The 2022-23 Medical School Application Process—
A Marathon Not a Sprint Workshop
(November 2021)

1. Timing

- Are you ready?
- When will you be the best applicant?
- Do you want to go straight through or take one or more gap years?
- Do you have a plan for covering the costs of the application process? You may be eligible for the AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP) (review the FAP FAQs), and if you are still a student and are receiving financial aid, you can also consult with your Harvard Financial Aid Officer about potential loan aid. Also be sure to discuss your application budget with your family, and try to estimate application costs for the duration of the cycle.
  - See the FAP Program Essentials for Calendar Year 2021 here (if applying for FAP in early 2022, be sure to find the 2022 calendar year version on the AAMC site).
  - Also see the AAMC’s The Cost of Applying to Medical School page for more information and to learn more about what to expect, and be sure to check out AAMC’s FIRST (Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools) program and resources.
- There are as many paths to medical school and to being a “great” applicant as there are people attending this webinar.
- However, there are certain combinations of experiences and achievements that medical schools tend to look for in terms of MCAT scores, GPA, clinical exposure, volunteer experience, leadership, and intellectual curiosity as manifested by research interests or other intellectual pursuits.
- Applicants are accepted with a wide range of metrics and different combinations of these attributes, but considering where you are now versus where you will be in a 1+ year(s) may help you answer this timing question.
- Would you benefit from postbac enhancement of your GPA? See the information under the Postbaccalaureate Students tab on the OCS website about taking individual courses after graduation or enrolling in postbac programs.
• Do not apply to medical school at a time when you have had very little or no clinical experience of any type (despite the disruptions caused by Covid). Shadowing alone is not sufficient (similarly, virtual shadowing programs are not sufficient, however telehealth appointment shadowing is fine!). You need to have had some direct experience with people in need and in a healthcare or similar setting by the time you submit your application.

• In general, while many medical schools grant deferrals for a variety of reasons, they are not automatic and the willingness to give them varies by school. In general, medical schools expect you to apply in the cycle in which you plan to matriculate.

• A discussion of the decision about when to apply is a great topic for a meeting with one of your House/Dudley premedical tutors. Your tutor can give you feedback on whether you are ready to apply or not, and help you weigh the pros and cons of applying in the upcoming cycle or waiting another year or more.

2. Cleaning up your online presence

• The time is now.
• Google yourself to see what appears.
• Take stock of your presence on social media. If there is something there that you would not like a medical school to see, remove it and review your privacy settings to manage future content.
• If you have publications or wrote articles or op ed pieces, such as for a college online paper or student club publication, that are permanently accessible on the web, take an inventory of the published articles/papers you have written and be prepared to speak about these in interviews.
• According to Scott M. Rodgers, M.D., former Associate Dean for Medical Student Affairs at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, “Every student should assume that admissions committees DO look up applicants online and sometimes come across information about people that can either hurt or help a candidate.” (www.aamc.org) Barbara Fuller, M.P.H., former Director of Admissions at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University agrees. “Students on the admissions committee are more tech savvy and actually have been responsible for presenting information on candidates—acquired through internet searches—that changed an acceptance to a rejection. As an applicant, you are responsible for the ‘public face’ that the connected world sees,” Fuller says. (www.aamc.org)
3. Resources for the process:
   a. Your House:
      • Your House/Dudley premedical tutors and Premedical Committee. The resident premed tutors make up a majority of the members of your Premedical Committee. As you will know, they are themselves medical students or residents, and in some cases attending physicians, and they are an invaluable, crucial, and indispensable resource as you go through the application process. They will want to get to know you, if they do not already know you well, and will work with you at every stage of the process. You do not need to know every resident premed tutor in your House, or know them all equally well, but it is important that you do your part to help your Premed Committee get to know you so that they can advise and support you throughout the application process.
      • Resident and non-resident (NRT) premedical tutors: Every applicant will be assigned to one premed tutor, usually an NRT, for the duration of the application process. In some cases, your House may have made an early NRT assignment (even as early as sophomore year), but in most Houses, the NRT will be assigned to you when you declare to your Premed Committee that you intend to apply in the upcoming cycle. Some applicants may be assigned to one of the resident premed tutors as their application adviser.
      • If you are in the Dudley Community, your premed tutor is a non-resident tutor, and holds the same role in that capacity as the resident premed tutors do in the 12 Houses. Since Dudley is a smaller undergraduate community than the 12 House communities, medical school applicants from Dudley are all advised by the Dudley premed tutor. There are typically 1-2 applicants per cycle, at the most, from the Dudley Community, so the ratio of applicants to assigned application adviser is similar to that in the Houses.
      • Your assigned NRT (or for a few of you, resident premed tutor) is your primary resource for advice and feedback on the following topics:
         o Readiness to apply and timing of your application: with input from the resident premed tutors, your NRT can help you assess if you are ready to apply. They do so based on in-person and/or phone/Zoom meetings, and they will carefully read and review all of the required application materials you submit to the Premed Committee (usually via your House/Dudley Academic Coordinator), including:
            o The “House Questionnaire”/”Personal Information Form” (PIF)
Your Harvard and any other post-secondary school transcript/s
Your MCAT score/s: Please share your official AAMC MCAT score report with your Premed Committee
Your Personal Statement draft
Your School List
Your Letters of Recommendation

- Non-local alumni applicants work remotely with their assigned House advisers via email and phone/Zoom.
- Together with your Resident Dean and Faculty Dean/s, your premed tutors will write your Harvard committee letter (sometimes also referred to as the “House letter” or “Dean’s letter”). Follow your Premed Committee’s and tutors’ instructions, requests, and advice carefully.
- The Academic Coordinator in your Allston Burr Resident Dean’s office: the Academic Coordinators (ACs) serve as the primary point person for many essential components of the medical school application process. The ACs manage the recommendation letter ‘dossier’ system in place in your House by which you collect and store the individual rec letters that you will be sending to the medical schools to which you apply. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the AC’s role and how they support the medical school applicants in your House/Dudley.

b. The OCS Premedical/Pre-Health Advisers
- The primary way in which the OCS premed/pre-health advisers support you as you set out to apply to medical or another health professions school is through 1) our workshop series for applicants (of which this webinar forms the introduction); 2) the resources on our website collected under the “Applying to Medical School” tab; 3) our Q&A Webinars for Current Applicants offered weekly from early May to mid-June; and 4) our OCS Medical School Applicant Listserv (please subscribe using a harvard.edu address (@college, @post, or @alumni.harvard.edu). Note: Since the Harvard Alumni Association no longer offers email forwarding to alumni, those of you unable to set up an @alumni address are now able to subscribe with a gmail or other personal email address after we have confirmed your Harvard College affiliation.
- By attending this webinar, you will be eligible for “2023 Medical School Applicant” individual 30-minute advising appointments. In order for the two OCS premed/pre-health advisers equitably to support the close to 300 students and alumni/ae who apply to medical or other health professions school from Harvard every year, we offer a maximum
of two “2023 Med School Applicant” appointments between February and June of the spring in which you get ready to apply. (Once eligible, those of you applying in the upcoming 2023 cycle will be able to select “2023 Med School Applicant” as your appointment type when scheduling the appointment in Crimson Careers; as always, please contact the OCS Reception staff at ocsrecep@fas.harvard.edu if you have trouble accessing or using Crimson Careers to book your appointments.)

- Our policy of assigning all Harvard premed and pre-health students to one of the two OCS premed/pre-health advisers for their individual advising appointments applies to applicants also. Therefore, once you have started meeting with Oona or Emiko, we ask you to continue to meet with the same adviser for future appointments as this helps us get to know you better and more equitably serve all of you.

- Given the large number of applicants, the OCS premed/pre-health advisers cannot give individual feedback on Personal Statement or secondary application essay drafts, or on what you will write for the AMCAS Activities section. See our AMCAS FAQs and the AMCAS webinar presentation and other resources for these topics on our website.

- Your premed tutors serve as your main support and point persons for questions and concerns related to preparing and submitting your application, and it is perfectly fine for you to interact primarily with members of your House/Dudley premed team as you prepare and submit your applications. All of the resident premed tutors as well as the Dudley premed tutor communicate and meet regularly with the OCS premed advisers, and will refer prospective and current medical, dental or other health professions school applicants to us for additional advice and input as needed.

- If your assigned premed tutor is not available or has not responded to your inquiries, please let one of the resident premed tutors in your House know that you have not been able to connect with your NRT/assigned adviser before you reach out to the OCS premed/pre-health advisers.

- Applicants with special concerns or circumstances may benefit from working more closely with one of the OCS premed/pre-health advisers. To this end, it is crucial that you let us know if you have had an institutional action, have a lower GPA (overall GPA below ~3.3/science GPA below ~3.5) or lower MCAT (below 509 or with a section score of 126 or below), have not had any or very little clinical experience, are
applying internationally, are an international applicant, have DACA or are undocumented, or if you have any unusual or difficult circumstances. Re-applicants who were not accepted in a previous cycle are also encouraged to work closely with the OCS advisers as well as with their premed tutors.

- As mentioned above, consult the OCS website for all application-related topics that you have questions about before you schedule an appointment to meet with one of the OCS premed advisers. There is a wealth of information about the application process on our website, including resources for each of the OCS webinars for applicants.

- *Medical School Admissions Data* report for Harvard College students and alumni. The OCS premed/pre-health advisers produce this report annually. It contains data about medical school admissions that is specific to Harvard applicants as well as national admissions data. You can request access to the report by emailing us at premed@fas.harvard.edu. If your email request is sent from a non-Harvard email, please also include your @college email and year of graduation in your request.

- Juniors and seniors: Be sure to review OCS communications (“This Week at OCS” and the curated OCS Premed and Pre-Health spotlights, sent from “Harvard OCS”) for workshops and other events directed at students preparing to apply to medical or another health professions school within the next several application cycles.

- Alumni: Be sure to subscribe to the OCS Medical School Applicant Listserv (instructions above) to stay up to date about workshops and other events directed at alumni preparing to apply to medical or another health professions school within the next several application cycles. Note: For five years after graduation, alumni have the same access to OCS advising, programs, and application support as current undergraduates. Alumni who are more than five years out from graduation are encouraged to reach out to the OCS premed/pre-health advisers for a consultation about Harvard College advising and resources for medical or other health professions school applicants.

- All OCS workshops and events of interest to current and future applicants can also be found in the OCS events calendars. See https://ocs.fas.harvard.edu/events.
c. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Resources

- MSAR (Medical School Admission Requirements for US and Canadian Medical Schools). Access to MSAR can be purchased at AAMC.org and is essential. The cost for a 2-year subscription is $36 and a 1-year subscription is $28.
- “The Official Guide to Medical School Admissions and the Medical School Admission Requirements website are published in the spring of each year, typically in April. Access to the Medical School Admission Requirements website is available for one calendar year following the date of purchase/activation, and everyone with a current MSAR subscription will automatically receive access to the new edition as soon as it is published.” See the MSAR home page for more information and the links to purchase and access MSAR.
- The Association of American Medical Colleges administers both the MCAT and the AMCAS application. You should make sure you are familiar with their website. (aamc.org > navigate to https://students-residents.aamc.org/ and select “Applying to Medical School” tab).

4. Budgeting for the process

- As mentioned at the beginning of this workshop, the AAMC’s Fee Assistance Program (FAP) provides financial relief for MCAT and AMCAS application fees including a waiver of the submission fee and up to 20 school fees (currently a $968 value), and provides free access to the MSAR and other reference materials as well as assistance for AAMC MCAT fees and prep materials (up to a $500 value; the exact amount is subject to change). See the FAP portion of the AAMC website for details and how to apply (also review the first section in this document for a complete set of links to information about FAP).
- A breakdown of FAP benefits can be viewed here: Applicants whose household income does not exceed 400% of the national poverty for their family size are eligible for FAP: “In 2021, you will be granted fee assistance if each household reported on your application has a 2020 total family income that is 400 percent or less than the 2020 national poverty level for that family size.”
- Note that schools will typically waive their secondary application fee for FAP recipients. If you received FAP, and do not see a prompt to request a secondary app fee waiver on the school’s secondary application or elsewhere in the applicant portal or school website, you may need to reach out to the school on your own to request the waiver. This additional fee
reduction can save FAP recipients an extra ~$3,000 in addition to the value of FAP itself (based on the example of an applicant who applies to 28-30 schools that charge a secondary app fee of ~$75-$125 each). Note: If you applied for but did not qualify for FAP, or if you would likely have qualified but were not eligible to apply, do reach out to medical schools to explain your financial situation/circumstances and self-reported need, explaining you were not eligible for/were not approved for FAP, to request their consideration of a secondary application fee waiver. Some medical schools will grant a waiver of their fee if you can demonstrate sufficient need. You may be asked to submit a copy of your undergraduate financial aid award or other information about your household income to schools willing to consider a secondary app fee waiver.

- The AMCAS application fees are as follows: $170 AMCAS processing fee which includes one school, and $42 for each additional school (see https://students-residents.aamc.org/financial-aid-resources/cost-applying-medical-school for the 2022 cycle fees, which are subject to change in future cycles). Secondary application fees range from $75 to $150 per school (the average secondary app fee is ~$100). For a list of fees by school, see https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/7011/download.

- An applicant who applies to 28 schools and receives 25 secondary applications will pay up to ~$4,000 for the application process alone (~$1,500 for AMCAS and ~$2,500 in secondary app fees). Harvard Senior applicants apply to an average of 25 schools, and Alumni applicants to an average of 28 schools.

- Starting with the 2021 admissions cycle, all US medical schools have conducted virtual interviews only. As the public health situation continues to evolve, we expect that many schools will at some point resume in-person interviewing. When travelling to schools to interview in person, these travel costs will be on top of this ~$4K estimate and are widely variable.

- The Harvard Financial Aid Office may be able to help senior applicants if you are currently on financial aid at the college. The FAO is, however, very restricted in their ability to work out a way by which they can assist a high financial aid recipient with professional school application costs. They have a few ‘work arounds’ for converting a portion of your aid to a loan (e.g., if a portion of your financial aid is undispersed), so be sure to check directly with your FAO officer about this. The FAO is not able to help alumni.

- Rarely, medical schools will help defer expenses, such as for interview travel, but you have to demonstrate significant need.
5. Components of the application process

- Transcripts
- MCAT scores
- Letters of recommendation
- Committee (House) letter
- School selection
- AMCAS application
- Beyond AMCAS: TMDSAS for Texas schools; ACOMAS and Letters by Liaison for osteopathic (D.O.) medical schools; Canadian applicants to Ontario schools use OMSAS; applicants to European schools use a variety of services (e.g., Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) for some UK-based medical schools; Atlantic Bridge for Irish medical schools; and others; please reach out to the OCS Premed Advisers if you plan to apply to programs outside of the US).
- Secondary applications
- Interviews
- Post-acceptance and waitlist timeline and protocols

6. Transcripts

- The details of how to request your transcripts in the AMCAS application, in order to transmit all required transcripts to AMCAS, are covered in the AMCAS workshop that will take place in the spring. You can also find instructions for this in the AMCAS Instruction Manual (the 2023 cycle edition will be published in April or May, 2022).
- Filling out the application is complicated and requires considerable attention to detail. You can review AMCAS information on our website.
- As an overview, here are a few things to keep in mind: You have to submit a transcript for every US college or university where you have ever taken even one course, even if you withdrew or received no credit. This includes courses you might have taken at a college while you were still in high school.
- On the AMCAS application, you will enter your courses exactly as they appear on your transcript and AMCAS will use the transcripts you send to verify this information. If you are a current student you can view a copy of your unofficial transcript in my.harvard. Alumni can download an unofficial transcript on the FAS Registrar’s website at https://registrar.fas.harvard.edu/transcript/order-transcript.
- If you are enrolled in college courses at Harvard or elsewhere in the spring before you apply, you should wait until your spring grades appear on your transcript before requesting that the transcript be sent.
• Your science, or “BCPM” (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math/Statistics) GPA is composed of all grades you have received in biology, chemistry, physics, math, and statistics courses. It is the content of the course, not the title that matters. The AMCAS Applicant Guide provides instructions for how to classify your courses as well as other aspects of filling out the application.

7. MCAT score
• When you sign up for the MCAT, be sure that the name you use to register is an exact match to the name on the ID that you will use to gain admittance to the test. People will be turned away if the names do not match, even for something as minor as hyphens in one and not the other spelling of your name. Use your official name for everything. It can cause delays and worse if the name on your transcript is different from the name you use in AMCAS or give your Premed Committee for use in your letter.
• The biggest question for most students is when to take the test.
• The short answer is that you need to take it when you have finished the majority of the relevant course work, have time to study and are reasonably sure you will be in a position to give it your best shot.
• Most applicants will be advised to take it by April of the spring in which they plan to apply. While we strongly recommend that you only plan to take it once, taking it by April gives you a chance to retake the exam if necessary.
• Taking it in May of the year you apply makes it more challenging to retake it, but you will still get your score in time to pull out of the cycle if you are not satisfied with the score.
• There are successful candidates every year who take the exam for the first time in June as they are applying. This makes it hard to retake the exam, and can prolong the process of choosing schools. However, if April comes and you are not doing well on the practice exams, it is better to delay the test than to do poorly.
• Regardless of MCAT test date, you will want to submit AMCAS by mid-June.

8. Letters of recommendation
• Letters of recommendation should be sent to your House/Dudley, where they become part of your student file. You need to send your House’s waiver form to each of the people who will be writing a letter on your behalf, and that form needs to be submitted to the House along with the letter written by your recommender.
• You can have any number of letters sent to your House. In the end, most applicants send 4 to 5 individual recommendation letters to the medical schools. MD-PhD candidates often send up to 7 letter in order to include additional research letters.
• The strongest letters come from people who know you well. Letters from teaching fellows do not need to be co-signed by professors. If you have been in a lab or another job for a significant period of time, schools will expect to see a letter from the supervisor of that work.
• Your House tutors and OCS advisers can help you figure out whom you should ask to write your letters of recommendation if you are uncertain about this.
• Aim to have your individual medical school recommendation letters in by mid-spring of the year in which you are applying. Be sure to check the deadline in place at your House/Dudley regarding the submission of these rec letters to your Resident Dean’s office. House medical school recommendation letter deadlines vary from April 1 to May 15; be sure to check the deadline for yours. If the activity, course, senior thesis, research project etc. on which a recommender is evaluating you is still underway in the spring term at the end of which you are applying, such recs can be submitted after the House deadline and not be considered late; in this situation, be sure to confer with your premed tutors and Academic Coordinator to let them know that the rec letter will arrive a bit late, and when they can expect it, so that you will not be marked late for this important portion of the process.
• Stay in touch with your letter writers. Thank them. Let them know the outcome of your process.
• You will need at least one recommendation letter from a science professor or a science course teaching fellow. A few schools ask for two, but your Principal Investigator (PI) or research supervisor/mentor can count for the second one if you have done research in a scientific or medical field. You will also need one letter from a non-science course instructor (professor or TF).
• Information about letters of recommendation on our website.
• Also see the AAMC’s Guidelines for medical school recommenders at https://www.aamc.org/system/files/file=2019-09/lettersguidelinesbrochure.pdf.
9. The Committee (House) Letter

- Each House and the Dudley Community will have clear deadlines and expectations regarding the medical school application process, but those deadlines and expectations will vary somewhat from House to House.
- For students who adhere to the deadlines, the Committee letter along with the individual rec letters to be sent to medical schools will be uploaded to AMCAS by your Academic Coordinator on August 15 (or the next business day after 8/15).
- A similar process is in place for transmitting your letters to TMDSAS, AACOMAS, and other common application services. Consult with the Academic Coordinator and with the OCS premed/pre-health advisers if you are applying to Texas and/or D.O. schools and have questions about their common app service/process.
- All medical schools expect letters from Harvard to arrive on August 15. Almost all schools will send secondary applications without these letters and some will send interview invitations without first reviewing the letters. It is rare, however, for interview invitations to be sent before the middle of August. Most schools begin sending invitations in late August/September, and many schools continue to send invites well into the following spring.

10. School selection

- Your school list should reflect your individual interests, metrics, state residency, and any other considerations that may hold weight for you (e.g., weather or proximity to family).
- Resources for this include most of the resources listed above. The MSAR will be invaluable. You should also use the chart of requirements, financial aid policy, and other admissions information on our website at https://ocs.fas.harvard.edu/admissions-requirements-policies (click on the “Requirements, Admissions, and Financial Aid Policies” tab, and open the second of the two spreadsheets, which you can download and save).
- There are many factors to consider, including location; your state of residency; in-state versus out-of-state acceptance rates; type of curriculum; type of grading; research opportunities and funding; clinical resources; special programs or overall feel of the school; the presence or absence of merit scholarships or free/reduced tuition for all students or for those planning to go into primary care or who wish to practice in an underserved area/community, and more.
- It is crucial that you review your list with your assigned House/Dudley tutor. A list that is too short or not a good fit for you can result in getting
fewer interviews than you would receive with a longer and/or better balanced list, and therefore potentially no admissions. If you are uncertain about this or if you have a lower GPA or MCAT as discussed above, the premedical advisers at OCS are also happy to review your list.

11. AMCAS application

- AMCAS is a lengthy application and the process of completing it is covered in detail in the OCS AMCAS webinar offered in the spring. If you are applying for 2023 matriculation, you should attend this webinar in April 2022 or view the recording. To access the webinar recording, please email premed@fas.harvard.edu to request the link.
- Do not look to the official deadlines for AMCAS submission as a guideline to when to submit yours. Your application needs to be in earlier than that. Submitting your AMCAS application later than June is one common reason for why some otherwise prepared applicants receive few or late interviews and no offers of admission.
- Try to work on many drafts of your personal statement in March and April so that you have a solid, nearly final draft that several people have read by May (be sure to get feedback from your assigned House/Dudley tutor on your draft). The OCS premed/pre-health advisers will hold a personal statement and other application essay writing webinar in the spring (as explained above, the OCS premed/pre-health advisers cannot give individual feedback on your personal statement drafts). In general you are trying to hit many singles with your personal statement rather than focusing on hitting a home run. Memorable personal statements can be great. Risky ones are not so great. Listen to advice when your House tutor/s tell/s you that something seems off. It will hit some medical school admissions committee members the same way.
- The 2023 AMCAS application will open in early May of 2022, at which time you can begin working on it.
- AMCAS opens for submission in late May. You do not have to submit on the first day, but you should aim to have your application in by mid-June in order to give yourself the best shot at receiving interview invitations and acceptances.
- Your application needs to be 100% error free. If you need a few extra days to carefully proofread and ensure it is error free, then it is always going to be worth postponing your submission for those few days.
Your application will typically be verified anywhere from 2 to 6 weeks after you submit it. AMCAS begins transmitting verified applications to the medical schools in late June or early July.

Note: Your verified AMCAS does not need to be transmitted to your schools in the very first batch sent by the AMCAS department to schools. But your goal is to ensure that your AMCAS arrives at your schools by the middle- to end of July, in order to ensure timely consideration at all schools (including rolling admissions schools that tend to interview in order of how competitive they think an applicant is, and any school that starts interviewing early and/or wraps up its interview season on the earlier end of the cycle.)

12. Secondary applications

- Your assigned House tutor is your primary point person for questions about and feedback on your secondary application essays. The OCS premed/pre-health advisers are not able to offer individual feedback on your secondary application essays.
- Be sure to review the resources for secondary application essay writing on the OCS website at https://ocs.fas.harvard.edu/personal-statement. (Scroll down for a link to typical secondary application prompts.)
- Some schools screen AMCAS applications prior to sending secondary applications but most do not.
- Secondary applications will begin coming as soon as your AMCAS application is verified and sent to schools. A few may come even earlier.
- Some schools post their secondaries on their websites/in their applicant portal, so check for that as well. Check your spam folders frequently for any outstanding secondaries that you are still waiting on.
- You should make sure you set aside time to do these applications promptly and efficiently in the summer. Ideally, plan to turn each one around within ten days.
- Again, error-free documents are crucial.
- You need to be able to check your email virtually every day in the summer. Check your spam folder every day. Make sure you use an email for your application that you will check every day.

13. Interviews

- Your House Premed Committee will conduct mock interviews for current applicants. Be sure you know the process for scheduling yours, as mock practices and timing vary from House to House. (Dudley Community
applicants are welcome to participate in one of the multi-House mock MMI interview events that groups of Houses typically offer in the early fall. Please email premed@fas.harvard.edu to learn more.)

- OCS also offers a medical school interview webinar in the late summer. This workshop focuses on how to prepare for interviewing, and what to expect at the interview, including information about different interview formats, such as Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) and traditional interview formats. We also cover other tools used by some schools (such as CASPer and the AAMC’s Situational Judgment Test).

- If you submit your applications early, you could receive interview invitations as early as August or as late as for some schools. The majority of invitations come in between late September and early January.

- If you are planning on living outside of the US during the fall, talk to us about strategies for making the interview process work. It can be very challenging and expensive to travel to in-person interviews if you are applying while in Asia, Africa, Australia or remote areas.

- Get in touch with your House Premed Committee and tutors if you have zero to two completed interviews or invitations by late October or early November.

- The Canadian timeline is different and is very specific. There is more information about the Canadian application process on our website at Applying to Canadian Schools.

### 14. The post-acceptance world

- Applicants can get an acceptance anytime from October 15 until the early summer before matriculation.

- Some schools have rolling admission and some do not. There is no published list of which schools are rolling and which are non-rolling, but MSAR lists the earliest day schools will begin to send acceptances. You should read the instructions from each school to which you are applying carefully, so that you understand what is expected of you as the application cycle progresses.

- If you are fortunate to receive an early acceptance in the fall, you may consider withdrawing from some schools that are lower down on your list and therefore save you time and money on interview travel.

- When you receive an offer of admission, you are asked to accept it. Many schools ask you to send a deposit of up to $100. This does not mean you are promising to go to that school, and the deposits are refundable as long as you release the spot by April 30. It just means you want them to hold your spot.

- You are allowed to hold multiple offers up until April 15, at which point you are asked to reduce the number of acceptances you are holding to a maximum of three. By April 30, you can hold only one acceptance. If you know by April
30 that this is the school you will attend, you will “Commit to Enroll.” You can remain on wait lists at other schools after that time, however, by selecting the option of “Planning to Enroll.” Many applicants will need to hold on to multiple acceptances up until April 15 in order to be able to compare financial aid offers.

• The AAMC acceptance process is managed via the AMCAS Choose your Medical School Tool, a system by which applicants communicate their decisions to schools to which they have been accepted. It becomes available to 2023 applicants on February 19, 2022.

• If you are sure you would prefer to go to school X where you have been accepted, over school Y where you have also been accepted, it does not make sense to hold on to the acceptance at school Y until April 15. You should withdraw from school Y in that case, in order to free up the place for other applicants. Try not to delay the decision if possible. You can greatly help your fellow applicants and usually yourself by withdrawing from schools along the way in favor of other schools. This should only be done, however, after you have one acceptance.

• Detailed Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants are listed on the AAMC website. It is your responsibility to understand these in detail. See https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/application-and-acceptance-protocols-applicants/.

• The OCS premed advisers can help you with managing your wait list strategies if that becomes an issue for you.

BE SURE TO STAY IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR HOUSE OR DUDLEY PREMED ADVISERS AND TO CONSULT WITH THE OCS ADVISERS AS NEEDED FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. GOOD LUCK!