Navigating the 2022 AMCAS Application Cycle

Candice Pantor
Sr. Communications Specialist, AMCAS & AAMC Fee Assistance Program

Jena Wimsatt
Outreach Specialist, Services Communications

April 27, 2021

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Agenda

- AMCAS Application
  - AMCAS Process
  - 2022 Dates and Participation
  - 2022 Application
- Verification
- After Submission
- AMCAS Letter Service
  - The Letter Writer Application
  - Letter Guidelines
- Resources

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How does AMCAS work?

Application Submitted

- Applicant completes & submits AMCAS application online
- Applicant pays submission fees (or uses valid Fee Assistance Program benefits)

Application Processed

- Applicant arranges for all required official transcripts to be sent to AMCAS
- AMCAS performs verification of coursework and calculates AMCAS GPAs

Application Delivered

- AMCAS distributes verified application to designated med schools
- AMCAS delivers letters to designated med schools as they are received

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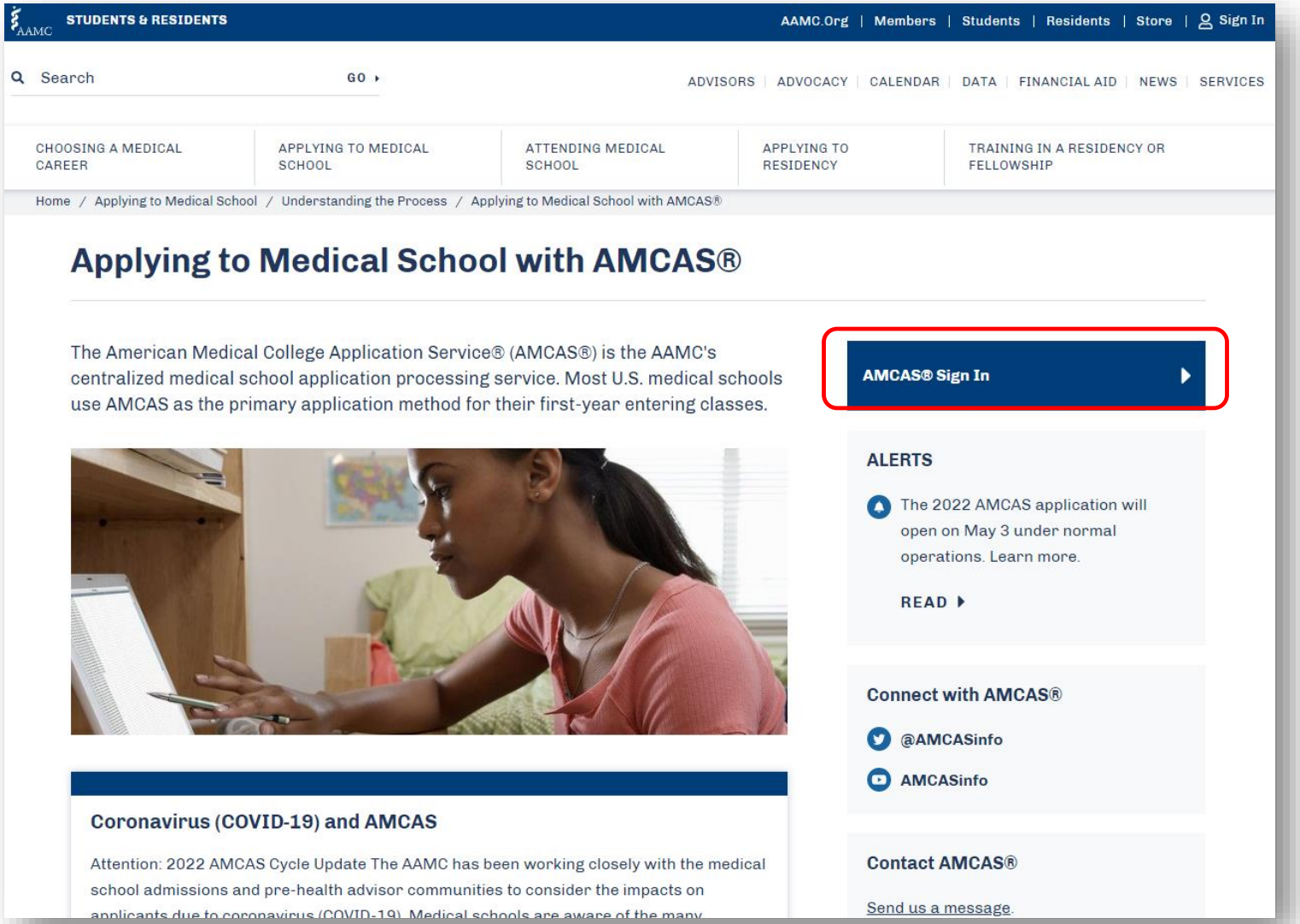
aamc.org/amcas



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2022 Application Dates

Date*	Event
April 7	2022 AMCAS resources available
May 3	**AMCAS application opens**
May 27	**AMCAS application submission begins**
June 25	**Initial transmission of application data to medical schools**
August 2	Early Decision Program deadline
Sept.-Dec.	Application deadlines

*Dates subject to change

Application Deadlines

- Application must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. ET of the deadline date
- Transcript deadlines must be received by AMCAS within 14 calendar days of the application deadline date
- Must be received by August 2 for early decision applicants
  - Visit www.aamc.org/amcasdeadlines

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2022 AMCAS Participation

Tentative 2022 Participation	
Application	152 Schools/Programs All MD granting schools in the United States with the exception of MD programs at Texas public schools
AMCAS Letters	152 Schools/Programs
Criminal Background Checks	129 Schools/Programs

2022 AMCAS Application Fees:

- $170 processing fee (includes one school designation)
- $42 for each additional school

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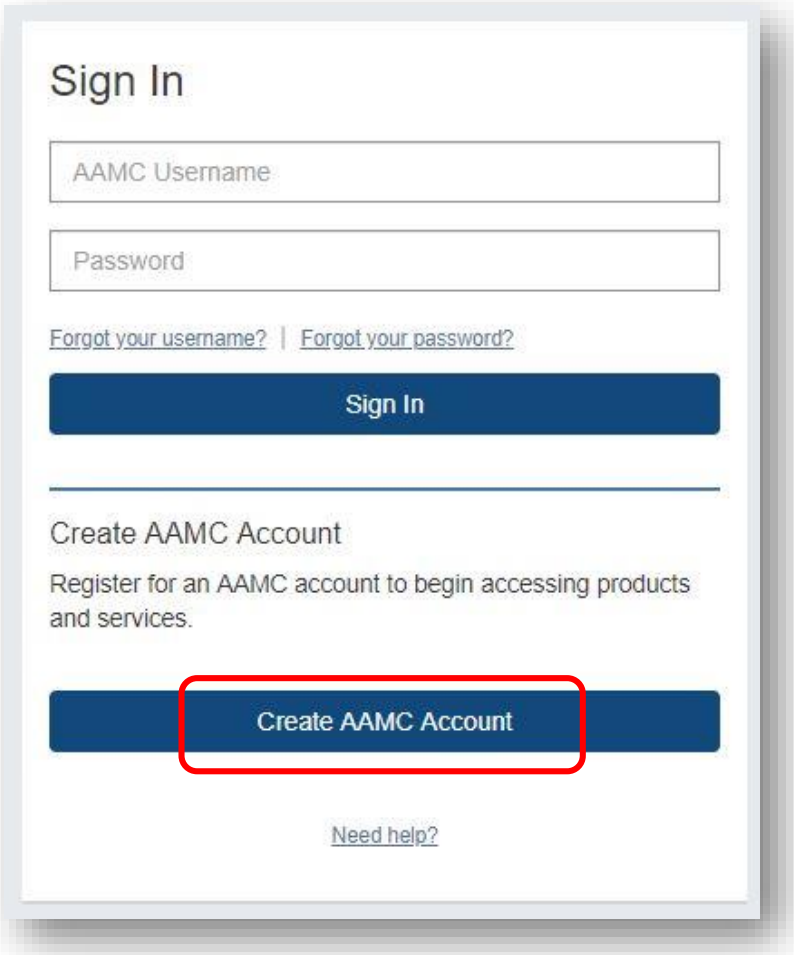
Accessing the Application



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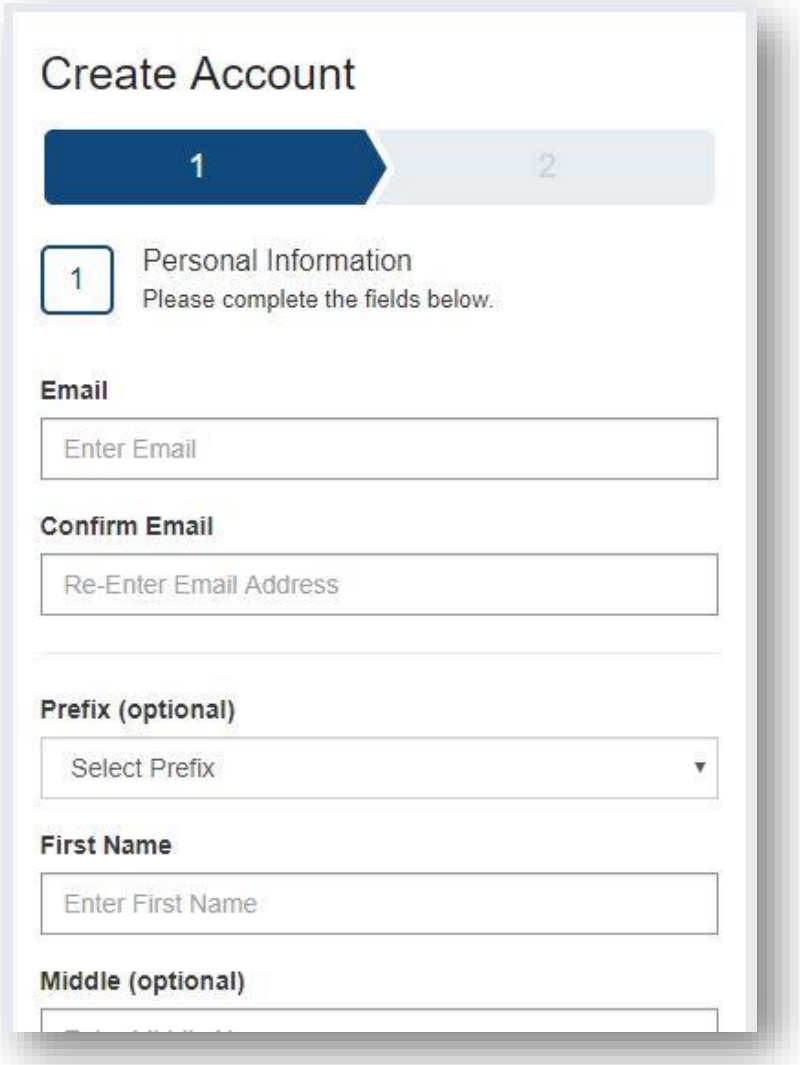
AAMC Registration



Applicants should only complete registration if they do not have an AAMC ID

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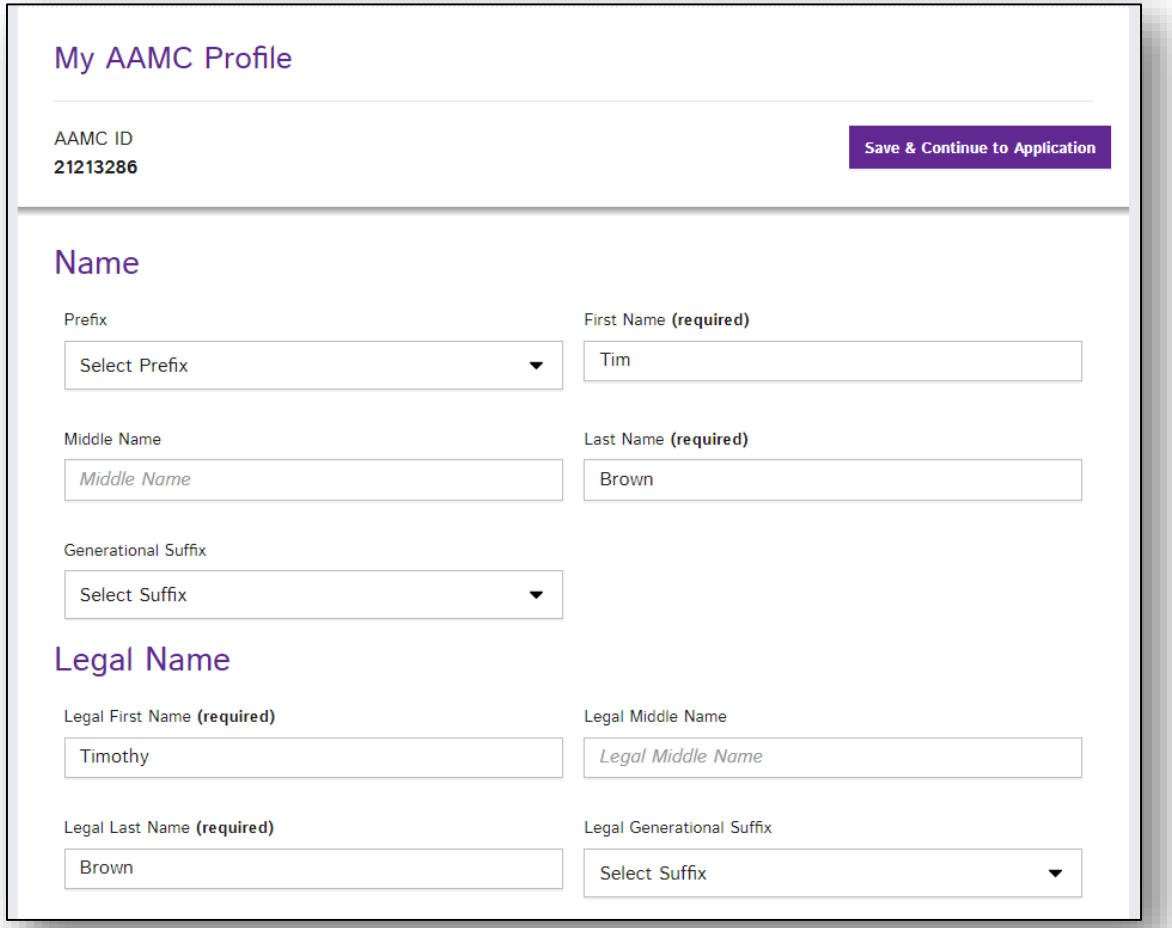
My AAMC Profile



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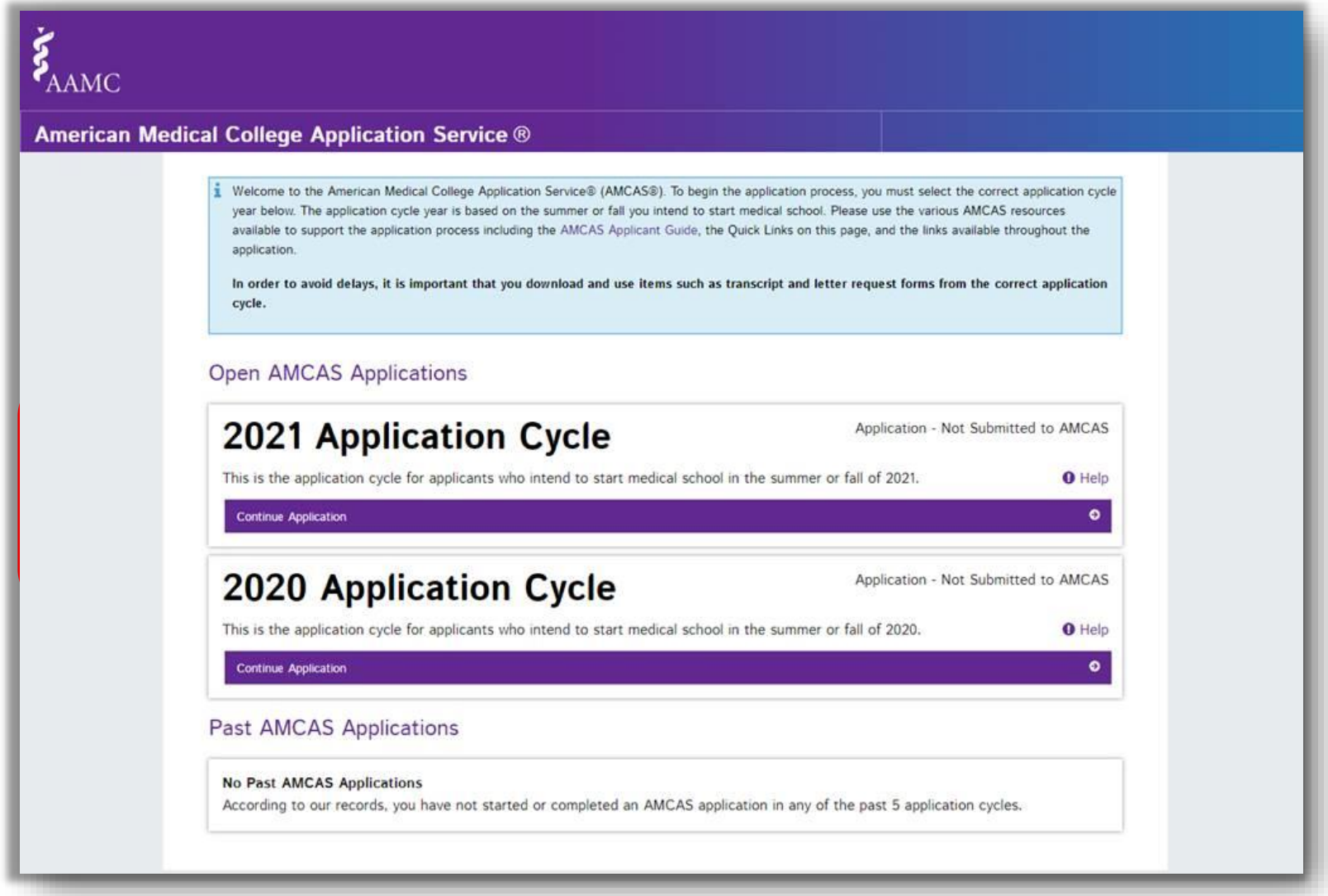
Select “2022 Application Cycle”



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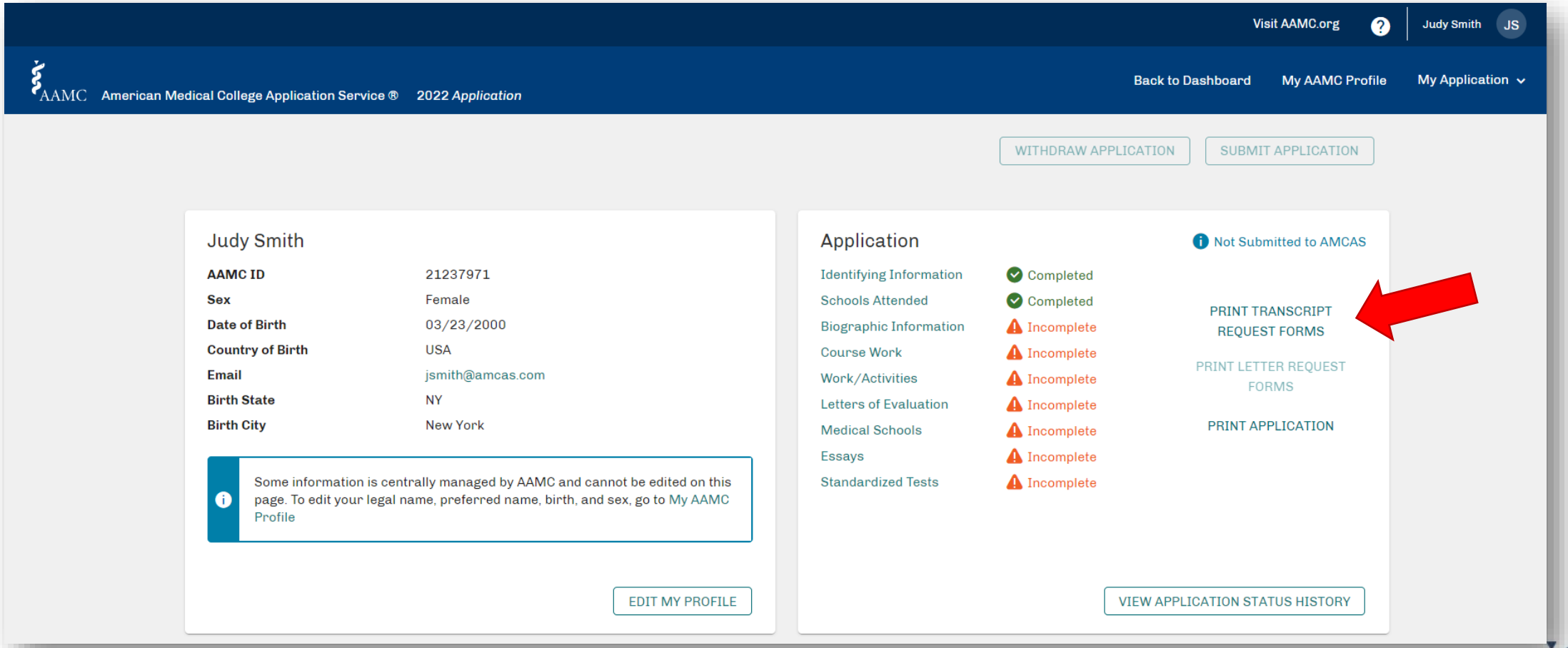
AMCAS Main Menu



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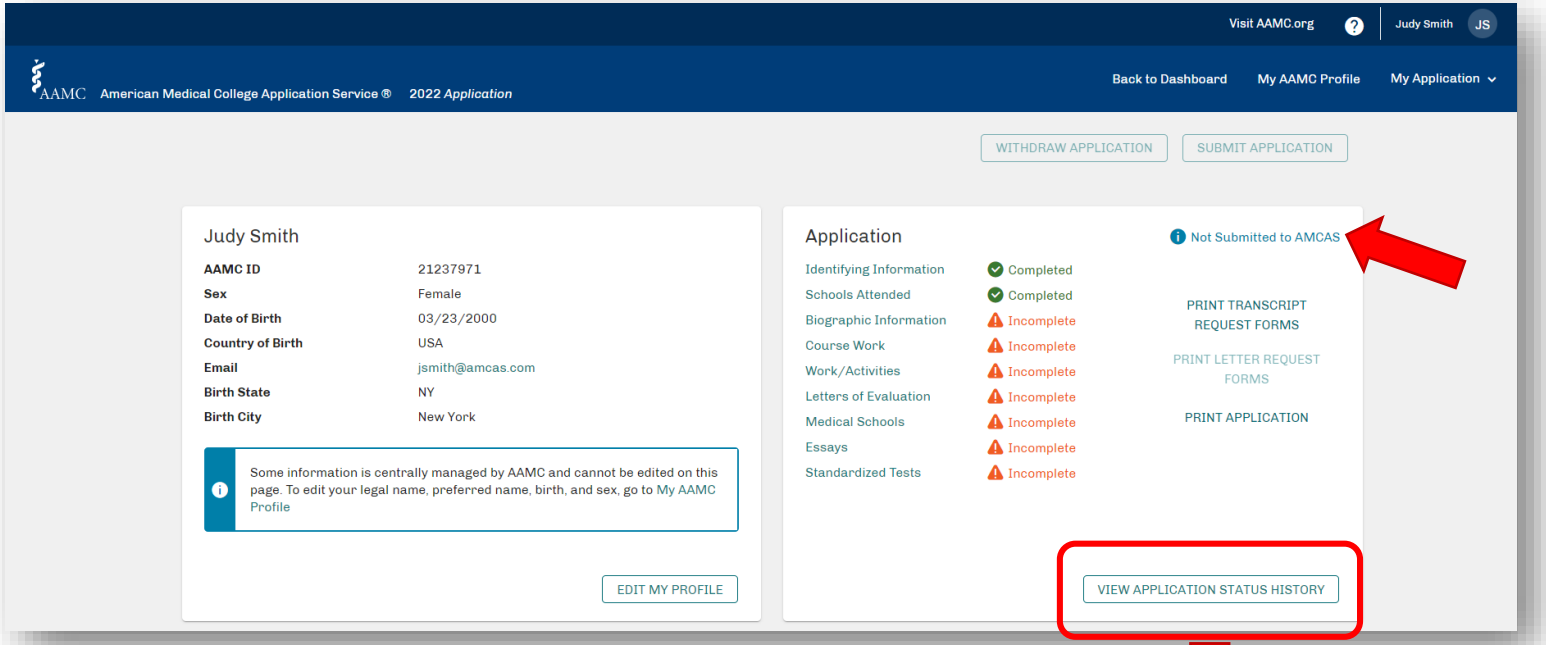
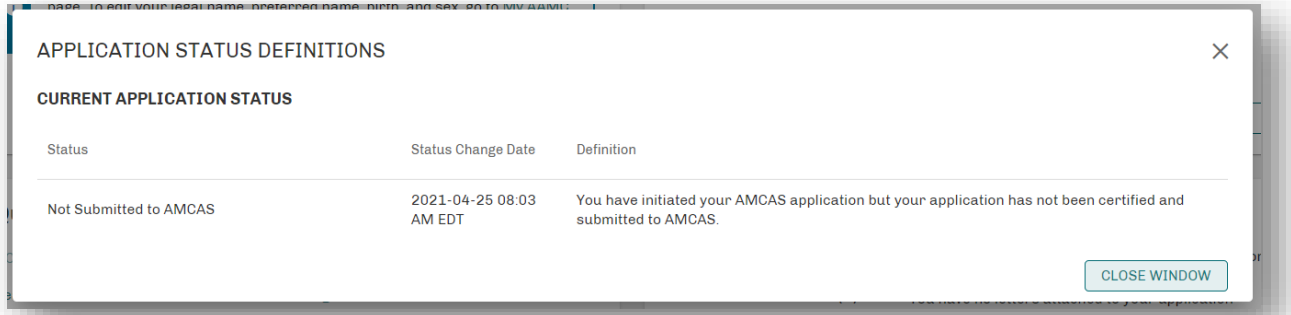
AMCAS Main Menu





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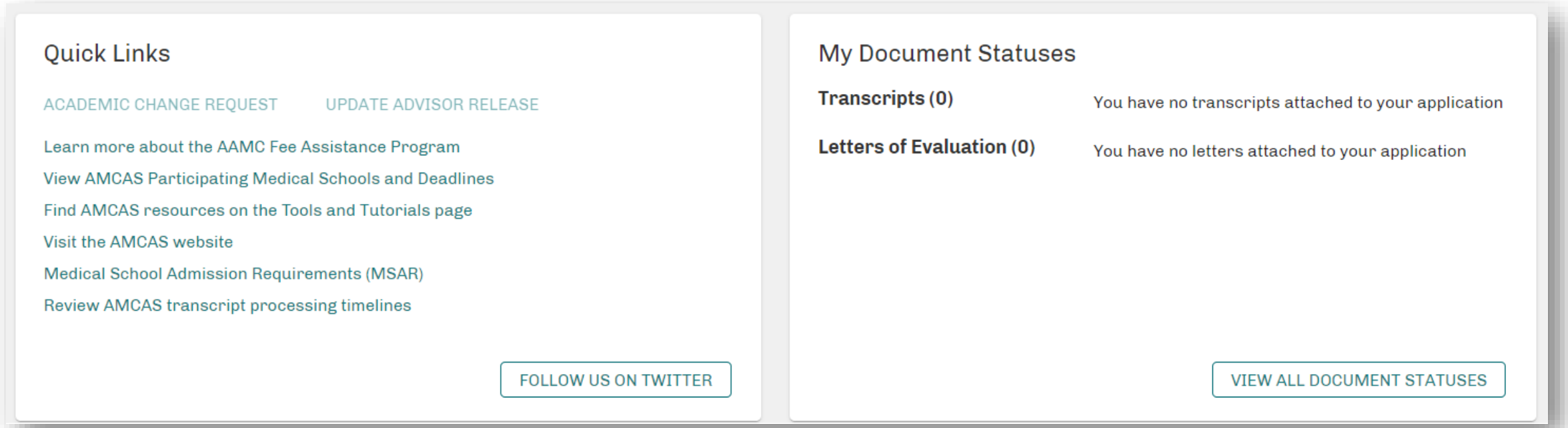
AMCAS Main Menu



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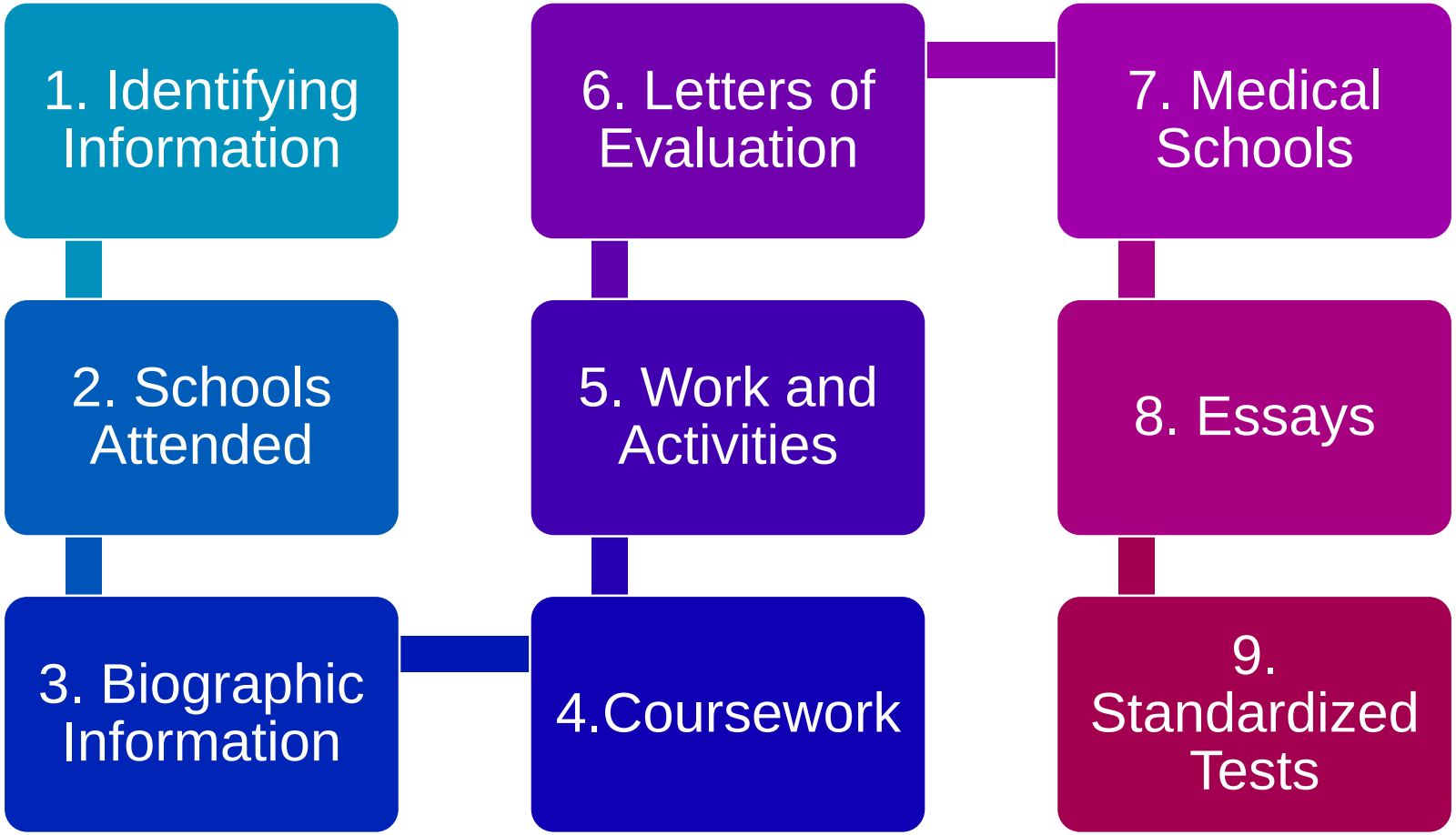
Application Sections



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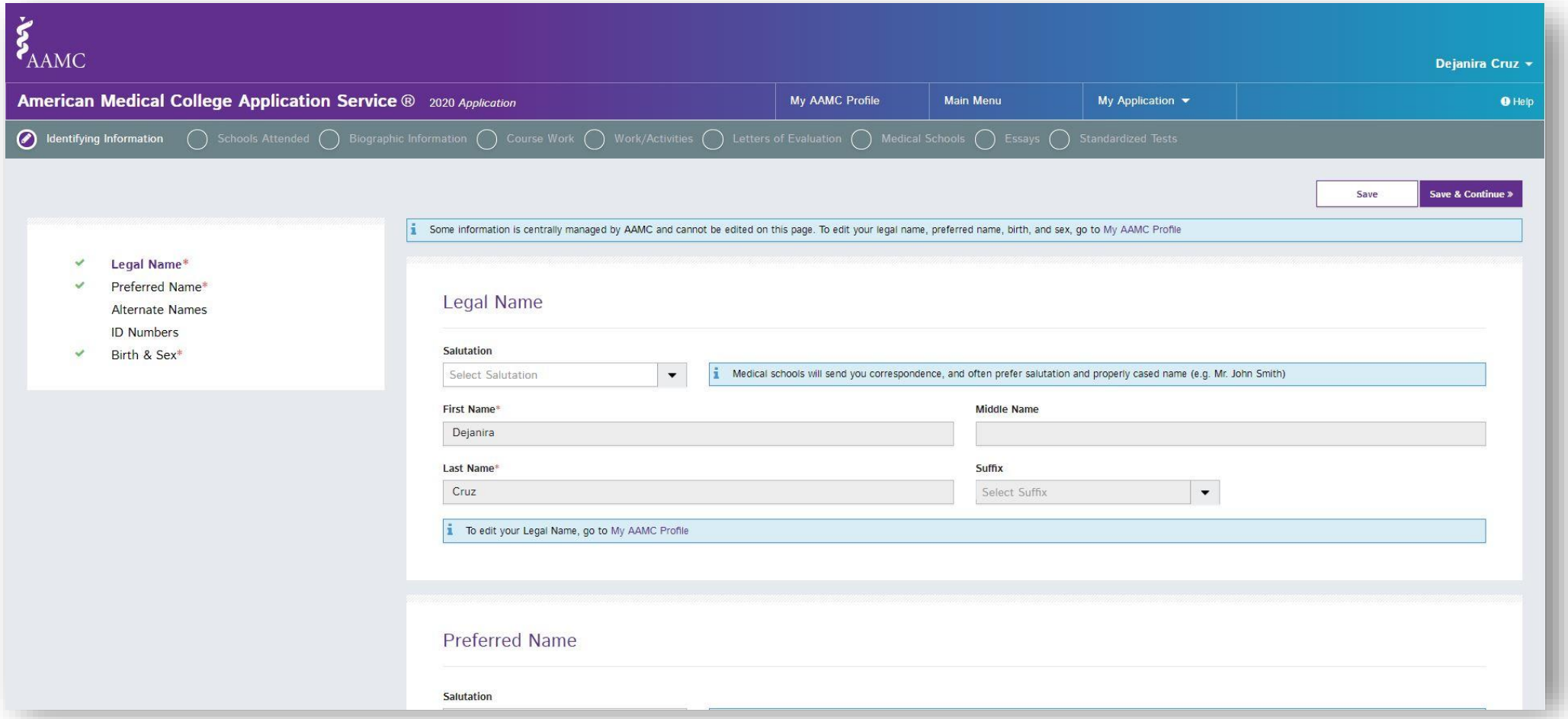
Identifying Information



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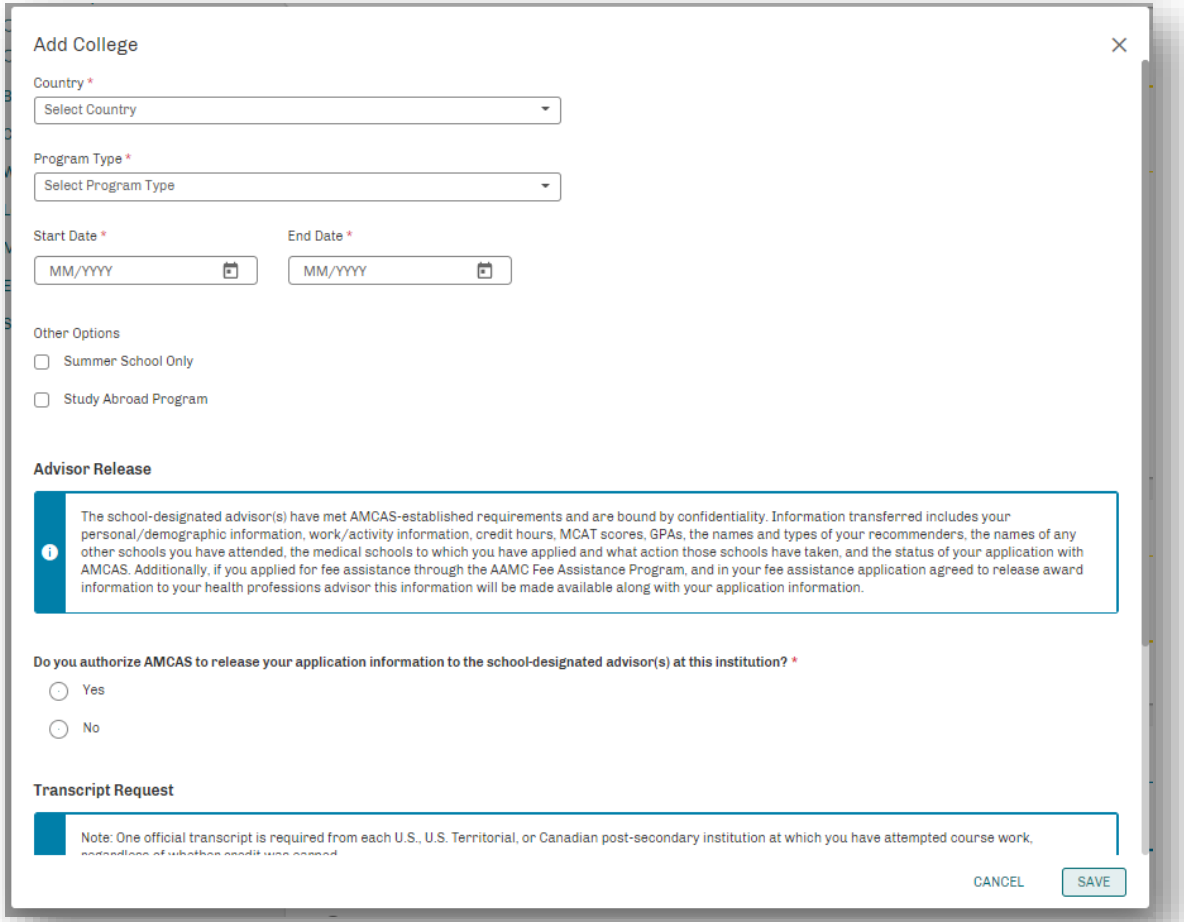
Schools Attended



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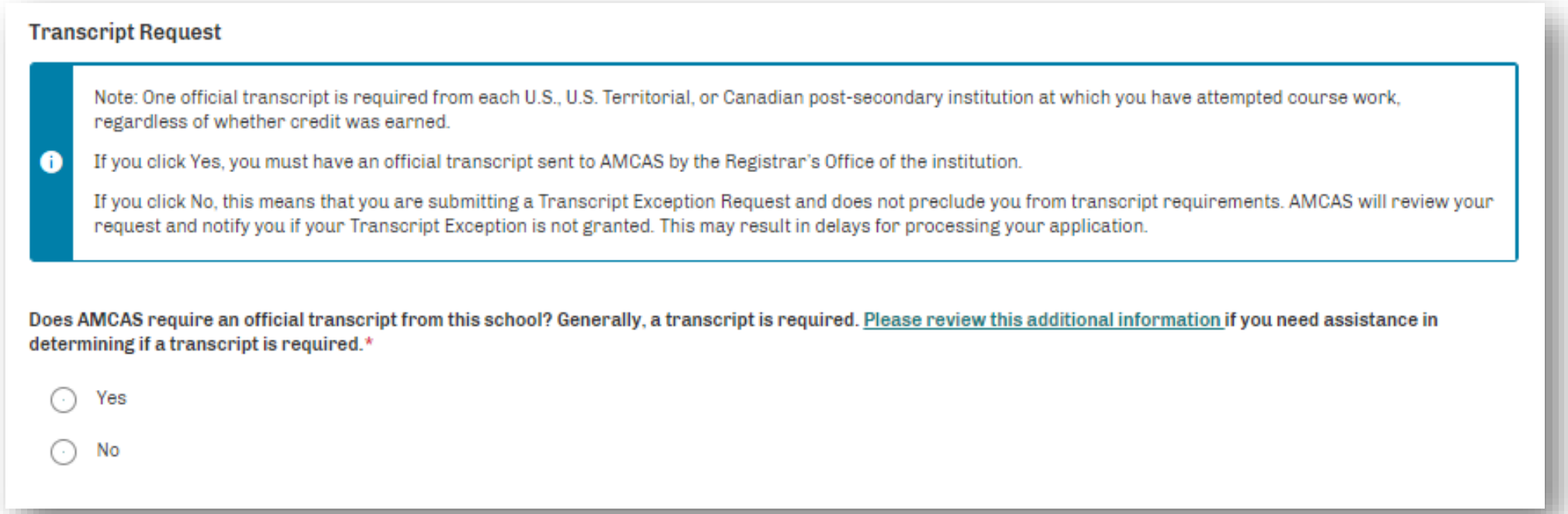

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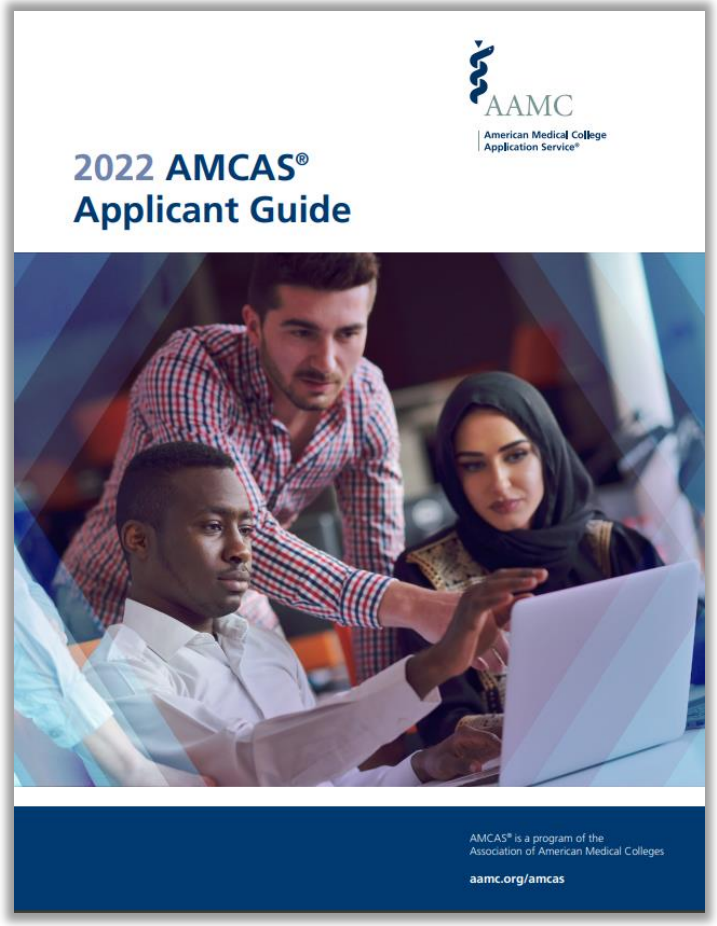
Schools Attended



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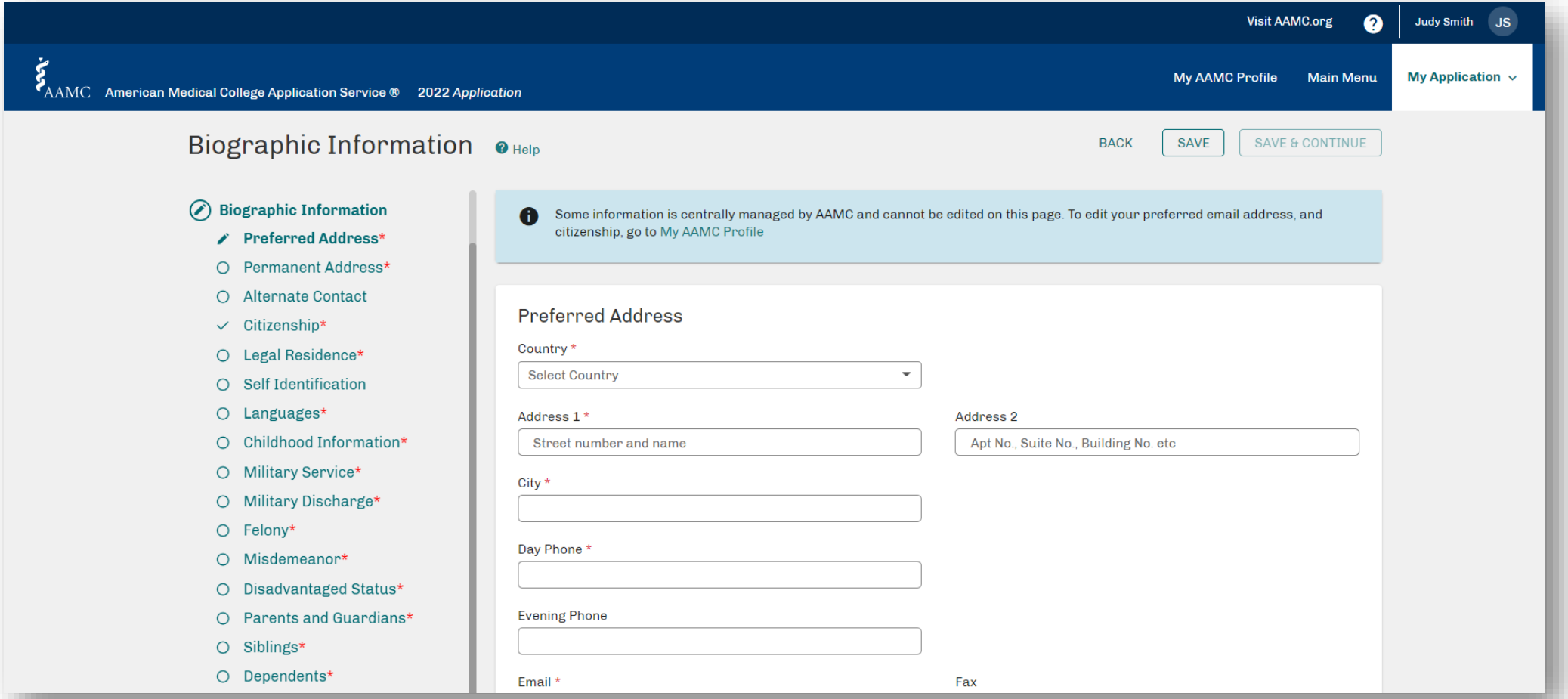
Biographic Information



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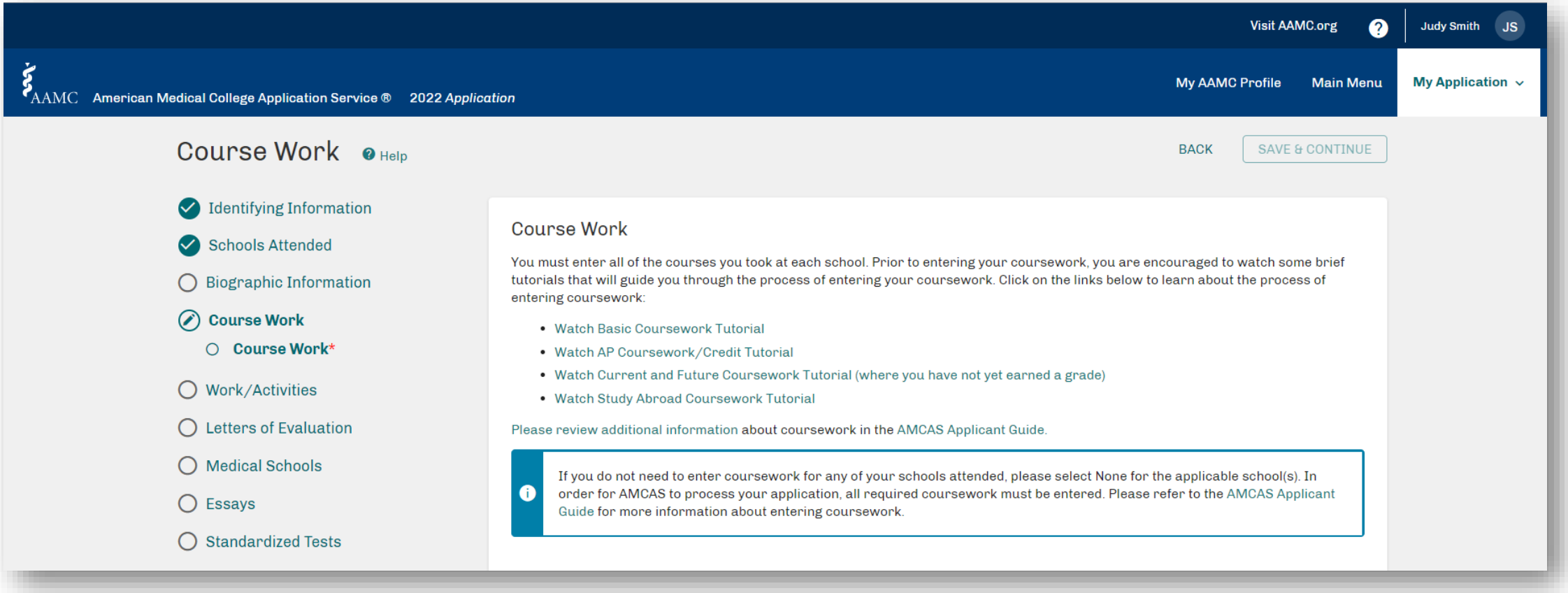
Coursework



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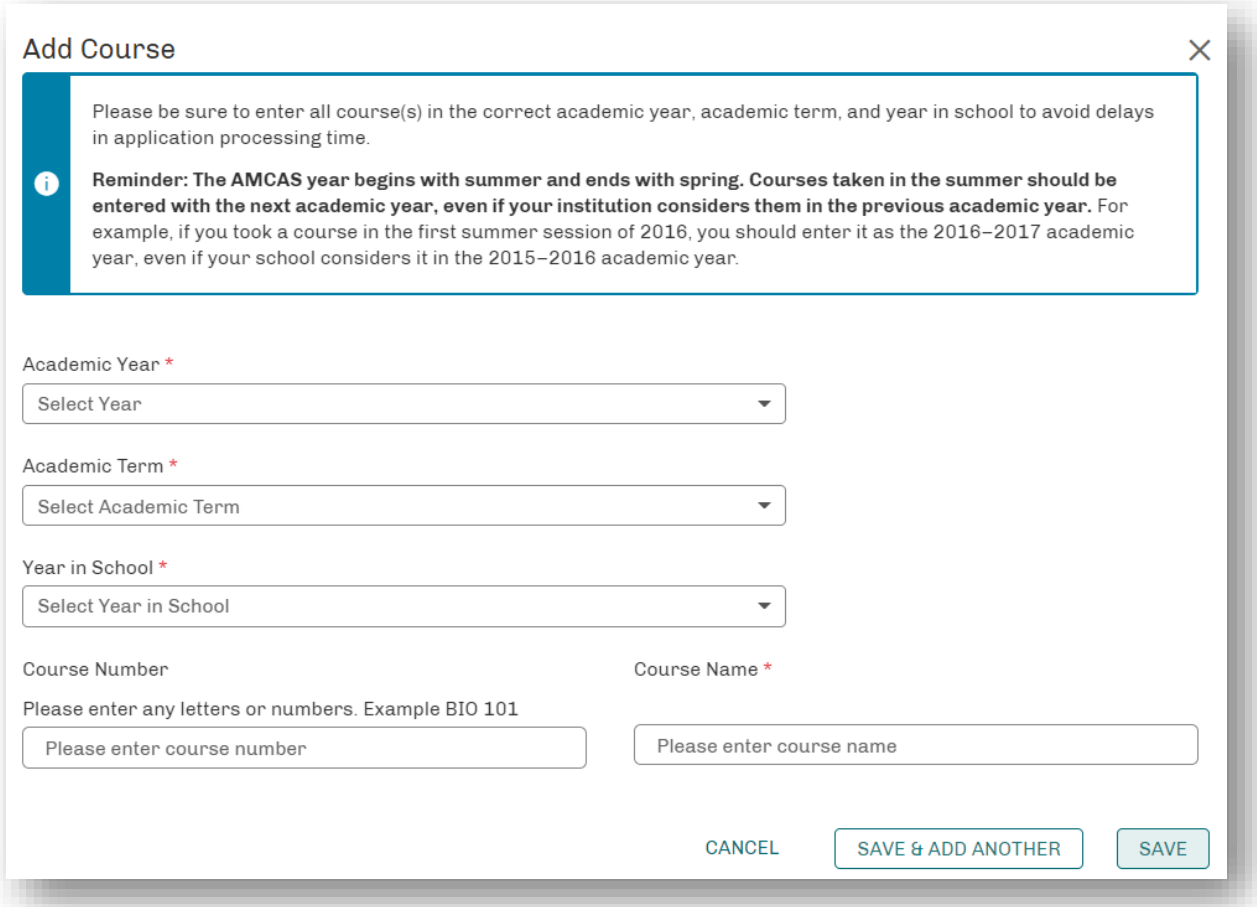
Coursework



You should use a personal copy of your official transcript to complete this section.

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Coursework Tips

- Include plus or minus grades.
- The AMCAS academic year begins with the summer term.
- Include your Physical Education courses.
- Have course descriptions available when entering course classifications and review the course classification chart thoroughly.
- If you applied in a previous year, update your final grades.
- Include your original alpha grade for all attempts of a repeated course.

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Coursework: Things to Avoid!

- If your transcript shows letter grades **do not** enter numeric grades or quality points in the grade field.

- Do not enter the course number as the course name.
  - For example: *BIO 101 Intro to Biology* should be entered as Course Name: **Intro to Biology** and Course Name: **BIO 101** ***NOT*** ~~Course Name "BIO" Course Number "101".~~

- Do not enter special symbols or characters when entering the courses name and course number.

- Do not enter your summer courses in the wrong year.
  - For example: If your course was taken in the summer of 2020 it goes in AY 2020-2021 in the AMCAS application.

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Coursework: Things to Avoid!

- **Do not** classify Physics classes as ~~Natural Physical Science.~~ The classification for Physics courses is as **Physics (PHYS)**.
- If any course has both a lecture and a lab component, **do not** list both grades in a single entry.
  - For example: Biology Lecture B+ Biology Lab C+ **do not enter** ~~Biology B+/C+~~
- Do not omit withdrawals or repeated courses.
- Do not forget to add Advanced Placement courses.
- If your application is returned for 10+ missing courses, do not omit any courses when you resubmit.

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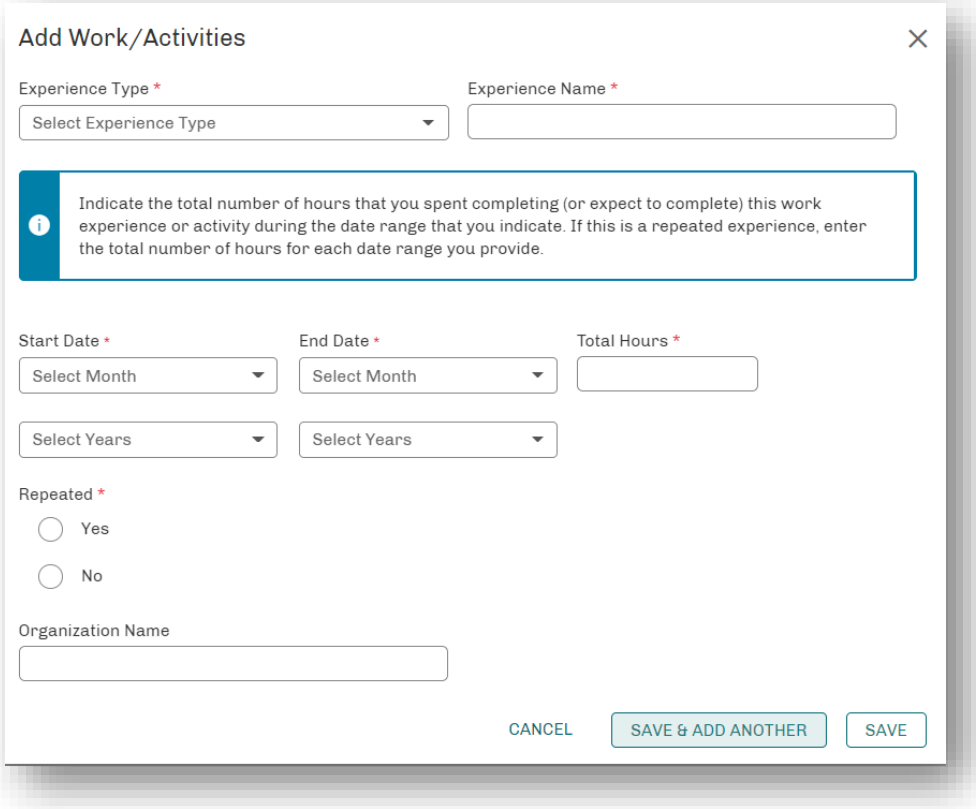
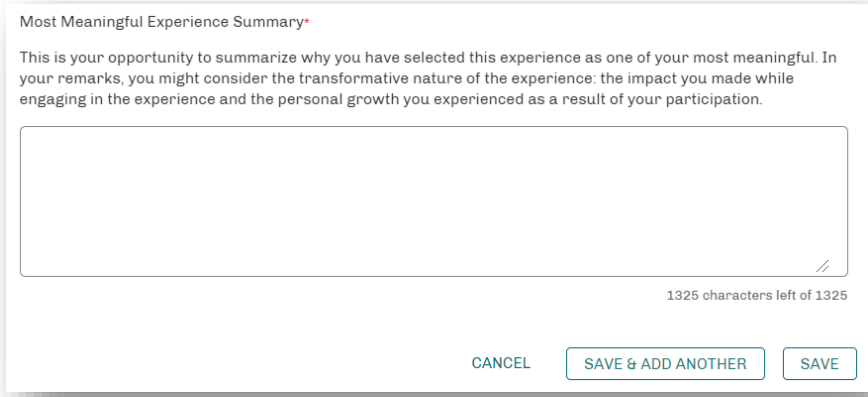
Work/Activities



- Maximum of 15 entries
  - You can enter additional date ranges for repeated activities
- Maximum of 3 “Most Meaningful”



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Ask an Admission Officer

How can I stand out with my work and activities?

- This is a common question and many activities and experiences will be similar amongst medical school applicants because there are common themes to experiences that many will have gone through – direct patient experiences, service, research for example.
- Include clinical and non-clinical activities – especially activities where students have led projects and/or people. Most medical schools desire to see leadership, teamwork, and experiences working with diverse populations.

Are there required activities?

- Some schools have required experiences and it is important to review the respective websites for this information.

Any advice for non-traditional applicants when completing work and activities?

- In the narrative, explain how the work/activities has been formative in your nontraditional journey to medicine.
- Being able to write about and/or talk about how your experiences as a non-traditional student has shaped/impacted your pursuit of medicine.

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Ask an Admission Officer

How are work and activities being reviewed given COVID impacts?

- Admissions committees understand that the pandemic has effected applicants ability to participate in their activities, with modifications to these experiences or perhaps not being able to do them at all. Holistic review for the coming cycles of applicants will allow admissions committees to take into account the change.

How should I describe my work and activities to cover what schools are looking for?

- Keep the frame of mind that you are applying to medical school. How does this experience impact my future profession in medicine?
- Be mindful that medical schools are trying to determine how you have tested out your decision of pursuing medicine as well as evaluating/learning about other things that were a priority during your undergrad/graduate education.

How do you view work and activates as part of the complete application?

- Your work and activities are a critical part of the application in telling admissions committees how you have been spending your time during the years prior to applying to medical school.

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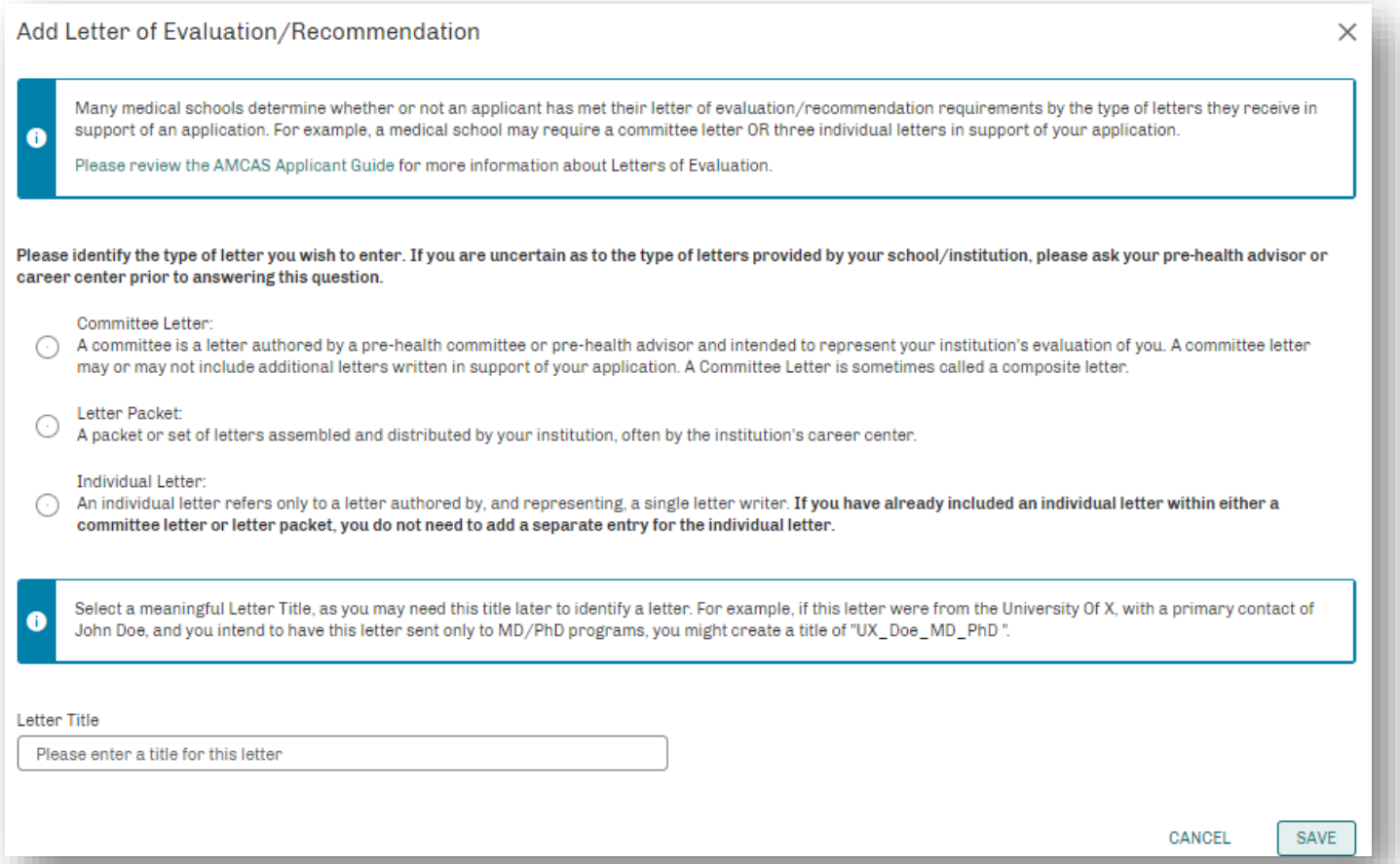
Letters of Evaluation



You can submit your application before AMCAS receives your letters.

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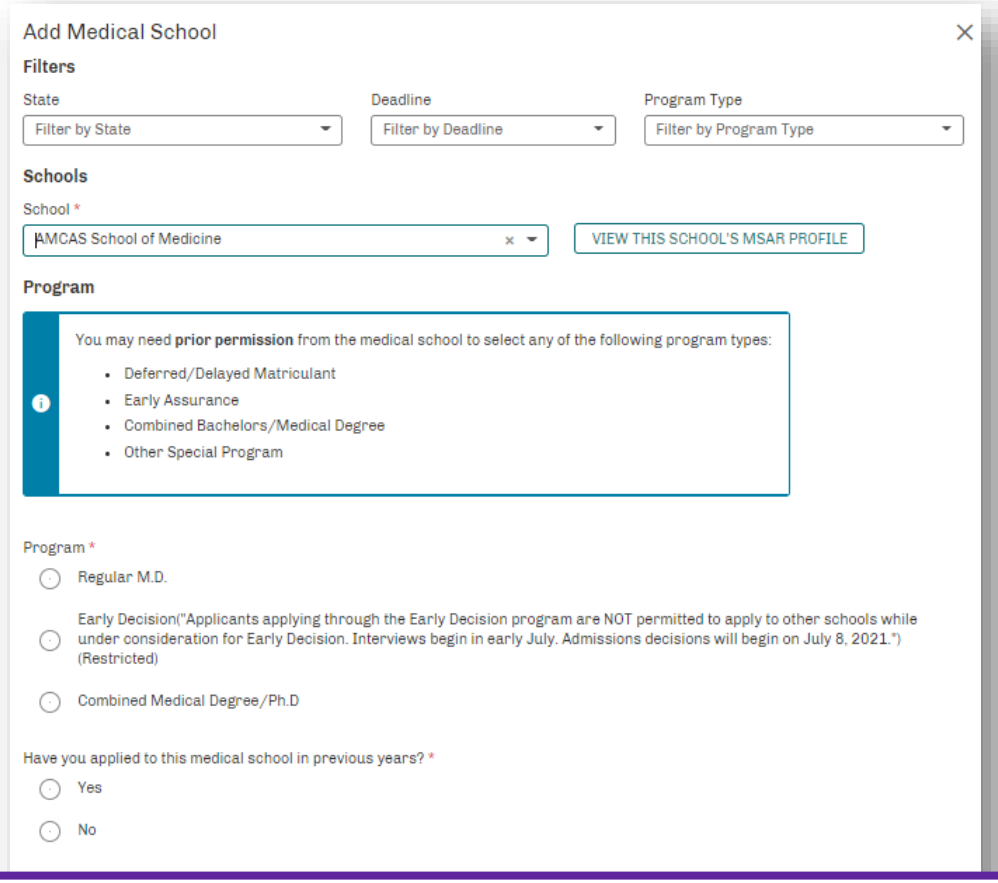
Medical Schools



You should be sure to select the correct program type and be mindful of program and transcript deadlines.

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AAMC SJT Exam 2021 Administration

Medical School	2021 Admissions
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine	Strongly Recommended
Morehouse School of Medicine	Required
University of Alabama - Birmingham School of Medicine	Required
University of Minnesota School of Medicine - Twin Cities campus	Strongly Recommended
University of California Davis School of Medicine	Strongly Recommended
Des Moines University Medicine and Health Sciences	Strongly Recommended

The AAMC Situational Judgment Test (SJT) is a standardized exam that presents a series of hypothetical scenarios students may encounter in medical school and asks examinees to evaluate the effectiveness of a series of behavioral responses to each scenario.

Registration is OPEN!
aamc.org/sjt

Upcoming webinar: **Everything you Need to Know to Prepare for the 2021 AAMC Situational Judgment Test**, on Tuesday, May 4 at 2:30 p.m. ET

aamc.elevate.commpartners.com/upcoming-webinars

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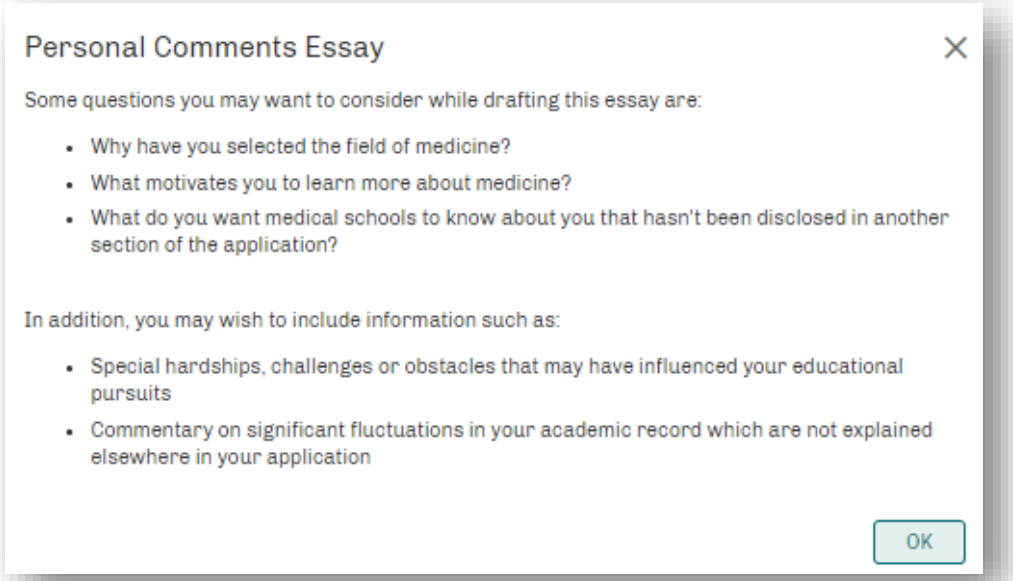
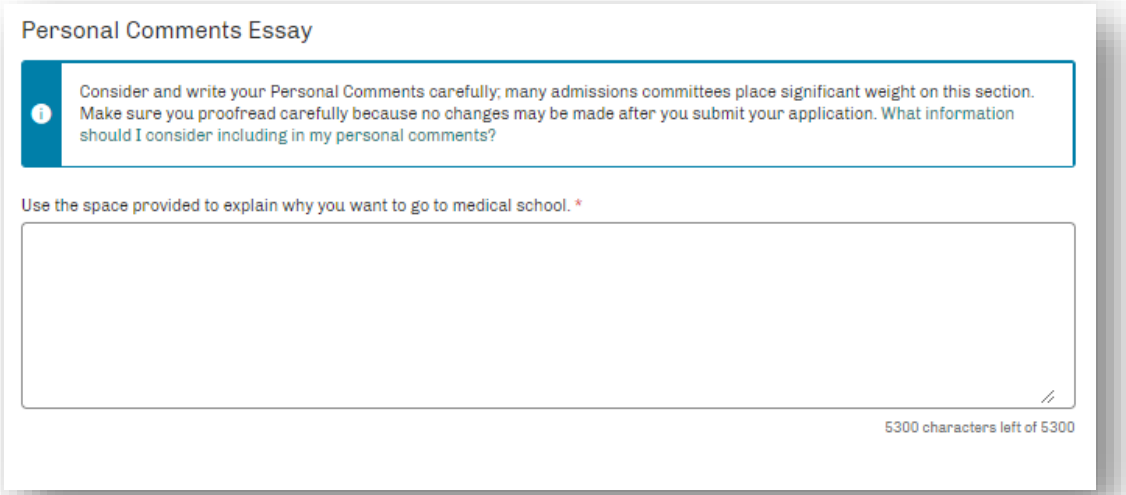
Essay





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Essay

MD/PhD Essay

Your response will only be forwarded to your designated MD/PhD program(s).

Please state your reasons for wishing to pursue the combined MD/PhD degree. *

Your response will only be forwarded to your designated MD/PhD program(s).

Significant Research Hours

Please enter your total hours of prior research experience. *

Significant Research Essay

Your response will only be forwarded to your designated MD/PhD program(s).

If your research resulted in a publication on which you were an author, please provide the full citation in the Work/Activities section of your application.

Please describe your significant research experiences. In your statement, please specify your research supervisor's name and affiliation, the duration of the experience, the nature of the problem studied, and your contributions to the project. *

Your response will only be forwarded to your designated MD/PhD program(s).

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Essay Quick Tips

- Proofread your application
- Check for spelling errors
- Read it BACKWARDS
- Read it “Out Loud”
- Be wary – Don’t name the wrong school in any interview related communications or secondaries (if applicable)
- Have mentors and loved ones review it
- Make sure that it’s your statement – though others might have suggestions, the final document is yours and must reflect your reason(s) for pursuing medicine

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Essay Do's and Don'ts

DO

- Make sure your statement addresses your reason(s) for wanting to pursue medicine
- Have a lot of people review it – friends, colleagues, mentors, letter writers
- Be mindful that "all" medical schools will receive the same AMCAS application
- Check and re-check for grammatical and spelling issues – your application is your first impression

DON'T

- Speak in generalities
- Be informal
- Include/restate everything in your activities section in your personal statement
- Make your statement "too personal" – you must be able to talk about the personal statement contents in an interview

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Ask an Admission Officer

What elements make a stand out personal statement?

- When you learn something about a candidate that you didn't find in any other part of the application. An idea of the 'person' in the personal statement.
- If after reading the essay, I can answer the question – Why medicine?

What are schools/admissions officers looking for in a personal statement?

- An opportunity to get to know the application in a less structured way, through their own words.

How do you view the personal statement as part of the complete application?

- A very important part of the application!
  - To allow your activities/experiences to come together in telling your narrative/journey story.
  - In most cases, it's a starting point for at least a part of the interview. Some questions will come from what has been shared as a part of the personal statement.

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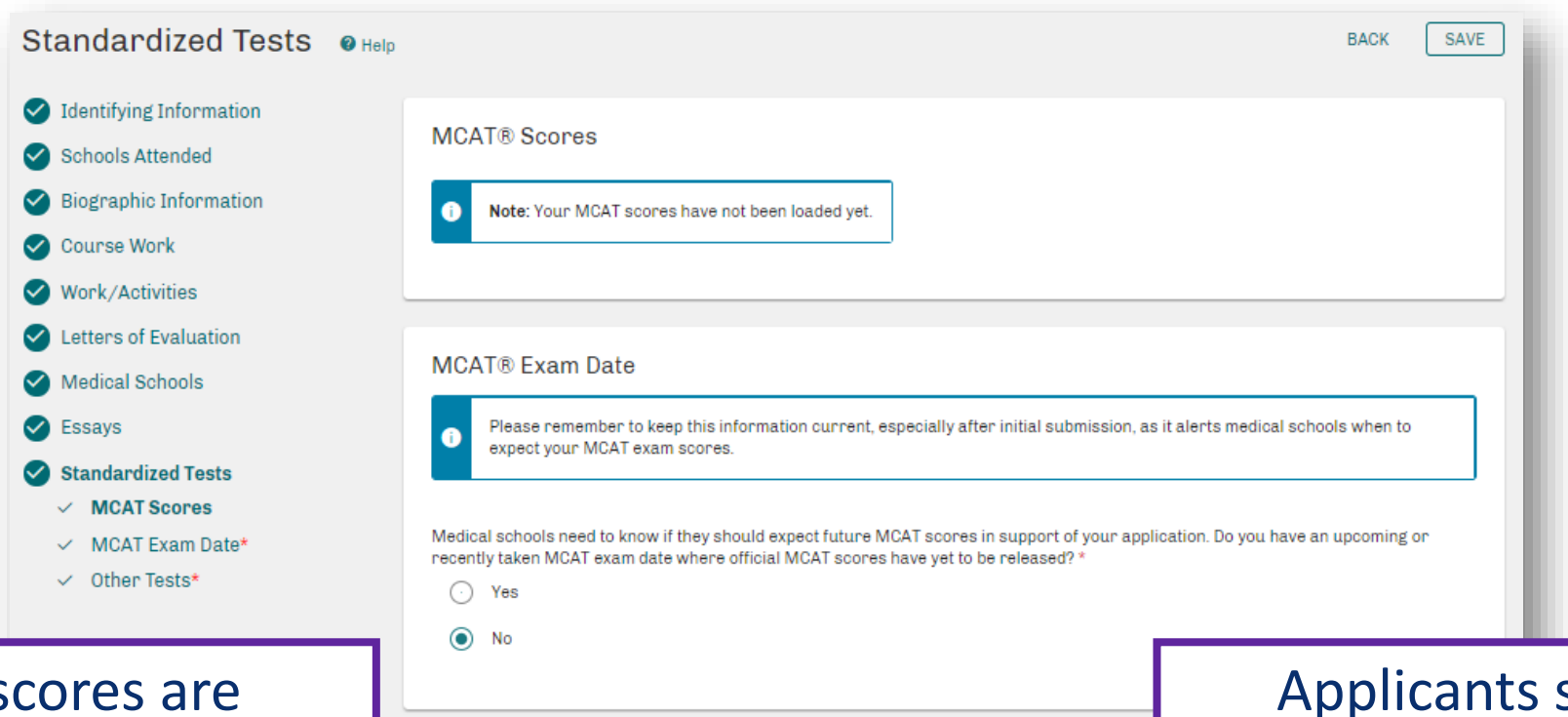
Standardized Tests



MCAT scores are automatically released to your application.

Applicants should indicate any future MCAT testing dates.

aamc.org/mcat

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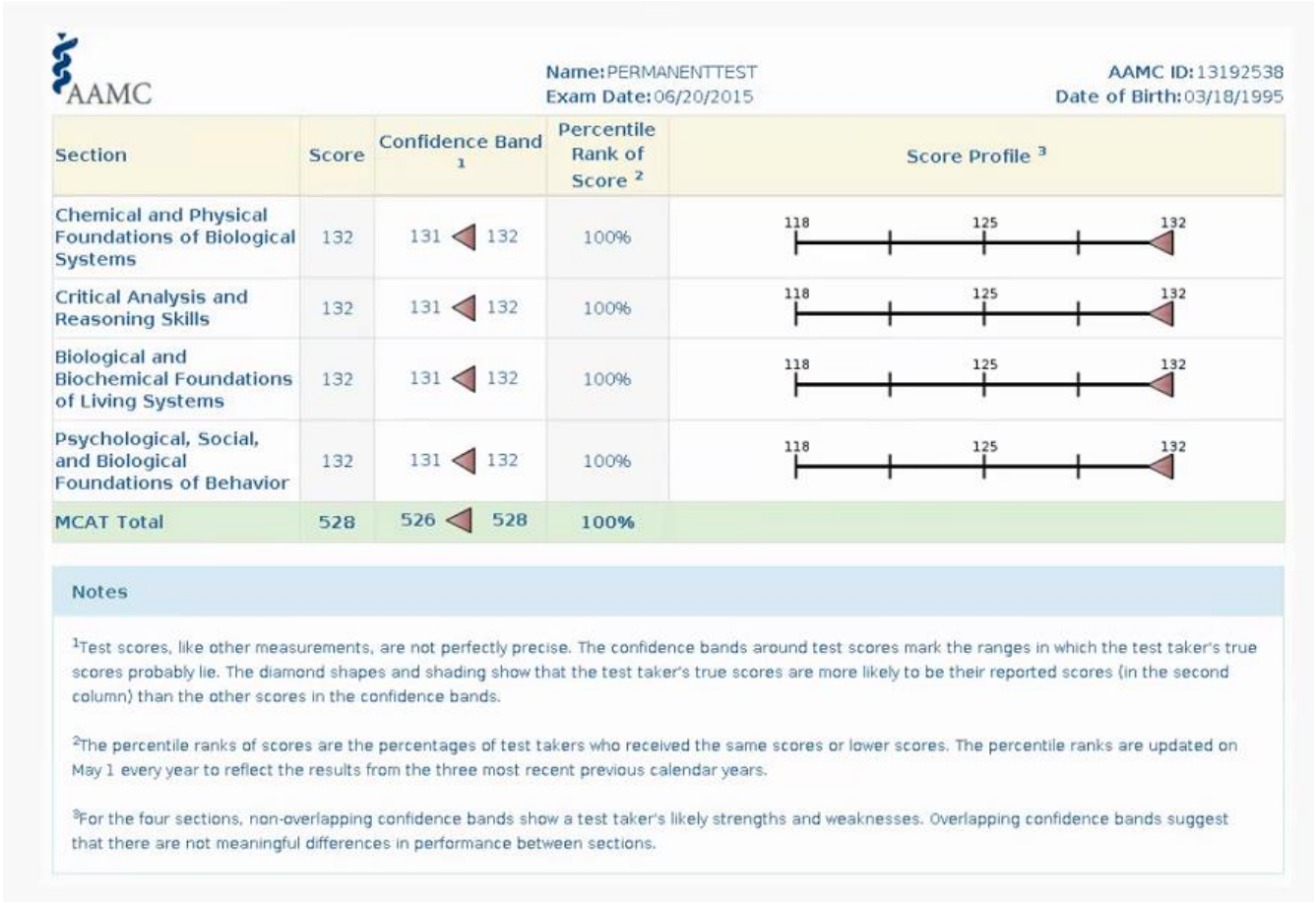
MCAT Scores



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Name: PERMANENTTEST
Exam Date: 06/20/2015

AAMC ID: 13192538
Date of Birth: 03/18/1995

Section	Score	Confidence Band [1]	Percentile Rank of Score [2]	Score Profile [3]
Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems	132	131 ◀ 132	100%	118 125 132
Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills	132	131 ◀ 132	100%	118 125 132
Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems	132	131 ◀ 132	100%	118 125 132
Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior	132	131 ◀ 132	100%	118 125 132
MCAT Total	528	526 ◀ 528	100%	

Notes

[1]Test scores, like other measurements, are not perfectly precise. The confidence bands around test scores mark the ranges in which the test taker's true scores probably lie. The diamond shapes and shading show that the test taker's true scores are more likely to be their reported scores (in the second column) than the other scores in the confidence bands.

[2]The percentile ranks of scores are the percentages of test takers who received the same scores or lower scores. The percentile ranks are updated on May 1 every year to reflect the results from the three most recent previous calendar years.

[3]For the four sections, non-overlapping confidence bands show a test taker's likely strengths and weaknesses. Overlapping confidence bands suggest that there are not meaningful differences in performance between sections.

Score breakdowns and confidence bands will appear in the application.

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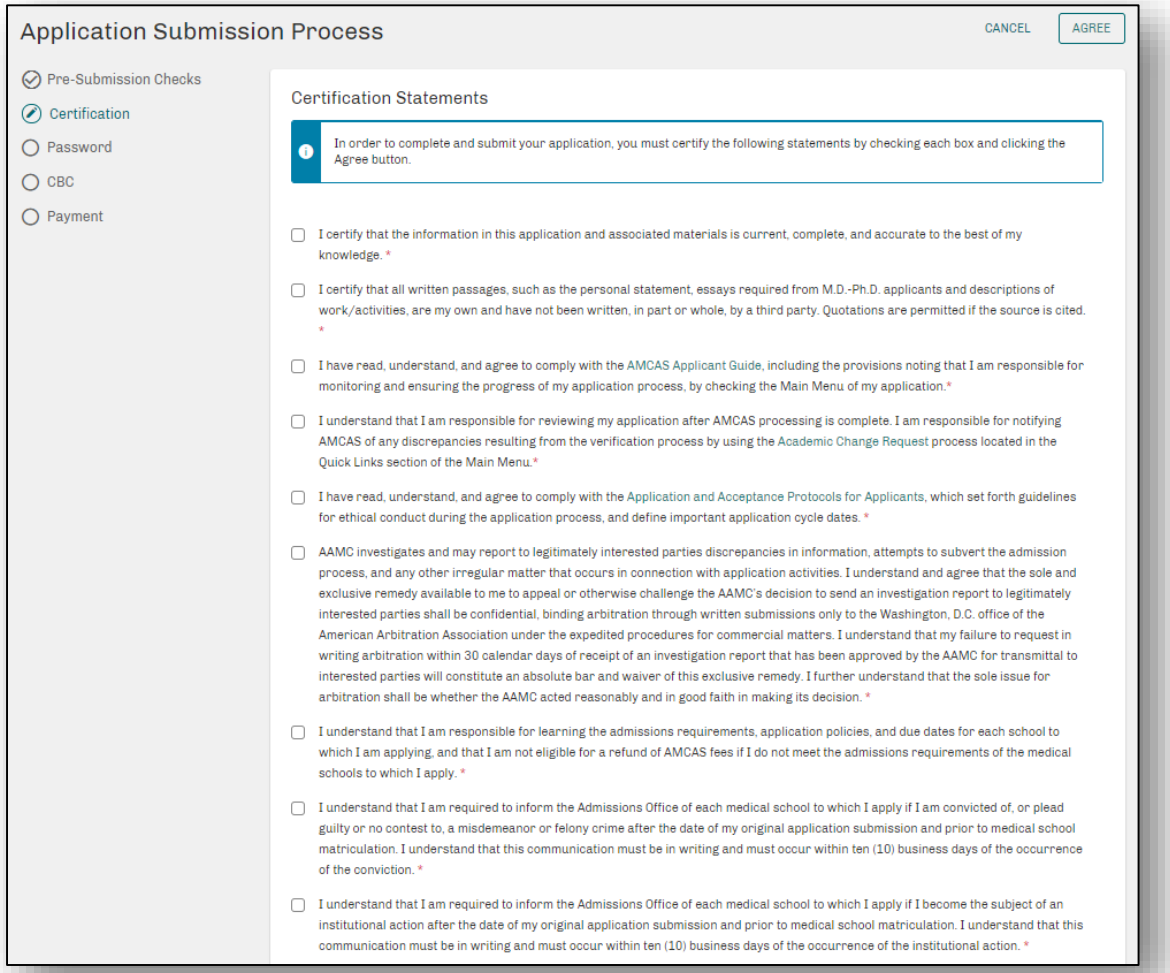
Certification Statements



Last step of application: certify data is accurate, submit, and pay processing fee.

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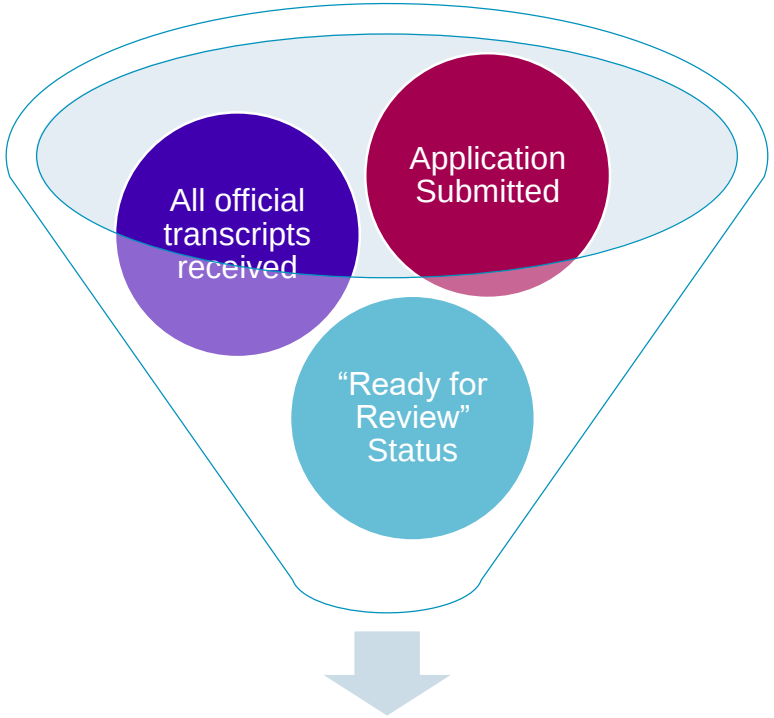
AMCAS Verification Process

Transcripts

- All required official transcripts must be received before an application can join the verification queue
  - AMCAS accepts PDF eTranscripts from approved senders

Processing

- From date of **“Ready to Review”** application status, about 6 weeks
- Find processing on the AMCAS application sign in page



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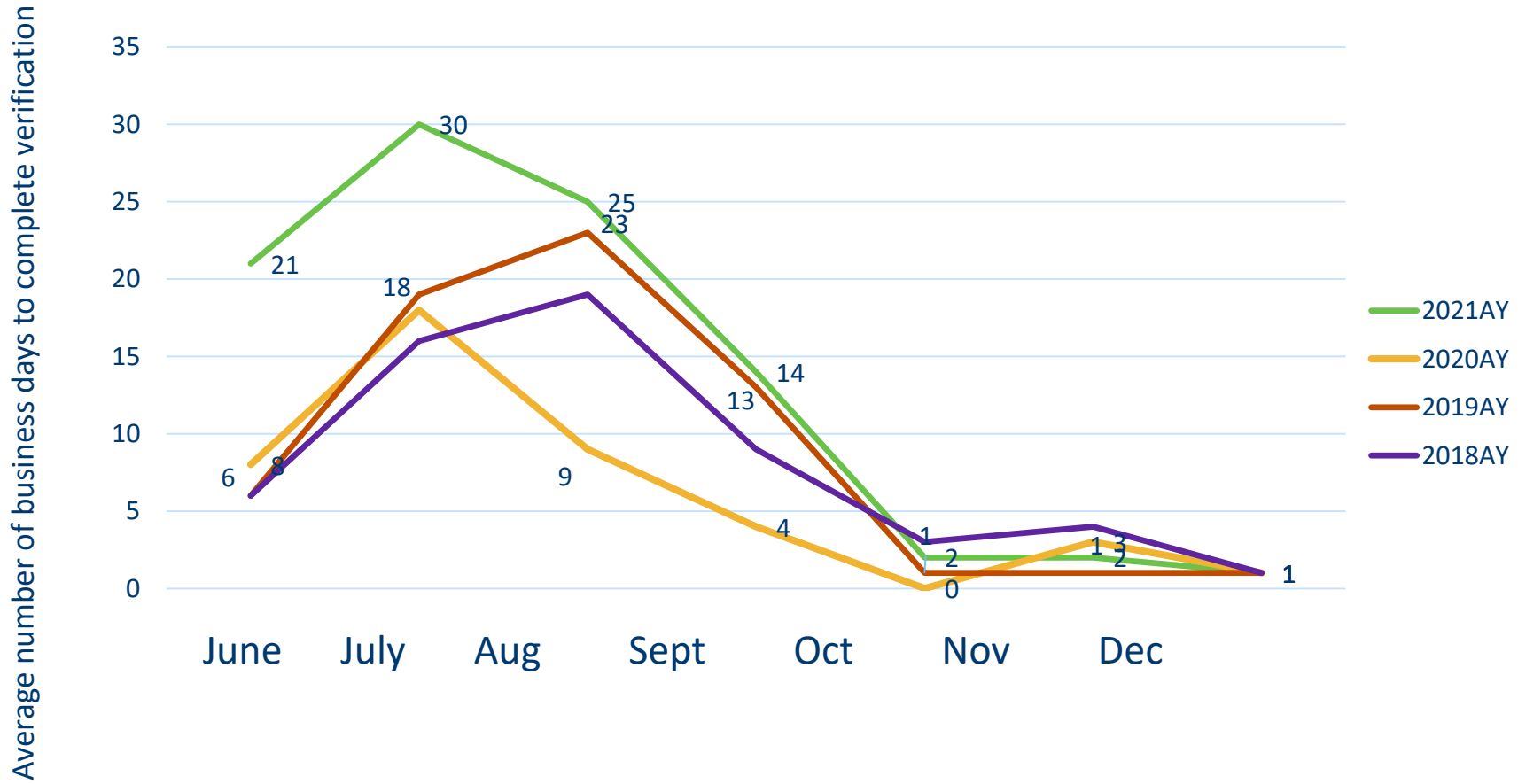
AMCAS Verification



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Application Reminders

- Criminal Background Checks
- *Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants*

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Criminal Background Checks

- Participating schools have checks run on accepted or waitlisted applicants
- Certiphi Screening, Inc. will notify applicants when the CBC has been initiated
- Applicants have 10 calendar days to review their report
- No additional charge to the applicant for this service

CBC Schedule

Application Status	CBC Procured
Accepted, Early Decision Program	Upon Acceptance
Accepted, Regular	After January 1
Alternate List	After May 15, by school's request only

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Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants

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AMCAS Tools

- AMCAS Applicant Guide
- AMCAS Application Workbook
- Application and Acceptance Protocols
- Video Tutorials
- Twitter
  - @AMCASinfo

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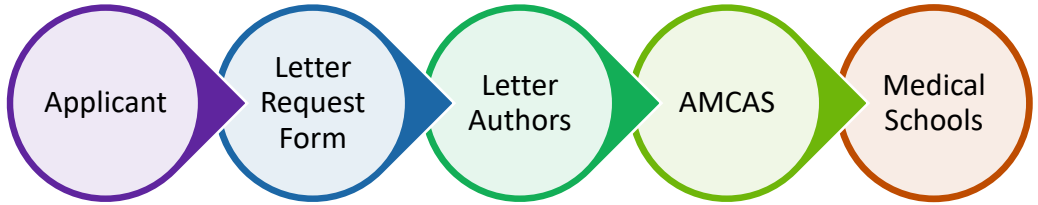
Letters of Evaluation

Submission Methods:

- AMCAS Letter Writer Application
- Interfolio



Medical schools receive letters electronically, on a rolling basis after an application is verified

aamc.org/amcasletters

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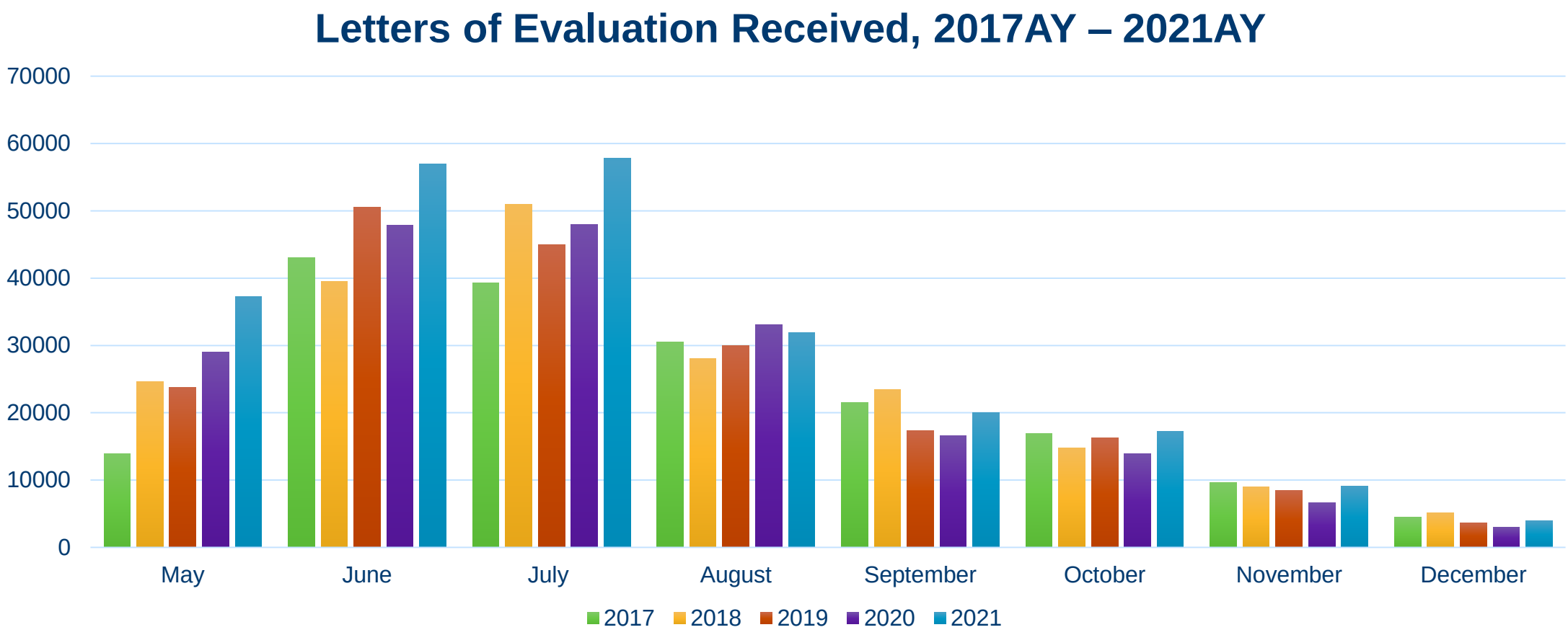
Letters of Evaluation



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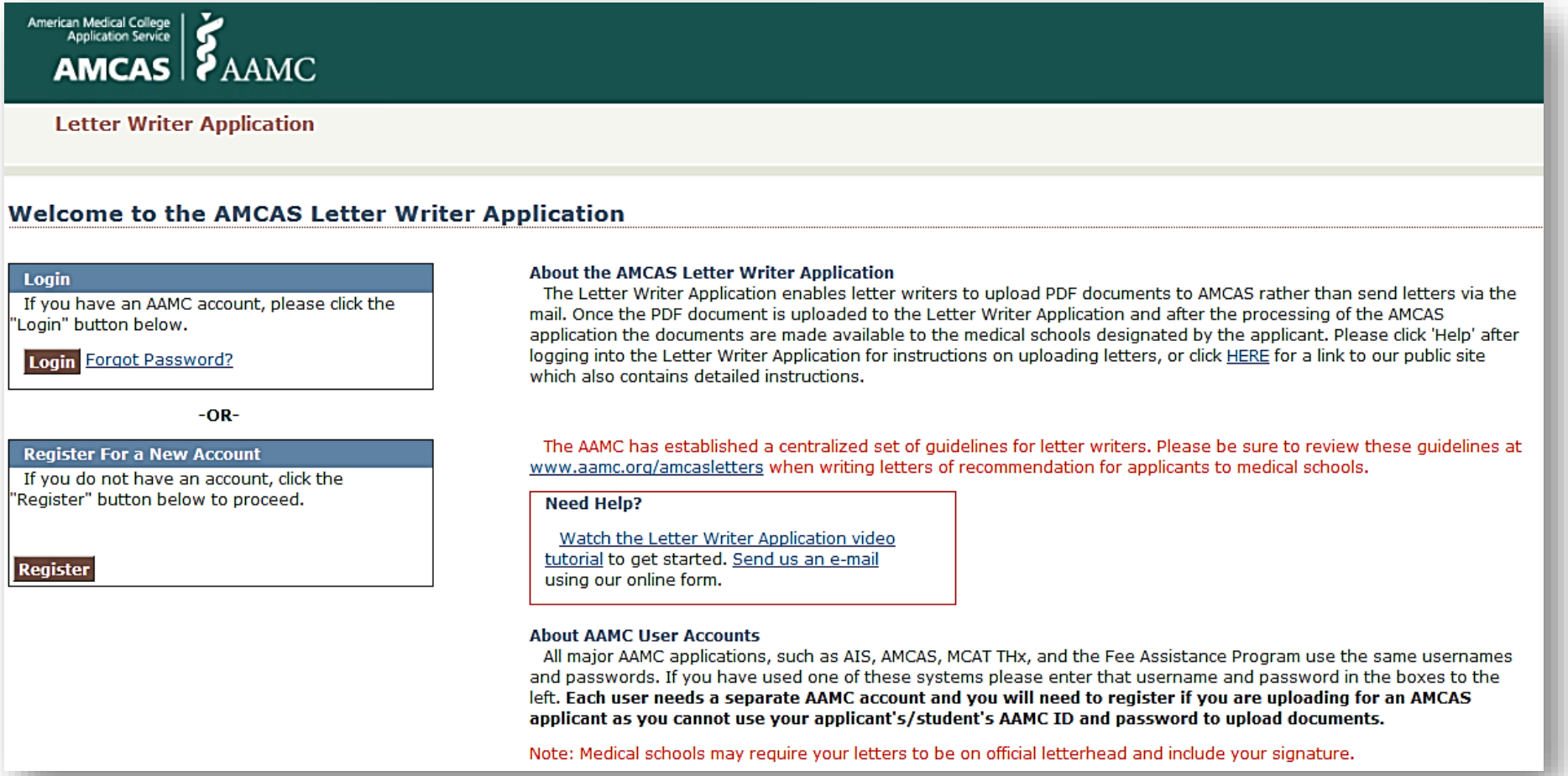
AMCAS Letter Writer Application



services.aamc.org/letterwriter/

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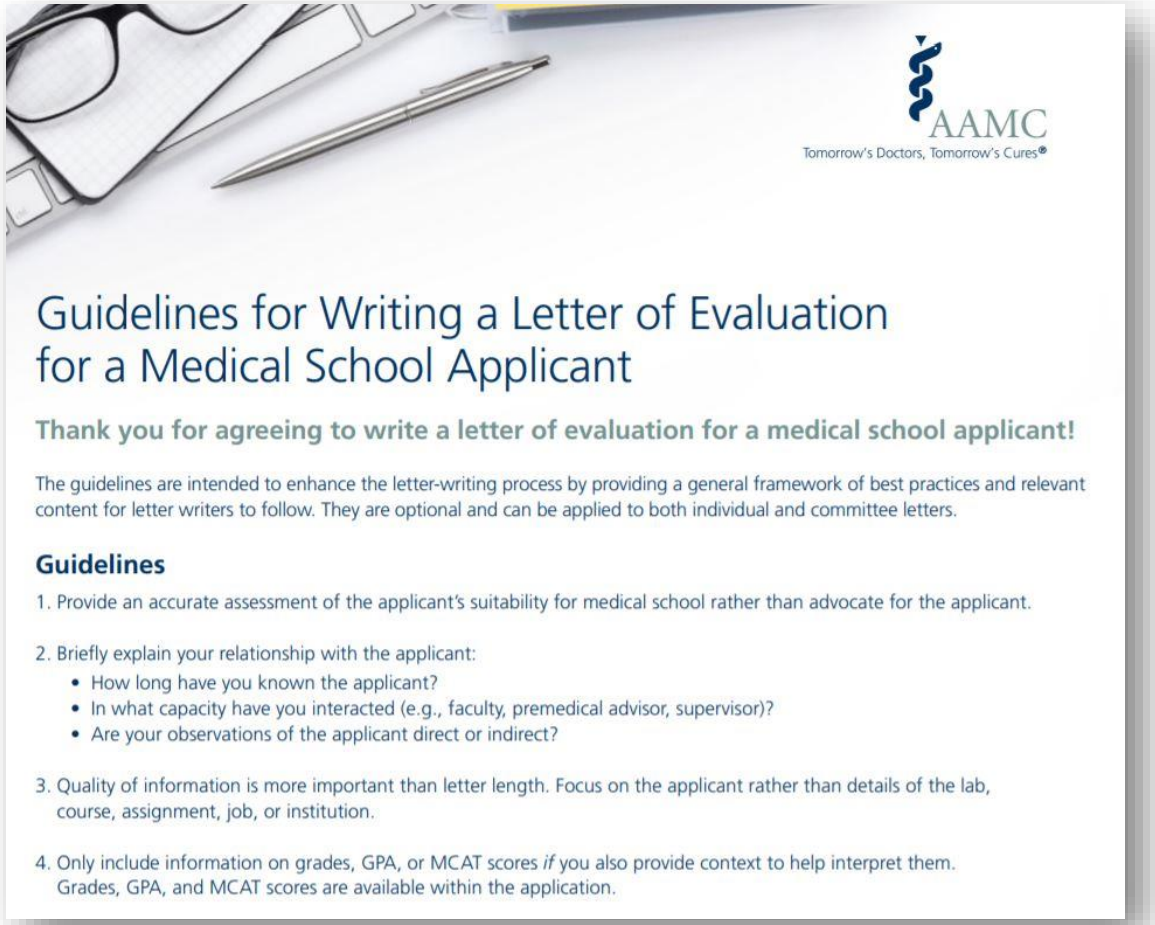
Letter Writer Guidelines



AAMC
Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®

Guidelines for Writing a Letter of Evaluation for a Medical School Applicant

Thank you for agreeing to write a letter of evaluation for a medical school applicant!

The guidelines are intended to enhance the letter-writing process by providing a general framework of best practices and relevant content for letter writers to follow. They are optional and can be applied to both individual and committee letters.

Guidelines

1. Provide an accurate assessment of the applicant's suitability for medical school rather than advocate for the applicant.

2. Briefly explain your relationship with the applicant:
   - How long have you known the applicant?
   - In what capacity have you interacted (e.g., faculty, premedical advisor, supervisor)?
   - Are your observations of the applicant direct or indirect?

3. Quality of information is more important than letter length. Focus on the applicant rather than details of the lab, course, assignment, job, or institution.

4. Only include information on grades, GPA, or MCAT scores *if* you also provide context to help interpret them. Grades, GPA, and MCAT scores are available within the application.

Ask your letter writer to visit **aamc.org/advisors** to access the Guidelines for Writing a Letter of Evaluation for a Medical School Applicant

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AAMC Fee Assistance Program

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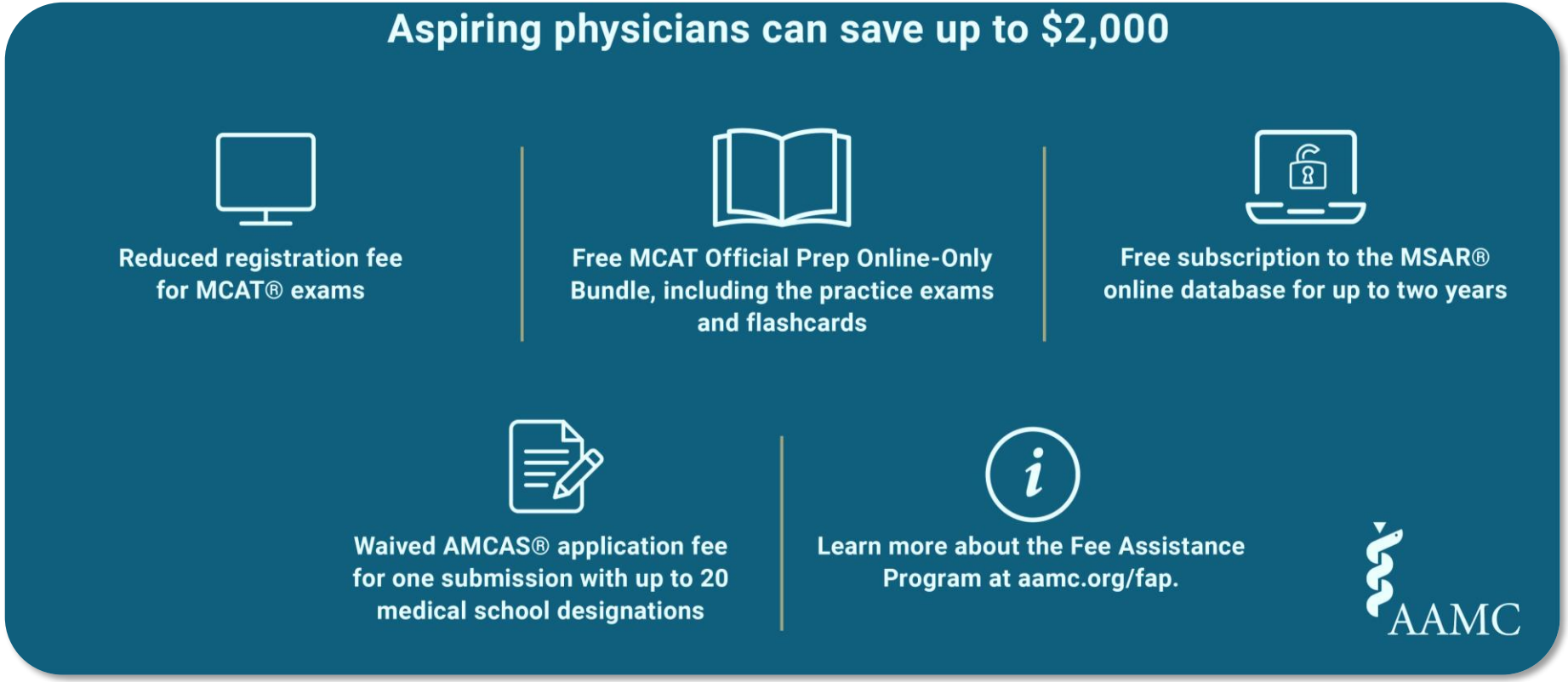
AAMC Fee Assistance Program



Benefits are NOT Retroactive

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Program Eligibility

- U.S. citizen
- U.S. national
- Lawful permanent resident of the U.S. (also known as a green card holder)
- Granted refugee or asylee status by the U.S. government,
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient
- Awaiting refugee or asylee status approval by the U.S. government and have a U.S. Employment Authorization Document (EAD card)

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Program Eligibility

- Tied to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' poverty level guidelines
- Requires parental financial information and supporting tax documentation

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Income Eligibility

	Income Guidelines		
Family Size	Contiguous States, District of Columbia & U.S. Territories	Alaska	Hawaii
1	$51,040	$63,800	$58,720
2	$68,960	$86,200	$79,320
3	$86,880	$108,600	$99,920
4	$104,800	$131,000	$120,520
5	$122,720	$153,400	$141,120
6	$140,640	$175,800	$161,720
7	$158,560	$198,200	$182,320
8	$176,480	$220,600	$202,920
8+	$4,480 for each additional person	$5,600 for each additional person.	$5,150 for each additional person

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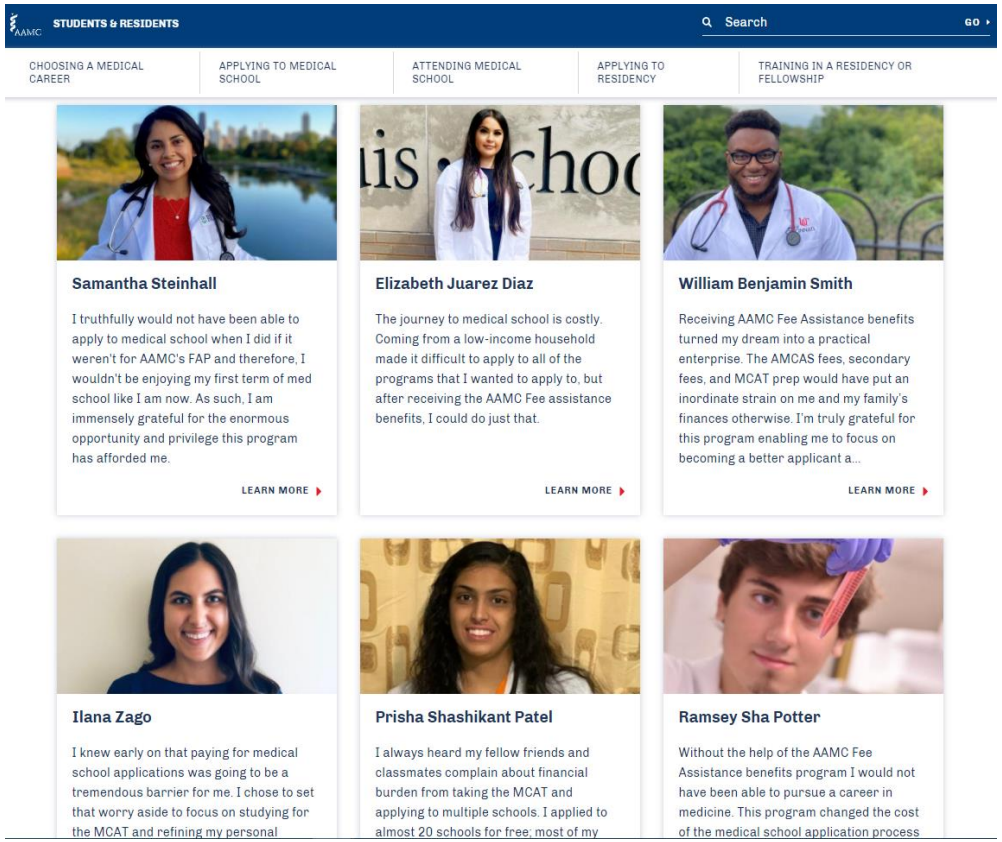
How the Fee Assistance Program Helped



- Waived secondary fees
- Scholarships
- Interview expenses

aamc.org/howfaphelped

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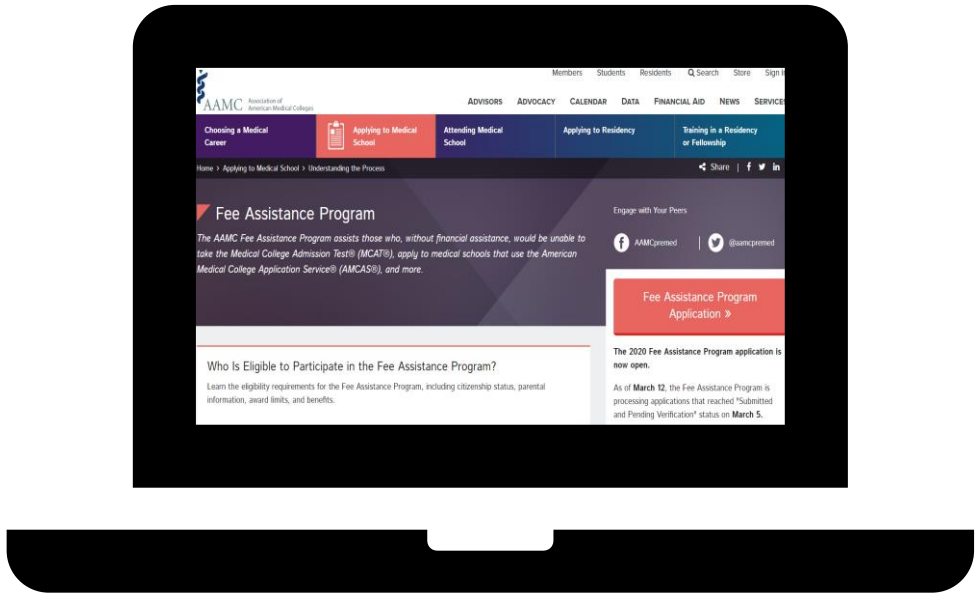
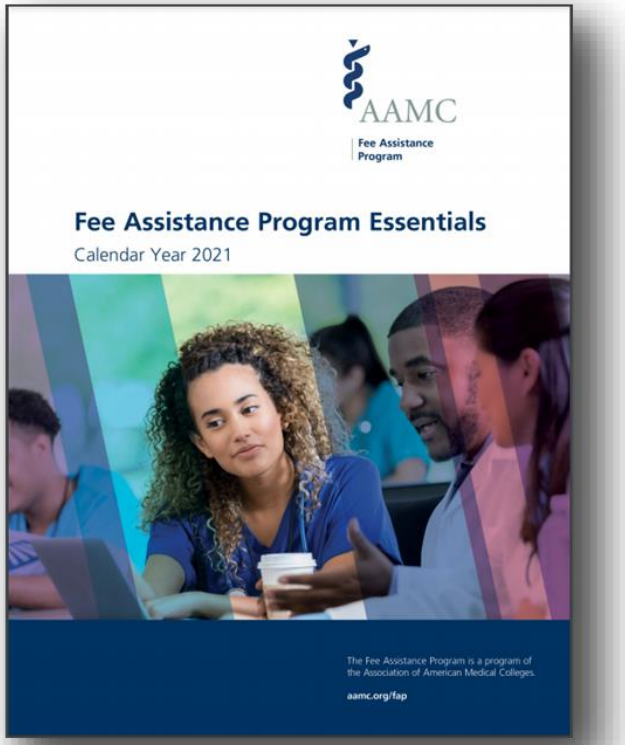
2021 Fee Assistance Program





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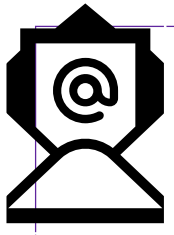
AAMC Fee Assistance Program

- What You Need to Apply
- *2021 Fee Assistance Program Essentials*
- Fee Assistance Program FAQ's

202-828-0600



fap@aamc.org

@AMCASinfo

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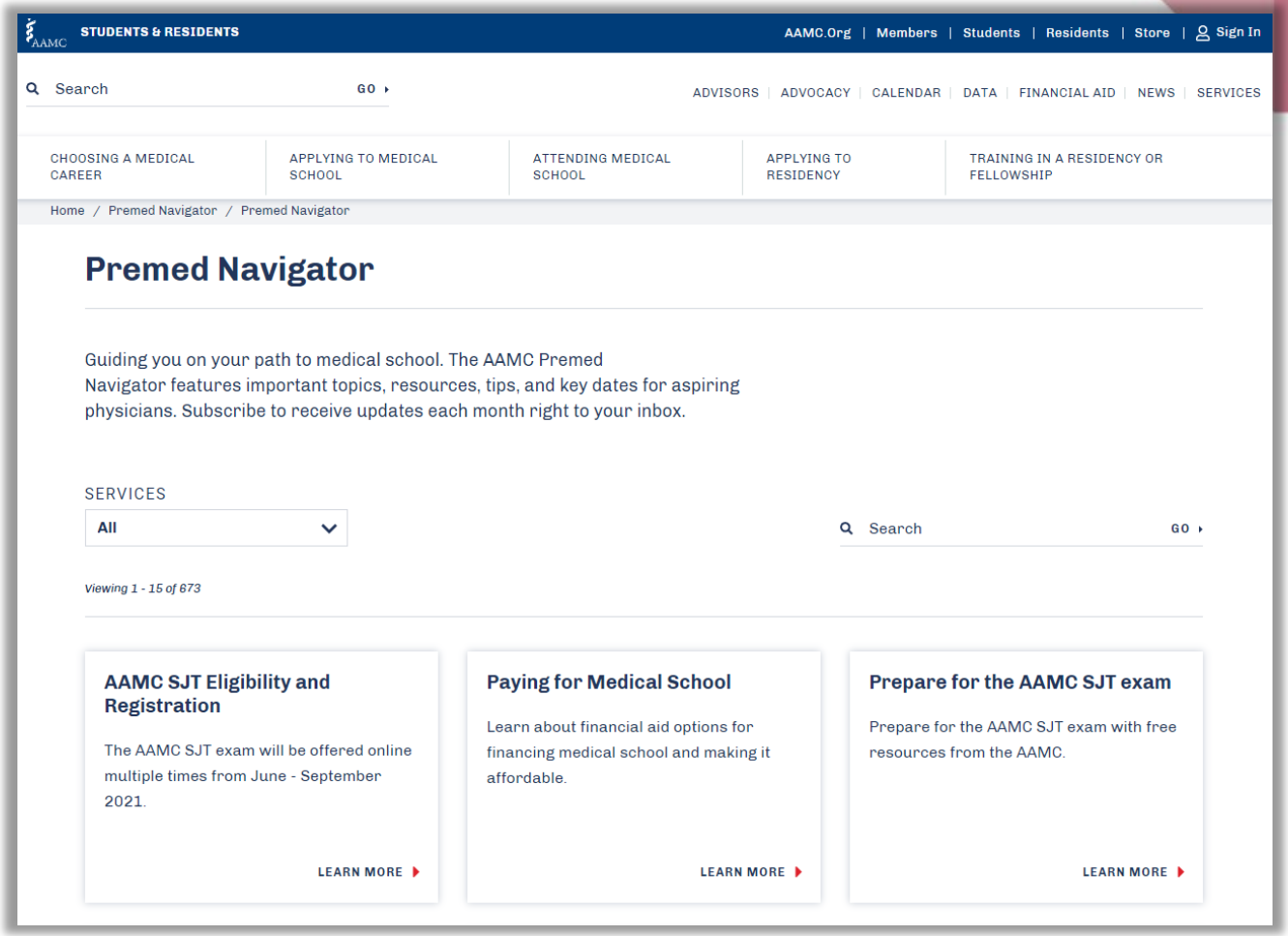
AAMC Premed Navigator

Monthly e-newsletter for applicants and helpful web content.



students-residents.aamc.org/navigator

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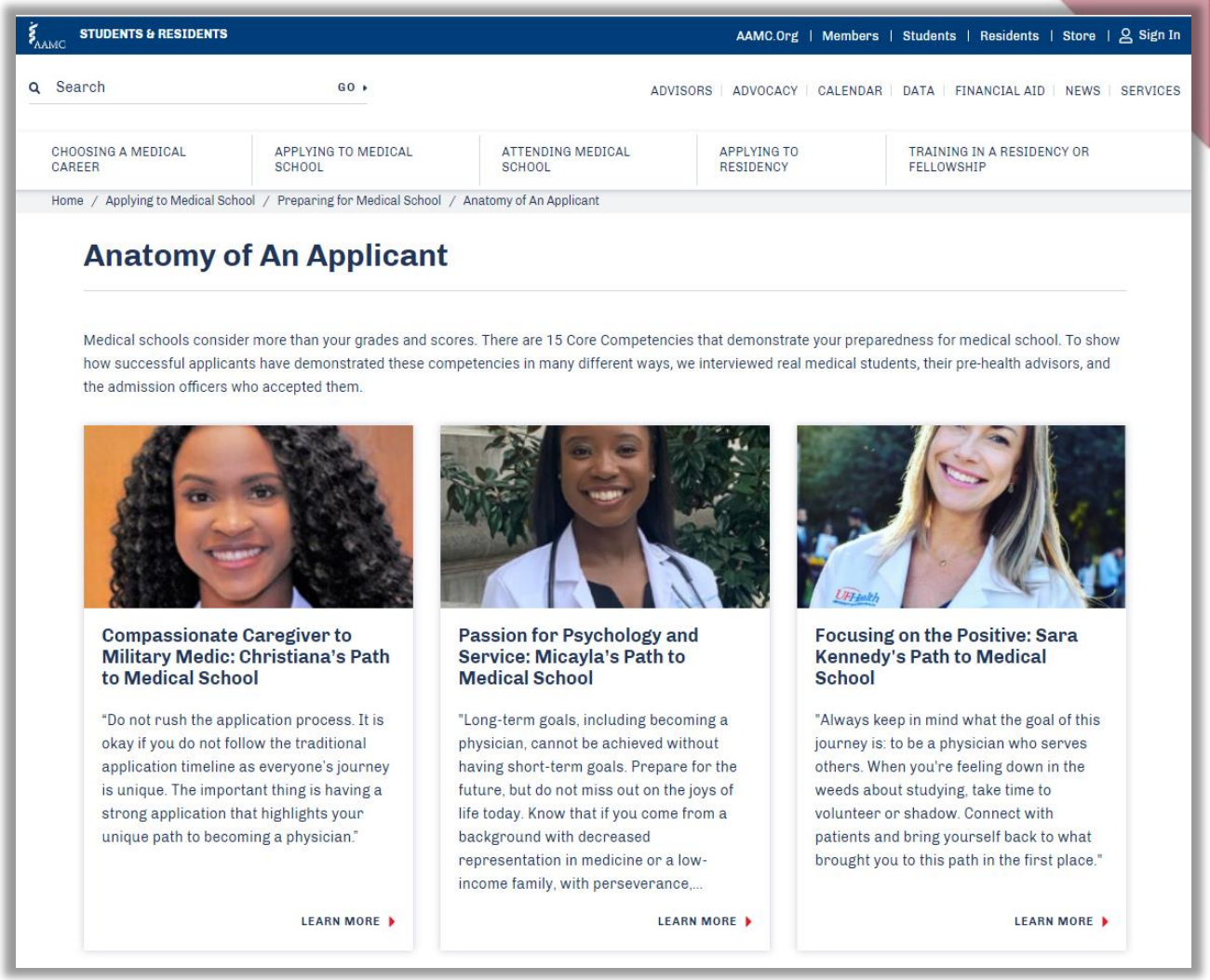
Anatomy of an Applicant

- Core Competencies
- Student Profiles



aamc.org/competencies

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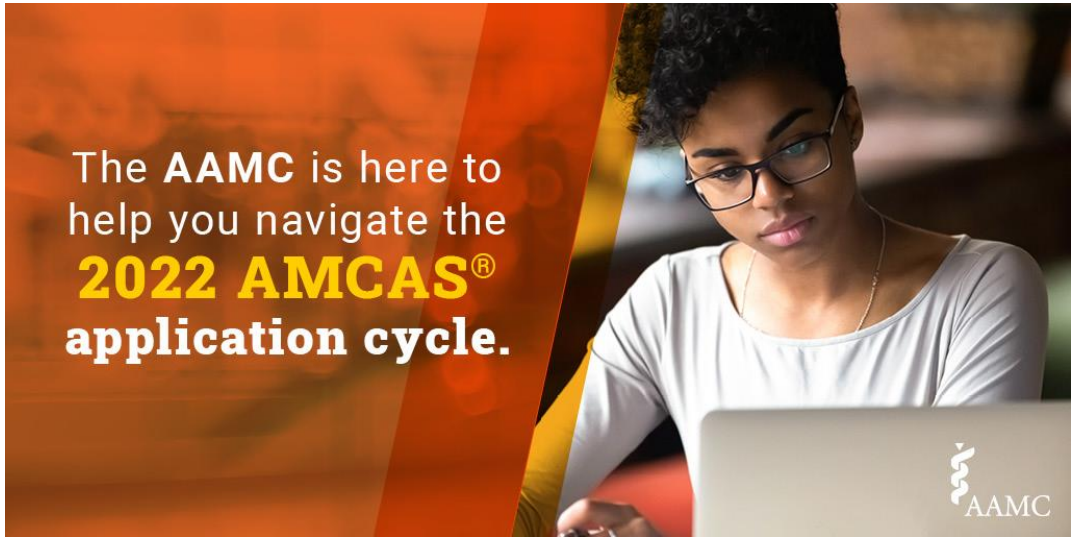
Contact Us



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Good luck!

Please fill out the survey and tell us what you thought about this webinar!

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