The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine’s Professional Option Program in Medicine permits undergraduate students who have demonstrated outstanding potential for success in medicine to begin medical school during their fourth year in the College. This is a highly competitive, merit-award program.

Due to the accelerated nature of the curriculum, applicants must have outstanding academic credentials as evidenced by a combination of GPA and MCAT scores that place them among the top candidates nationwide for medical school. The academic requirements for eligibility include a minimum GPA of 3.7 and an MCAT score not less than the 95th percentile, with no individual section score less than the 85th percentile. Additionally, eligible students have a clear understanding of their motivation for medicine and can provide evidence of analytical thinking, effective communication skills, leadership, and meaningful engagement in the various communities in which they participate, in addition to compelling reasons to attend Pritzker.

Candidates will apply to this program during their third year in the College. Eligible students must have completed 33 credits (of the 42 required for a degree in the College) by the end of their third year. These 33 credits must include all 15 general education requirements and one-half of the requirements for their major.

Through this program, students will, upon completion of the first year of medical school at Pritzker, be allowed to use credit from their medical school courses to fulfill the remaining nine credits for the undergraduate degree. At the successful conclusion of their first year of medical school, students completing their degree in this fashion will receive the Bachelor of Arts in Professional Option: Medicine. Because students pursuing a professional option program do not complete the requirements for a College major, they are not eligible for departmental honors upon receiving their bachelor’s degree.

Interested students should schedule an appointment with their UChicago Careers in Health Professions (https://careeradvancement.uchicago.edu/uchicago-careers-in/health-professions/) (UCIHP) adviser early in their second year, and in the Autumn Quarter of their third year will need to meet with their College adviser to evaluate their curricular progress. Following those meetings, students should schedule an appointment with their UCIHP adviser to further solidify their plans and intent to apply. The deadline for applications is February 26.

Students with questions or who would like more information, please contact UChicago Careers in Health Professions (ucihp@uchicago.edu).