



Post Baccalaureate Premedical Programs

Many college graduates consider enrolling in or completing a Post Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Program or coursework to make them stronger, more qualified applicants. When researching these programs, make sure to consider any financial implications that may impact your present and future situation.

Why Enroll in a Post Baccalaureate Program?

There are many reasons to enroll in a Post Baccalaureate Premedical Program (often called *PostBac* program for short). Some are designed for career changers; some are geared to students who need to complete coursework in requisite undergraduate science courses; other programs focus on those applicants who would like to improve their GPA's. Another group of programs are specifically designed to assist persons from groups underrepresented in medicine or from educationally or economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Length, Degree and Linkage Agreements

Make sure to pay close attention not only to the focus of the PostBac program that will best suit your needs, but also to the length of time it will take to complete the course. While some programs may be completed in one year, others may require 18-24 months to finish. Some programs offer certificates of completion, while others are graduate-level degree-



granting programs. Additionally, some programs feature linkage agreements or affiliations with medical school programs. For specific details on numerous programs, degree offered and length of time to complete, see the [AAMC's PostBac Database](#).

Financial Aid and the Cost of Applying

If you have been out of school for awhile, you may want to review the FIRST Fact Sheet library for general

information regarding the cost and the process of applying to medical school. Mid-career applicants often face different challenges when applying to and attending medical school. Be sure to read the "[Medical School Costs for Non-Traditional Students](#)" Fact Sheet for additional tips and facts. If you think you'll need financial assistance to help cover the cost of courses, be sure you inquire with the financial aid offices of the PostBac programs you're interested in specifically about whether their program is eligible for federal student loans.

Resources

FIRST for Medical Education is the AAMC's primary resource regarding Financial Aid. The First Fact Sheet (FFS) Library includes one page information sheets on a variety of financial aid topics.

The AAMC also hosts a searchable database of PostBac programs that enables you to search according to program type and other characteristics <http://services.aamc.org/postbac/>. Questions regarding applying, qualifying, or attending postbaccalaureate programs should be addressed to the specific program in which you are interested.