

## A Computer Science Degree and Medical School

### Can I choose a major from the Physical, Earth, Math & Computer Science group if I want to study medicine later?

**YES.** Consider combining your major from the Physical, Earth, Math & Computer Science group with the [Minor in Interdisciplinary Life Sciences](#) to broaden your studies with courses in basic life sciences, health social science, and empirical technological science. (This Minor is not open to students majoring in Anatomy and Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology, or Physiology.)

Students are sometimes surprised to learn that a wide variety of undergraduate degrees can properly prepare them for applying to medical school. An undergraduate degree in Computer Science is good preparation for many reasons. First of all, a **Computer Science degree teaches you to think logically and work cooperatively.** These are essential qualities both for admission into medical school, and for being a good physician.

### Computer Science is used in many aspects of Medicine

Here are just a few interesting areas where Computer Science is important in Medicine, both in research and in clinical settings.

- Bioinformatics
- Reliable medical software
- Machine learning software for adaptive medical treatments and disease outbreak detection
- Databases for patient information
- Medical imaging
- Robots as medical aids and robot-assisted surgery
- Computational statistics for biological and clinical applications

### You will have plenty of room in our program for Medical School prerequisite courses

A BSc degree in Computer Science leaves plenty of room for a student to complete a few prerequisite courses for Medical School. Most prerequisite Science courses will have already been completed in CEGEP (for Quebec students) or in the Science freshman year (for students entering McGill from outside of Quebec). You can also do a minor in a medicine-related field, for example, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, or Social Studies of Medicine.

### What do the medical schools say?

Still doubtful? Have a look below at an extract from McGill Medical School (They are not looking for any specific majors.)

Extracted from the [McGill Faculty of Medicine website](#), August 2014.

*"Although the Faculty attempts to ensure by means of the specific requirements listed that all students have an adequate preparation in science, we also encourage students from a variety of backgrounds to select medicine as a career. Prospective applicants are therefore advised to pursue courses of study, whether in the natural or social sciences or the humanities, which appeal to them and which have as their aim a broad education and intellectual training rather than merely anticipating a medical curriculum."*