Medical School Admissions

An insider’s view
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What do medical schools seek?
- Performance
- Passion
- Uniqueness

Performance: Metrix
- MCAT
  - Latautita
  - Average - 32
  - range
- Science/total GPA

Know Your Passion
- Sustained activities
- Leadership experiences
- Concern for others

Uniqueness
- What makes you different?
- How do you add to the diversity of the school/medicine?
- How do you add to the strengths of the school?
  - Research
  - Community service
  - Clinical experience
  - School spirit

Your timeline
- Freshman and sophomore years
- Summers: research, clinical care, volunteer
- Junior year – your last chance to show your academic prowess
- Senior year – interviews, strengthening your application
The application

- Course work
- Activities
- Essay

Application timeline

- Spring semester of your junior year - Request LOR & write your essay (arrange your Life Sciences Committee interview)
- May of Junior year - request transcript
- June 1 - AMCAS application opens
- Early admissions - notices released before October 15
- Rolling admissions - notifications begin October 15

Common essay topics

- Epiphany essays
- Experience confirms passion
- Your path to this point in life
- Explanation of inconsistencies

Preparing for the interview

- Know the current events of medicine:
  - Healthcare reform
  - Euthanasia
  - HIV, obesity, cancer, end of life
  - Aging population
- What are your goals?
- Why do you want to be a physician?
- Explain any inconsistencies

Interview, con’t.

- Favorite course, book, leisure time activity
- How has your course work, research or community service prepared you for a career in medicine?

When failure is not an option

Post-baccalaureate & Masters programs
- Drexel (http://drexel.edu/catalog/certificates/mls.htm) Interdepartmental medical science cert.
- Georgetown (http://gs.georgetown.edu/prospectivestudents/degrees/0_special_masters_program)
- Columbia (http://www.gs.columbia.edu/postbac/post-baccalaureate_program)
- Southern Illinois (http://www.siumed.edu/medprep) medprep program

Increase Clinical involvement
Resources - publications

AAMC.org/publications
- Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)
- The Official Guide to the MCAT Exam ($44)
- MCAT computer based practice tests ($35)

Resources - the application

- AAMC.org
- http://www.aamc.org/students/emcas/2011/emcasinSTRUCTIONS.pdf - this is a 75 page guide to the application – start working on your application now!!