in a reasonably independent manner. These functions are specified by the physical, cognitive, and behavioral standards (referred to collectively as technical standards) necessary for the completion of the program.

SUNY Downstate College of Medicine will consider for admission and advancement any individual able to perform pursuant to the standards, which are used as guidelines. Reasonable accommodations will be provided to qualified individuals with a disability in accordance with applicable laws and policies, while maintaining the integrity of program standards. Requests for accommodations will be determined on a case-by-case basis. A description of the technical standards for the College of Medicine is on the following webpage <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/student-affairs/disabled-student-services/tech-standards.html>

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations for their academic program are required to complete the appropriate form **prior** to matriculation. The Office of Student Affairs coordinates arrangements for students with disabilities.

Students who wish to request accommodation(s) **after** they have matriculated into the college are required to complete the appropriate form available from the Office of Student Affairs. Please note that accommodations may require time to process or to put in place.

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

You must have completed at least 90 semester credits of study from a college or university accredited by the [Council for Higher Education Accreditation \(CHEA\)](#) regional accreditation association (e.g., [Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools](#)). Admissions preference is given to applicants who have earned, or will have earned, a bachelor degree in a regionally accredited college or university. Admissions preference is also given to applicants who have completed prerequisite courses in four-year colleges/universities in the United States (not in study abroad programs); and to applicants who have completed science prerequisites in a traditional classroom setting (not through distance learning).

If you were educated abroad, a minimum of two full time semesters (one academic year) of college study at a CHEA regionally accredited college/university in the United States prior to application is required. In addition, you must demonstrate English proficiency, both verbally and in writing, if your prior medium of instruction was in another language. If a substantial amount of your education has been completed abroad, or if you have completed science prerequisites abroad, you are required to submit a course by course educational credentials evaluation from a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) agency ([naces.org](http://naces.org)), such as [World Educational Services](#) to enable the College of Medicine Admissions Committee to assess prior academic performance.

## PREREQUISITE/COURSES REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE:

A baccalaureate degree in any discipline from a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) such as the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, North Central Association, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Courses	Semester credits
English †	6
General Biology or Zoology including labs	8
General Physics including labs	8
General or Inorganic Chemistry including labs**	8
Organic Chemistry including labs	8

Note: If your college follows the quarter system, usually three courses equate to two courses under the semester system. Check **very carefully to be sure** that you have completed the required number of courses plus labs. If your college has separate lecture and lab courses, you might need to take more than the indicated number of credit hours above, to fulfill course sequences. **AP courses must be listed by subject title on final official college transcript and cannot be used toward fulfilling the lab component.**

The Committee on Admissions looks favorably on a program of study that includes at least one year of college mathematics and advanced science subjects. **A course in biochemistry is strongly recommended.** Other desirable courses include anatomy, physiology, histology, cell biology, genetics, or neuroscience; and courses in statistics or biostatistics, psychology, and sociology. The Admissions Committee also seeks individuals who have a demonstrated commitment to community/social service outreach activities.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

### HOW TO APPLY

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University participates in the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). The AMCAS web application is available in May from the website of the **Association of American Medical Colleges** (AAMC). Early applications are strongly recommended. We recommend that you complete your AMCAS web application prior to September 1.

You are responsible for submitting to AMCAS official transcripts from all colleges/universities you have attended. Please do not send official transcripts to our Office of Student Admissions unless the Admissions Committee sends you a request to do so.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please use the AMCAS contact material below.

#### AMCAS

Section for Student Services  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100

† In general, the Committee does not accept English courses taken abroad to fulfill the English admission requirement. Courses which have the English department prefix are accepted to fulfill the English requirement. If you have an inter-disciplinary course or if your college or university accepts other courses to fulfill writing or English requirements, **if accepted**, please upload a scanned letter from your college stating this information to your admissions portal. Remember to include your name and AMCAS ID on any communication with us.

Washington, DC 20001-2399

Phone: (202) 828-0400

Web: <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas/>

Email: [amcas@aamc.org](mailto:amcas@aamc.org)

### MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST (MCAT)

The Admissions Committee recommends that you take the MCAT in the spring prior to your application year. **The MCAT scores submitted must be no older than 3 years prior to the date of your planned enrollment.**

If you have taken the MCAT prior to August 1, 2023 (for the class entering Fall 2026), you will need to retake the examination. If you are applying for Fall 2026 admission, the latest date you can take the MCAT **and still be considered for admission is September 13, 2025.**

Applications are not reviewed without MCAT scores. All of the scores on **all** MCATs taken by the applicant are reviewed.

You may [register to sit for the MCATs](#) or contact:

#### Association of American Medical Colleges

Medical College Admission Test

655 K Street, NW, Suite 100

Washington, DC 20001-2399

Phone: (202) 828-0690

Email: [mcats@aamc.org](mailto:mcats@aamc.org)

Contact MCAT: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/contact-mcat-program/>

Website: <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/>

For additional useful information, including test dates, fees, fee waivers, and practice questions please visit

<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/>

### LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

All letters (packet or individual) must be submitted on letterhead, and must be signed by the letter writer. Letters not meeting these requirements will not be considered. All letters must be submitted electronically—through the AMCAS letter service (including Virtual Evals or Interfolio). The AMCAS application letter types are: Committee letter, Letter packet or Individual Letter. **We do not accept letters of recommendation sent by mail, email, or fax.**

If you are submitting an AMCAS Committee Letter or a Letter Packet, we accept all the letters included in the packet. Please make sure that at least one of the letters is from a science professor who has taught you in a biology, chemistry or physics course.

\*\* If your college/university offers an intensive one-semester general or inorganic chemistry course with lab for qualified students, and considers this equivalent to the traditional two-semester course, you may use this to satisfy our requirement for general chemistry. However, you should also take a higher level chemistry course, preferably Biochemistry. In addition, you should indicate on the Supplemental Application that the one-semester course is an advanced general or inorganic chemistry course, and upload a copy of the course description or a letter from the Department of Chemistry in your admissions portal to verifying this.

## Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation which must be submitted or included in your packet

If you are currently enrolled in college, a letter of recommendation from the premedical advisor or committee at your undergraduate college is required. If your university/college does not have a premedical committee or advisor, you must send two letters from college professors who have taught you. At least one of the letters must be from a professor in a science department. One of the letters must be from a professor in your major field of study. Both letters must be from faculty members who have had you in their classes and who are personally acquainted with you.

If you are enrolled in a graduate program, your faculty advisor/major professor must submit a letter of recommendation. This should be in addition to the letters specified above.

If you have graduated from college and are currently employed or are a non-traditional applicant, you may submit two individual letters of recommendation if you are unable to submit a premedical advisor or a committee letter. One letter should be from a science faculty member who has taught you in one of the science courses required for admission, and the second letter may be from your supervisor at your place of employment, or a faculty member who has taught you recently.

If you have not taken any college course work recently (within the last six years) but are currently employed, you may submit two individual letters of recommendation. One should be from your supervisor at your place of employment and the second may be from a physician or health professional with whom you have worked or a faculty member who has taught you and knows you well.

Please do not submit more than the specified number of recommendation letters, as this will delay the processing of your application. All letters must be submitted through AMCAS Letters. If you are submitting a packet of letters (e.g., Committee Letter or Letter Packet), we accept all the letters included in the packet.

## SUNY DOWNSTATE SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION (SECONDARY)

All applicants must complete a SUNY Downstate Supplemental Application in order to have their application considered for admission. Once we receive your verified AMCAS application, you will receive an email invitation to complete the Supplemental Application (secondary).

### SUNY Downstate Application Processing fee

All applicants must pay a non-refundable \$100 Supplemental Application processing fee or submit an approved AMCAS fee waiver. The processing fee (only credit cards are acceptable for payment) or AMCAS fee waiver are submitted with the SUNY Downstate Supplemental Application (secondary).

**Note:** Once we receive your completed Supplemental Application (secondary) with your processing fee (or AMCAS fee waiver), you will receive an email from us acknowledging that both items have been received.

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

The deadline for having a complete application on file in the Office of Admissions for regular admissions is 12 noon on January 3, 2026. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed after this date. Please note that applicants must make certain that their application is complete and may monitor their application checklist for requested information. We will make every effort to keep applicants informed about the completion of their application via the admissions portal or by email (make certain we have a current email address for you at all times and adjust your spam filter to receive our emails). **A complete application consists of the following:**

1. [American Medical College Application Service \(AMCAS\) Application](#)
2. [SUNY Downstate Supplemental Application](#) also known as the "secondary" application. Once we receive your verified AMCAS application, you will be sent an email invitation to complete the Supplemental Application (secondary).
3. [A nonrefundable Supplemental Application Processing Fee of \\$100](#) or an AMCAS fee waiver. The processing fee or the AMCAS fee waiver is submitted when you submit the Supplemental Application.
4. [Medical College Admission Test \(MCAT\) scores](#) as required
5. [Letter of recommendation from premedical advisor or committee](#), or two individual faculty letters as required (we only accept letters sent via the AMCAS letter service, Virtual Evals, or Interfolio). Read the requirements for letters of recommendation very carefully as your letter might not be accepted if it does not meet our guidelines.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that a complete application is on file by the posted application deadline.

If you no longer wish to have an active application with us, you should withdraw your application via the admissions portal in order to avoid further processing or emails, and to benefit other applicants.

## PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Interviews are scheduled beginning the first week of August and continue into the first half of the spring semester. We schedule interviews Mondays–Thursdays. Interview invitations are sent by email.

**Accepted applicants visit the campus through the “Shadow-a-Student Program.”** This permits you to attend classes with a student, and to have an extended tour of the residence halls, educational, and student life facilities. The Shadow-a-Student Program is available February–May.

Following your interview, it may take as long as 8–12 weeks before you will be notified of your status post-interview. You will be notified of your admissions status by email.

## INITIAL REVIEW

The Admissions Committee will make an initial review of your application. Applications are not reviewed in the order that they are completed, so

there may be a considerable delay between when your application is complete and when you are notified of your admissions status. Notification is sent by email to the email address listed on your AMCAS application. Make certain that you adjust your spam blocker to receive email from [medadmissions@downstate.edu](mailto:medadmissions@downstate.edu).

## REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Admissions Committee may request additional information from you to assist in the evaluation of your credentials. This will be conveyed to you via your application checklist on your admissions portal. It is your responsibility to submit the requested information. The preferred method to submit any requested information is by uploading a PDF of the requested information using the upload feature in your admissions portal. After the additional information is received, the Admissions Committee will re-review your application.

If you are asked to submit an additional letter of recommendation from a faculty member, the letter should be submitted by AMCAS letters and you or the faculty member should notify us by email at [medadmissions@downstate.edu](mailto:medadmissions@downstate.edu) when it has been submitted to AMCAS letters.

Make certain you include your name and AAMC ID on any items that are submitted. If you have been asked to submit a fall/Spring/Summer grade report, it is not necessary to send an official transcript but make certain that the grade report includes course number, department abbreviation or name, the title of the course (not just a course number), the number of credit hours, and grade received. If your grade report does not provide this information, include a statement from you, which explains the abbreviations on your grade report.

## DEFERRALS

Accepted applicants may request a deferral for up to one year in order to participate in educational activities or social service projects. Requests must be made in writing by **May 1, 2027** and submitted by mail or email ([medadmissions@downstate.edu](mailto:medadmissions@downstate.edu)) for review by the Admissions Committee. No extensions beyond one year are permitted. All approved deferred applicants are required to file an AMCAS **Early Decision/Delayed Matriculation** application for the following year.

Once you are accepted for admission, you might be required to submit a New York State Residency for Tuition application, and submit supporting documentation. This information will be displayed on the pre-matric checklist available in your admissions portal.

## DECISION LETTERS & CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance notifications (except for early decision) will be sent starting late January to mid-February 2027.

All acceptance letters are conditional pending satisfactory fulfillment of all of the conditions described in the letter, including a satisfactory My Certiphi Screening background report. The College of Medicine reserves the right to rescind an offer of admission if there has been any misrepresentation of any information provided during the application

process or if an applicant does not fulfill any of the conditions of acceptance. The alternate list will be established in early April 2026. Acceptances from the alternate list will be sent in April and throughout the summer.

## REAPPLICANTS

You must submit a new AMCAS application, a new Supplemental Application, application fee, and new copies of the premedical letters of recommendation (unless you submit a written request by email to the Admissions Office to use the same letters that you submitted the previous year. If you applied more than one year ago, you will need to submit new letters of recommendation).

Re-applicants must adhere to the same policies, procedures and deadlines as first-time applicants.

## EARLY DECISION PROGRAM

If you are particularly interested in attending SUNY Downstate, you may apply as an Early Decision applicant and receive your admissions decision by October 1 of the application year. Early Decision applicants apply only to SUNY Downstate by August 1 of the application year. If the applicant is not accepted as of October 1, he/she/they may then also apply to other medical schools as desired. All requirements for Early Decision are the same as regular admissions, but the deadlines differ.

## WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION

If you decide to withdraw your application from consideration, you must notify the Office of Student Admissions immediately by logging into your admissions portal and selecting withdraw.

## TIMELINE AND DEADLINES

June 1, 2026	Earliest date to complete an AMCAS application.
August 1, 2026	Latest date for <b>Early Decision</b> applicants to file an AMCAS application.
August 14, 2026	Latest date for <b>Early Decision</b> applicants to have a <b>completed</b> application on file.

December 1, 2026	Latest date for applicants to have a <b>completed</b> AMCAS application on file at AMCAS.	April 30, 2027	Latest date for accepted applicants to withdraw to qualify for the \$100 acceptance deposit refund.
January 4, 2027 (12 noon)	Latest date to have a <b>completed</b> application on file in the Office of Student Admissions.	May 1, 2027 - August 2, 2027	Accepted applicants and alternates who are listed by AMCAS as " <b>Commit to Enroll</b> " with another medical school will have their acceptance offer or alternate list offer withdrawn by SUNY Downstate.
Mid-February, 2027	Acceptance letters are issued. Applicants have <b>14 calendar days</b> to return the reply form. Accepted applicants who do not return the reply form by the deadline will be withdrawn from SUNY Downstate.	May 1, 2027	Applicants have <b>5 business days</b> to return the reply form and pay their deposit. Accepted applicants who do not comply by the deadline will be <b>withdrawn</b> from SUNY Downstate.
Mid-April, 2027	Alternate list invitations are issued. Alternates have <b>5 business days</b> to respond to the alternate list offer or their alternate list offer will be withdrawn.	May 1, 2027	Latest Date to have a completed MPH application on file with the MPH Program for the June class.
April 15, 2027	Per AMCAS traffic rules accepted applicants <b>can hold no more than 3 acceptances</b> . Applicants accepted to SUNY Downstate are sent deposit information.	May 1, 2027	Latest date to request a <b>deferred acceptance</b> .
April 30, 2027	Accepted applicants who have not submitted their admissions <b>deposit by 11:59 pm</b> and who have also not chosen either " <b>Plan to Enroll</b> " or " <b>Commit to Enroll</b> " will have their <b>acceptances withdrawn</b> .	July 8, 2027	Applicants have <b>2 business days</b> to return the reply form & deposit. Accepted applicants who do not comply by the deadline will be <b>withdrawn</b> from SUNY Downstate.
		July 15, 2027	Deadline for SUNY Downstate accepted applicants to select " <b>Commit to Enroll</b> ." Accepted applicants who have not

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selected “Commit to Enroll” by this date

will have their **acceptances withdrawn**.

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## HOW TO CONTACT US

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**Email** The preferred method of communication is by email. Any requested documents may be sent to us via email:

[medadmissions@downstate.edu](mailto:medadmissions@downstate.edu)

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**Fax** (718) 270-4775

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**Mailing Address** SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University  
**College of Medicine**  
**Office of Student Admissions**  
450 Clarkson Avenue, MSC 60  
Brooklyn, New York 11203-2098

**Note:** All mail is delivered to SUNY Downstate’s central mailroom and then sorted for delivery to individual offices. This includes overnight and express mail deliveries. Your overnight or express mail is delivered to the central mailroom and then resorted for delivery to the Office of Student Admissions.

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**Telephone** (718) 270-2446

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**Office Hours** Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm

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**SUNY Downstate Website** [www.downstate.edu](http://www.downstate.edu)

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**Directions** <https://www.downstate.edu/about/contact-us/directions-locations-parking/parking/valet.html>

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**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID**

State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University  
450 Clarkson Avenue, MSC 110  
Brooklyn, New York 11203-2098  
Telephone: (718) 270-2488

Website: <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/student-services/financial-aid/index.html>  
Email: [FinancialAid@downstate.edu](mailto:FinancialAid@downstate.edu)

**OFFICE OF DIVERSITY EDUCATION & RESEARCH**

State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University  
450 Clarkson Avenue, MSC 1186  
Brooklyn, New York 11203-2098  
Telephone: (718) 270-3033

Website: <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/college-of-medicine/diversity-education-research/index.html>  
Email: [diversity.med@downstate.edu](mailto:diversity.med@downstate.edu)

**OFFICE OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE**

State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University  
450 Clarkson Avenue, MSC 115  
Brooklyn, New York 11203-2098  
Telephone: (718) 270-1466

Website: <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/student-services/residential-life/index.html>  
Email: [residentiallife@downstate.edu](mailto:residentiallife@downstate.edu)

**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES— M.D./PH.D. PROGRAM**

State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University  
450 Clarkson Avenue, MSC 41  
Brooklyn, New York 11203-2098  
Telephone: (718) 270-2740

Website: <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/school-of-graduate-studies/programs/md-phd.html>  
Email: [sgsadmissions@downstate.edu](mailto:sgsadmissions@downstate.edu)

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University  
450 Clarkson Avenue, MSC 43  
Brooklyn, New York 11203-2098  
Telephone: (718) 270-1065

Website: <https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/school-of-public-health/programs/md-master-of-public-health/index.html>  
Email: [publichealth@downstate.edu](mailto:publichealth@downstate.edu)

*The State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, handicap, or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era, in the recruitment of students or in the operation of any of its programs or activities, as specified by Federal and State laws and regulations. For more information, contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at (718) 270-1738.*