

[MUSIC PLAYING]

This is Eastern Michigan University's Career Corner hosted by the career coaches of the University Advising and Career Development Center. And welcome to Season Four, Career FAQ.

Welcome back to the Career Corner podcast. We're so excited to have you back with us in our series, Career FAQ. I'm career coach, April Krukowski, here to tackle yet another major concern for students who are planning to pursue medical school. The question we often receive is, I am premed, so why do I need to choose a major?

The short answer is that the premed curriculum is literally just a list of suggested courses that most medical schools require for admission to their programs. The advantage is that you do not need to major in biology in order to go to medical school. You can major in English, art, history, or something else.

The curriculum is designed as a guide to help you stay on track with most of the admission criteria. But it does not concentrate on one subject like a major does. For instance, for premed, you'll need to take a variety of chemistry, biology, physics, and math courses as well as gen ed courses in social sciences and writing.

There isn't a particular major at EMU that requires all of those things in one program. So while you could major in biology, and cover 90% of what is needed for medical school admission, you'll still need to add a couple of extra courses in chemistry and physics, while also taking a lot of biology that isn't required for med school admission. One huge advantage of majoring in the thing you love while completing the preprofessional curriculum is that you will major in something that brings you joy while keeping your GPA in the range it needs to be.

Medical schools like to see candidates with a variety of experiences and skills. They see the candidate as a whole person instead of just an assortment of test scores and numerical values. While other preprofessional programs are more strict regarding scores and GPAs, the premedical curriculum will still allow you to major in something else, while completing the admission requirements.

Something you must keep in mind is time to completion. If you have decided that you must graduate with a bachelor's degree in a certain period of time due to financial concerns or literal time constraints, then you will want to choose your major carefully. Like I said, the biology major does cover the vast majority of requirements for med school admission, and choosing an unrelated major that is large, more than 50 credits, could mean spending more time on the bachelor's degree. However, there are a lot of majors under 50 credit hours available at EMU.

Meet with a career coach to talk through options and develop a plan of action. We can help you run through different scenarios in the uAchieve degree audit system, learn more about the things that motivate you, and support you in choosing the right major to accomplish your goal of becoming a medical doctor. Meet with a career coach soon by scheduling an appointment at emich.joinhandshake.com And remember, we support your goals.

[MUSIC PLAYING]