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Does Major Predict MCAT Success?

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Does Major Predict MCAT Success?

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Abstract
One of the first questions prospective students ask the premedical sciences department is what major they should choose. Medical schools have no preference for major but students want to prepare as best they can for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) because it is one of the most important aspects of their application. Using data on MCAT scores and majors from the previous 4 years, I examined the possibility of correlation between major and MCAT score. The MCAT is broken into 4 parts: Biological and Biochemical Foundations, Physical and Chemical Foundations, Comprehensive Analysis and Reasoning Skills and Psychological, Social and Behavioral Foundations of Biology. Each section test contributes to a comprehensive exam that every student who finished a premedical track in their undergrad should have ample knowledge to perform well on. Comparing the different majors at each section test allows us to analyze the best possible recommendation to the overarching question of what major is the best for preparing students for medical school.

Hypothesis
The different majors will not have substantial differences on MCAT scores. University of Montana students have the preparation from any major to succeed on the MCAT.

UM Student Distribution

Results

Physics & Chemistry Section Test

CARS Section Test

Biology & Biochemistry Section Test

Psychology & Sociology Section Test

Overall MCAT Scores

Methods and Disclosures
All student reports used were taken from the AAMC MCAT advisor report system. Student names were coded to ensure anonymity. The AAMC requires students to either share or not share their scores with their advisor.

Conclusions
• The University of Montana has an overall MCAT score higher than national average
• The non-science students had one of the highest MCAT scores
• The section test with the lowest average was psychology/sociology. A possible way to better prepare students for this is to add an additional psychology class to the premed track courses.
• Any major adequately prepares students for the MCAT

Future Studies
Compare other independent variables such as:
• Time students spend studying
• How many practice MCAT exams they do
• Do they take it during school or give themselves time off?

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