PHILOSOPHY AS NON-STEM MAJOR FOR MED SCHOOL

While the standard degree path to medical school or other health professions is to major in Biomedical Science, Biology, or Biochemistry, you do not have to be a STEM major. There is no doubt that you need a solid core of science courses to advance in a health field, but a non-STEM major, such as Philosophy, provides a solid background in the critical thinking and ethical decision making skills required by health professionals.

What is Philosophy? Philosophy encompasses the systematic study of some of the most fundamental questions regarding existence, nature, knowledge, reality, politics, and morality. It allows you to develop an outlook on life that is broad and reflective and to engage the world rationally and critically.

Majoring in Philosophy can make you stand out in a sea of STEM majors, when it comes to competing for seats in med school. The study of Philosophy develops the critical thinking skills vital to health professions and tested by the CARS section of MCAT (which the science courses do not address). Philosophy students are trained to reflect upon “Why?” questions, including why they are doing what they are doing; they tend to have reflected on why they want to go into health professions and, therefore, will often write better applications and give better interviews.

Below are the requirements to major in Philosophy and simultaneously satisfy all the requirements for the Bacc/MD program.

PHILOSOPHY BA Degree (360000BA) [http://www.uakron.edu/philosophy/]

GENERAL EDUCATION Requirement
22 Credit Hours (all other GenEd requirements can be met w/required and/or recommended courses below)
A series of courses, required of all undergraduate students at the University of Akron, aimed at developing the ability to understand and express ideas effectively and to comprehend the processes involved in accurate thinking.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE Requirement
3–14 Credit Hours
Completion of the second year of a foreign language at the university level.

PHILOSOPHY Requirement
30 Credit Hours
3600:101 Introduction to Philosophy 3 credits (a)
3600:120 Introduction to Ethics 3 credits (a)
3600:170 Introduction to Logic 3 credits (a)
3600:211 History of Ancient Philosophy 3 credits (a)
3600:312 History of Medieval Philosophy 3 credits (b)
3600:313 History of Modern Philosophy 3 credits (b)
3600:3xx/4xx Upper Level Philosophy 6 credits (c)
3600:xxx Any Level Philosophy 6 credits (recommend upper-level) (c)

NEOMED PRE-MED Requirement (d)
38-53 Credit Hours
3100:111 Principles of Biology I 4 credits
3100:112 Principles of Biology II 4 credits
3150:151 Principles of Chemistry I 3 credits
3150:152 Principles of Chemistry I Lab 1 credit
3150:153 Principles of Chemistry II 3 credits
3150:154 Qualitative Analysis 2 credits
3150:261 Organic Chemistry I 3 credits
3150:262 Organic Chemistry II 3 credits
3150:263 Organic Chemistry I Lab 2 credits
3150:264 Organic Chemistry II Lab 2 credits
3150:401 Biochemistry 3 credits
3650:261 Physics for Life Sciences I 4 credits
3650:262 Physics for Life Sciences II 4 credits
3100:xxx Any Level Biology 15 credits (recommended, and recommend upper-level)

**BACC/MD PROGRAM** Requirement
8 Credit Hours
3100:190 Health Care & Delivery Systems 1 credit
3100:290 Health Care & Delivery Systems 1 credit
Electives/Experiential Learning 6 credits (recommend upper-level)

**COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES** Requirement
120 Total Credit Hours
Must include 40 upper level credits, not including workshops.

(a) *Meets Tier II Humanities and Tier III CT GenEd requirement.*

(b) *Meets Tier III CT GenEd requirement.*

(c) *3600:361, Biomedical Ethics, is a requirement for the Biomedical Science Degree and meets Tier III CS GenEd requirement.*
*3600:365, Environmental Ethics, meets Tier III CS GenEd requirement.*
*3600:340, Eastern Philosophy, meets Tier III GD GenEd requirement.*

(d) *These courses can substitute for Tier II Natural Science GenEd requirement.*

**NOTE:** 3850:100, Intro to Sociology, *is recommended to satisfy Tier II Social Science and Tier III DD GenEd requirement.*