Navigating the 2023 AMCAS Application Cycle
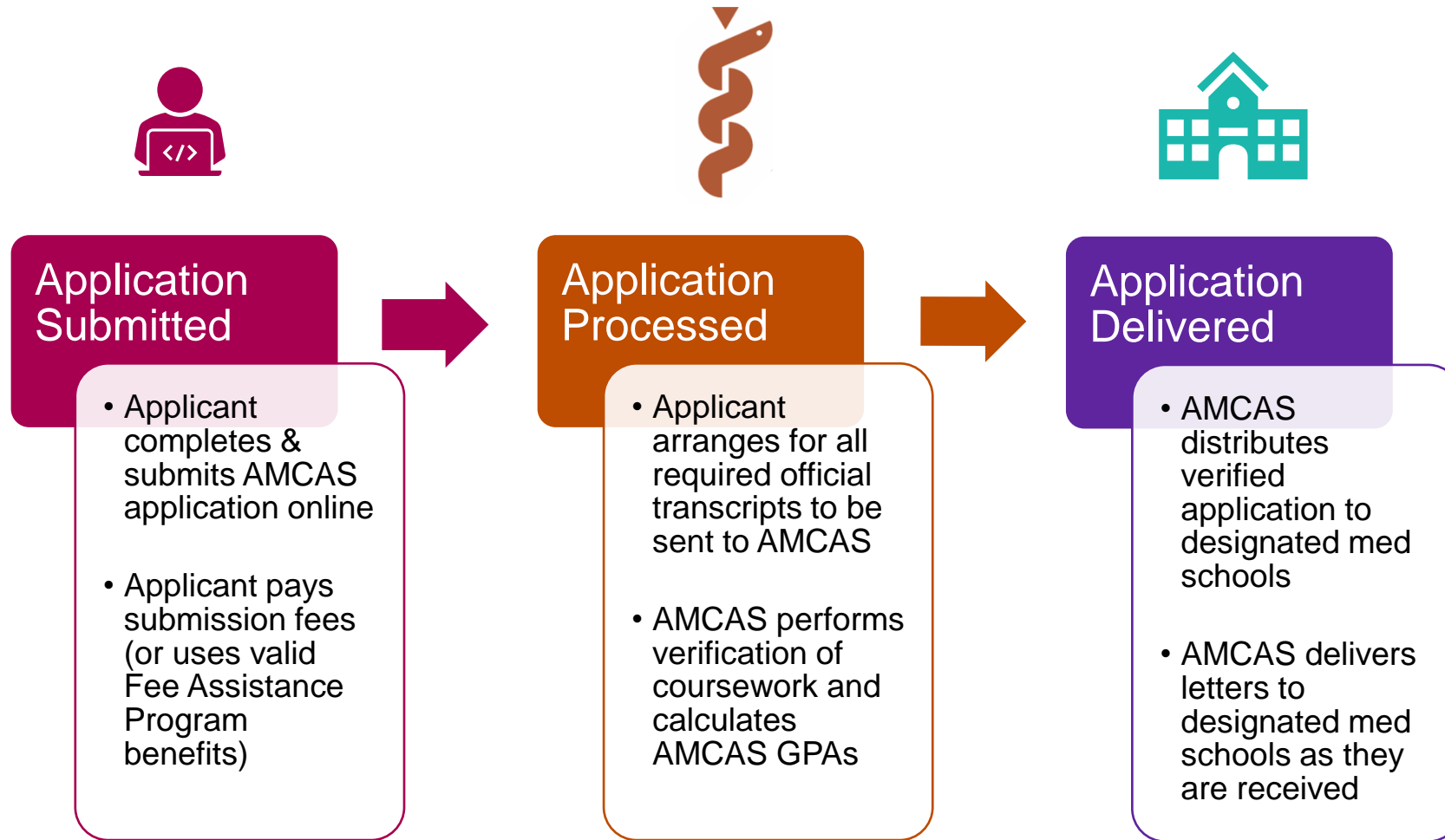
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Association of
American Medical Colleges

Agenda

- AMCAS Application
  - AMCAS Process
  - 2023 Dates and Participation
  - 2023 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

2023 Application Dates

Date*	Event
April 1	2023 AMCAS resources available
May 3	**AMCAS application opens**
May 31	**AMCAS application submission begins**
June 24	**Initial transmission of application data to medical schools**
August 1	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 1 for early decision applicants

- Visit www.aamc.org/amcasdeadlines
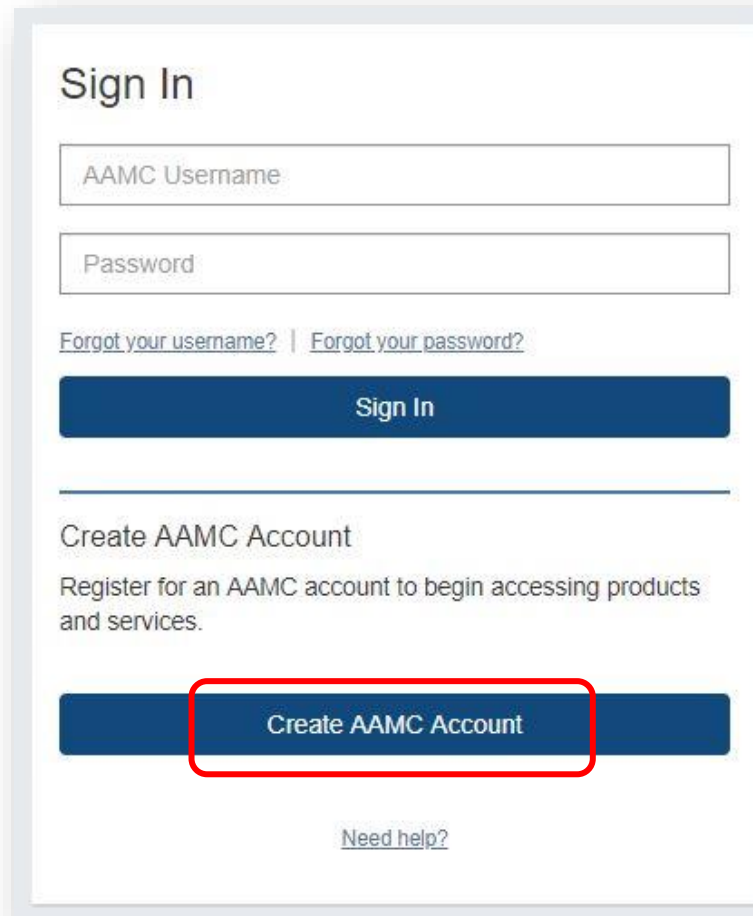
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2023 AMCAS Participation

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	151 Schools/Programs
Criminal Background Checks	126 Schools/Programs

2023 AMCAS Application Fees:

- $170 processing fee (includes one school designation)
- $43 for each additional school

aamc.org/amcas

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Accessing the Application

AAMC Registration

Create Account

1 → 2

1 Personal Information
Please complete the fields below.

Email

Enter Email

Confirm Email

Re-Enter Email Address

Prefix (optional)

Select Prefix ▼

First Name

Enter First Name

Middle (optional)

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

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My AAMC Profile

Select "2023 Application Cycle"

Welcome to the American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®). To begin the application process, you must select the correct application cycle year below. The application cycle year is based on the summer or fall you intend to start medical school. Please use the various AMCAS resources available to support the application process including the AMCAS Applicant Guide, the Quick Links on this page, and the links available throughout the application.

In order to avoid delays, it is important that you download and use items such as transcript and letter request forms from the correct application cycle.

Open AMCAS Applications

2023 Application Cycle   ❓ Help   ⓘ New Application

This is the application cycle for applicants who intend to start medical school in the summer or fall of 2023.

> START THE 2023 APPLICATION IF YOU WANT TO START MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE FALL OF 2023

2022 Application Cycle   ❓ Help   ⓘ New Application

This is the application cycle for applicants who intend to start medical school in the summer or fall of 2022.

> START THE 2022 APPLICATION IF YOU WANT TO START MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE FALL OF 2022

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AMCAS Main Menu

AMCAS Main Menu

AMCAS Main Menu

Quick Links

ACADEMIC CHANGE REQUEST   UPDATE ADVISOR RELEASE

Learn more about the AAMC Fee Assistance Program

View AMCAS Participating Medical Schools and Deadlines

Find AMCAS resources on the Tools and Tutorials page

Visit the AMCAS website

Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)

Review AMCAS transcript processing timelines

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

My Document Statuses

Transcripts (0)   You have no transcripts attached to your application

Letters of Evaluation (0)   You have no letters attached to your application

VIEW ALL DOCUMENT STATUSES

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Application Sections

1. Identifying Information

2. Schools Attended

3. Biographic Information

4. Coursework

5. Work and Activities

6. Letters of Evaluation

7. Medical Schools

8. Essays

9. Standardized Tests

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Identifying Information

© Association of American Medical Colleges

Schools Attended

Schools Attended

Transcript Request

> **ℹ** Note: One official transcript is required from each U.S., U.S. Territorial, or Canadian post-secondary institution at which you have attempted course work, regardless of whether credit was earned.
>
> If you click Yes, you must have an official transcript sent to AMCAS by the Registrar's Office of the institution.
>
> If you click No, this means that you are submitting a Transcript Exception Request and does not preclude you from transcript requirements. AMCAS will review your request and notify you if your Transcript Exception is not granted. This may result in delays for processing your application.

Does AMCAS require an official transcript from this school? Generally, a transcript is required. Please review this additional information if you need assistance in determining if a transcript is required.*

○ Yes

○ No

Schools Attended

Biographic Information

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Coursework

Coursework

Add Course ✕

ℹ Please be sure to enter all course(s) in the correct academic year, academic term, and year in school to avoid delays in application processing time.

Reminder: The AMCAS year begins with summer and ends with spring. Courses taken in the summer should be entered with the next academic year, even if your institution considers them in the previous academic year. For example, if you took a course in the first summer session of 2016, you should enter it as the 2016–2017 academic year, even if your school considers it in the 2015–2016 academic year.

Academic Year *

Select Year ▼

Academic Term *

Select Academic Term ▼

Year in School *

Select Year in School ▼

Course Number

Please enter any letters or numbers. Example BIO 101

Please enter course number

Course Name *

Please enter course name

CANCEL   SAVE & ADD ANOTHER   SAVE

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

Add Work/Activities ✕

Experience Type *

Select Experience Type ▾

Experience Name *

ℹ Indicate the total number of hours that you spent completing (or expect to complete) this work experience or activity during the date range that you indicate. If this is a repeated experience, enter the total number of hours for each date range you provide.

Start Date *

Select Month ▾

Select Years ▾

End Date *

Select Month ▾

Select Years ▾

Total Hours *

Repeated *

◯ Yes

◯ No

Organization Name

CANCEL   SAVE & ADD ANOTHER   SAVE

- Maximum of 15 entries
  - You can enter additional date ranges for repeated activities
  - You can enter anticipated hours
- Maximum of 3 "Most Meaningful"

Most Meaningful Experience Summary*

This is your opportunity to summarize why you have selected this experience as one of your most meaningful. In your remarks, you might consider the transformative nature of the experience: the impact you made while engaging in the experience and the personal growth you experienced as a result of your participation.

1325 characters left of 1325

CANCEL   SAVE & ADD ANOTHER   SAVE

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Work/Activities: Things to think about

- 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.

- Enter only significant experiences.

- Include clinical and non-clinical activities – especially activities where you have led projects and/or people.

- Some schools have required experiences.

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Letters of Evaluation

Add Letter of Evaluation/Recommendation ✕

ⓘ Many medical schools determine whether or not an applicant has met their letter of evaluation/recommendation requirements by the type of letters they receive in support of an application. For example, a medical school may require a committee letter OR three individual letters in support of your application.

Please review the AMCAS Applicant Guide for more information about Letters of Evaluation.

Please identify the type of letter you wish to enter. If you are uncertain as to the type of letters provided by your school/institution, please ask your pre-health advisor or career center prior to answering this question.

○ Committee Letter:
A committee is a letter authored by a pre-health committee or pre-health advisor and intended to represent your institution's evaluation of you. A committee letter may or may not include additional letters written in support of your application. A Committee Letter is sometimes called a composite letter.

○ Letter Packet:
A packet or set of letters assembled and distributed by your institution, often by the institution's career center.

○ Individual Letter:
An individual letter refers only to a letter authored by, and representing, a single letter writer. **If you have already included an individual letter within either a committee letter or letter packet, you do not need to add a separate entry for the individual letter.**

ⓘ Select a meaningful Letter Title, as you may need this title later to identify a letter. For example, if this letter were from the University Of X, with a primary contact of John Doe, and you intend to have this letter sent only to MD/PhD programs, you might create a title of "UX_Doe_MD_PhD ".

Letter Title

[Please enter a title for this letter]

CANCEL   SAVE

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.

Essay

Personal Comments Essay   ✕

Some questions you may want to consider while drafting this essay are:

- Why have you selected the field of medicine?
- What motivates you to learn more about medicine?
- What do you want medical schools to know about you that hasn't been disclosed in another section of the application?

In addition, you may wish to include information such as:

- Special hardships, challenges or obstacles that may have influenced your educational pursuits
- Commentary on significant fluctuations in your academic record which are not explained elsewhere in your application

OK

Personal Comments Essay

ⓘ Consider and write your Personal Comments carefully; many admissions committees place significant weight on this section. Make sure you proofread carefully because no changes may be made after you submit your application. What information should I consider including in my personal comments?

Use the space provided to explain why you want to go to medical school. *

5300 characters left of 5300

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Essay

MD/PhD Essay

> ℹ 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

> ℹ 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).

10000 characters left of 10000

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Essay: Things to think about

- By the end of reading your statement, the reader should understand why you want to be a physician.

- Admissions officers want to learn something about you that they can't find in any other part of your application.

- When you consider what to write, think about the series of events in your life that have led up to the point where you are applying to medical school.

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Essay Quick Tips

- Proofread your essay
- Check for spelling errors
- Read it BACKWARDS
- Read it "Out Loud"
- 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 should be able to talk about the personal statement contents in an interview

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Standardized Tests

Standardized Tests ⓘ Help   BACK [SAVE]

✔ Identifying Information
✔ Schools Attended
✔ Biographic Information
✔ Course Work
✔ Work/Activities
✔ Letters of Evaluation
✔ Medical Schools
✔ Essays
✔ **Standardized Tests**
   ✓ **MCAT Scores**
   ✓ MCAT Exam Date*
   ✓ Other Tests*

MCAT® Scores

ⓘ **Note:** Your MCAT scores have not been loaded yet.

MCAT® Exam Date

ⓘ Please remember to keep this information current, especially after initial submission, as it alerts medical schools when to expect your MCAT exam scores.

Medical schools need to know if they should expect future MCAT scores in support of your application. Do you have an upcoming or recently taken MCAT exam date where official MCAT scores have yet to be released? *

○ Yes
● No

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

Score breakdowns and confidence bands will appear in the application.

Standardized Tests

Standardized Tests ❓ Help   BACK   SAVE

✓ Identifying Information
✓ Schools Attended
✓ Biographic Information
✓ Course Work
✓ Work/Activities
✓ Letters of Evaluation
○ Medical Schools
✓ Essays
✎ **Standardized Tests**
   ✓ **MCAT Scores**
   ○ MCAT Exam Date*
   ✓ PREview Scores
   ✓ Other Tests*

MCAT® Scores

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MCAT® Exam Date

ℹ Please remember to keep this information current, especially after initial submission, as it alerts medical schools when to expect your MCAT exam scores.

Medical schools need to know if they should expect future MCAT scores in support of your application. Do you have an upcoming or recently taken MCAT exam date where official MCAT scores have yet to be released? *

○ Yes
○ No

AAMC PREview™ Scores

ℹ **Note:** Your PREview Scores have not been loaded yet

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AAMC PREview™ Exam

- The AAMC PREview™ professional readiness exam is formerly the AAMC Situational Judgment Test

- Several U.S. medical schools will accept AAMC PREview™ professional readiness exam scores for the AMCAS 2023 cycle

- **Registration is OPEN!** aamc.org/preview

Certification Statements

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

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

All official transcripts received

Application Submitted

"Ready for Review" Status

Verification Queue

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AMCAS Verification

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

AMCAS Tools

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

aamc.org/amcas

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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

Applicant → Letter Request Form → Letter Authors → AMCAS → Medical Schools

aamc.org/amcasletters

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Letters of Evaluation

Letters of Evaluation Received, 2018AY – 2022AY

AMCAS Letter Writer Application

services.aamc.org/letterwriter/

Letter Writer Guidelines

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

AAMC Fee Assistance Program

AAMC Fee Assistance Program

- MCAT Benefit
  - Reduced registration fees
  - Access to all 15 online AAMC MCAT Official Prep Products
  - Stipend for updated evaluation for accommodations
- AMCAS Benefit
  - AMCAS application submission fee waiver for up to 20 schools
- MSAR Benefit
  - Complimentary access to the Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) website
- AAMC PREview™ Benefit
  - Waiver for AAMC PREview™ professional readiness exam registration fees

Benefits are NOT Retroactive

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Program Eligibility

- U.S.-based home address

- Tied to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' poverty level guidelines

- Requires parental financial information and supporting tax documentation for applicants under 26

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Income Eligibility

Family Size	Income Guidelines		
	Contiguous States, District of Columbia & U.S. Territories	Alaska	Hawaii
1	$51,520	$64,360	$59,280
2	$69,680	$87,080	$80,160
3	$87,840	$109,800	$101,040
4	$106,000	$132,520	$121,920
5	$124,160	$155,240	$142,800
6	$142,320	$177,960	$163,680
7	$160,480	$200,680	$184,560
8	$178,640	$223,400	$205,440
8+	$4,540 for each additional person	$5,680 for each additional person.	$5,220 for each additional person

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How the Fee Assistance Program Helped

- Waived secondary fees
  - Scholarships
- Interview expenses

aamc.org/howfaphelped

2022 Fee Assistance Program

aamc.org/fap

AAMC Fee Assistance Program

- What You Need to Apply

- *2022 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

Contact Us

The AAMC is here to help you navigate the **2023 AMCAS®** application cycle.
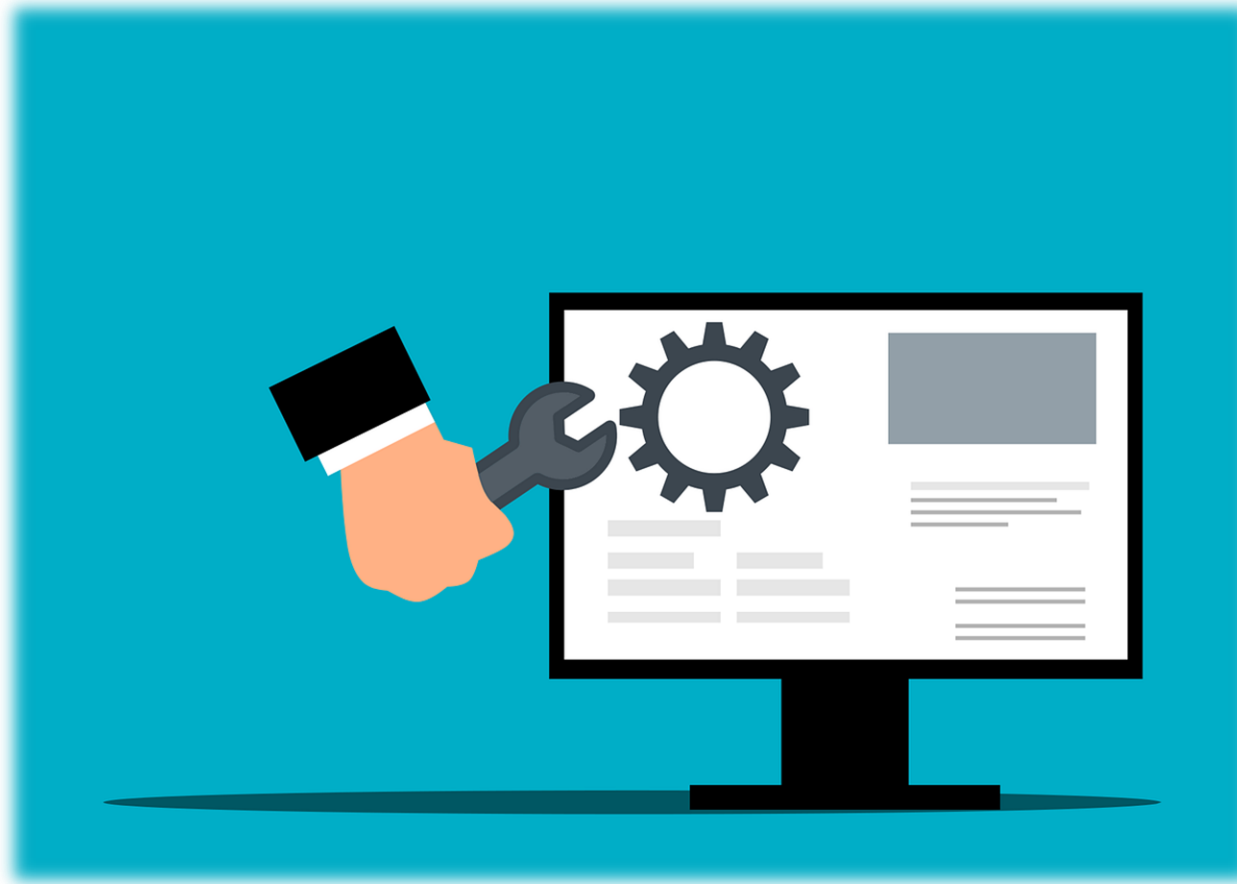
📞 202-828-0600

✉ AMCAS Contact us

🐦 @AMCASinfo

Scheduled Maintenance

Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22

Good luck!

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