Supporting Applicants through the 2026 AMCAS® Application Cycle

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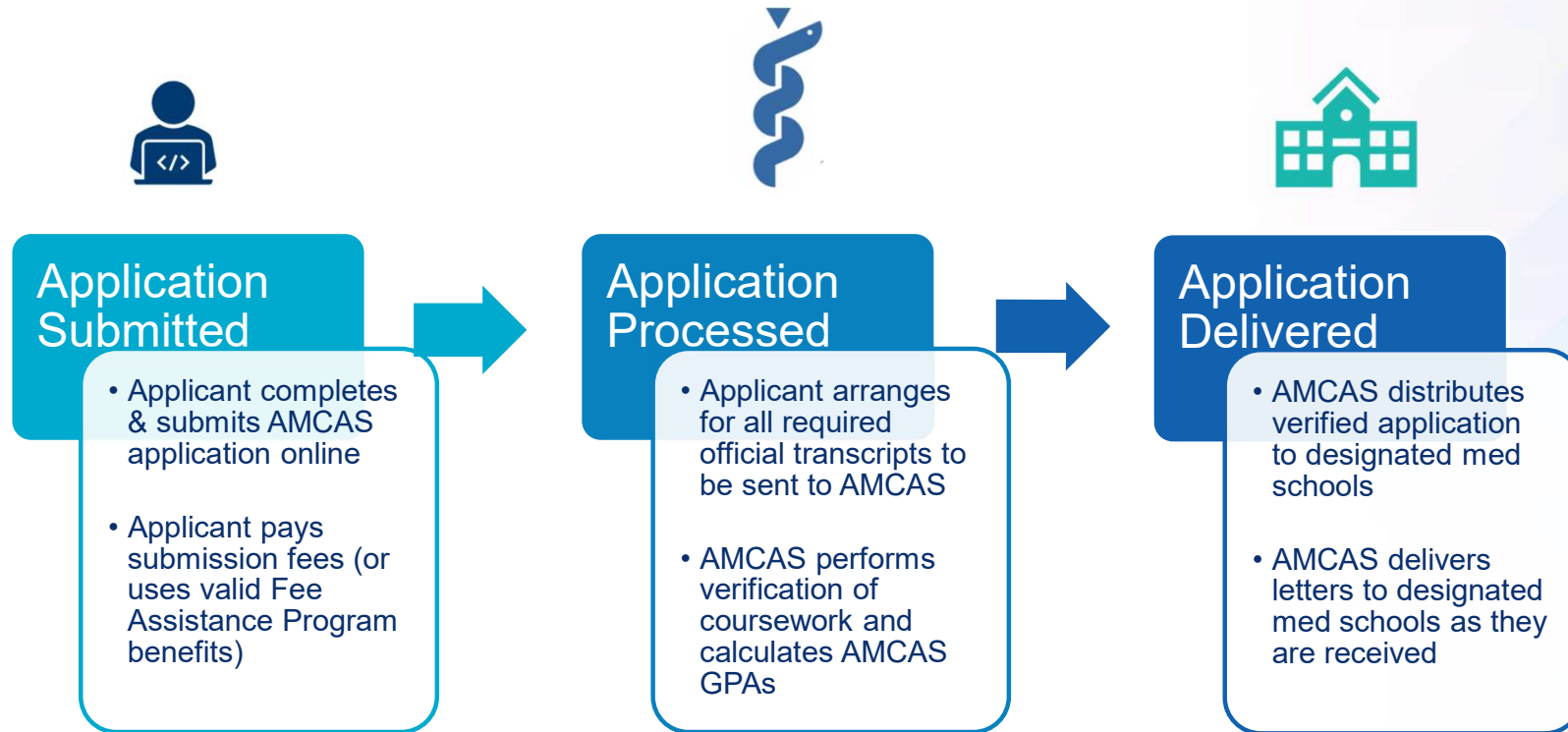
Jena Wimsatt
Digital Communications & Outreach Specialist

Agenda

- AMCAS Program

- AMCAS Application

- Verification

- AMCAS Letter Service
  - AAMC Letter Writer Portal

- The Advisor Information System (AIS)
  - Access and Reports

- The AAMC Advisor Hub

- Resources

- Q&A

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How does the AMCAS Application 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

2026 Application Dates

Date	Event
April	2026 AMCAS resources available
May 1	AMCAS application opens
May 27	AMCAS application submission begins
June 27	Initial transmission of application data to medical schools
August 1	Early Decision Program deadline
Sept.-Dec.	Application deadlines

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
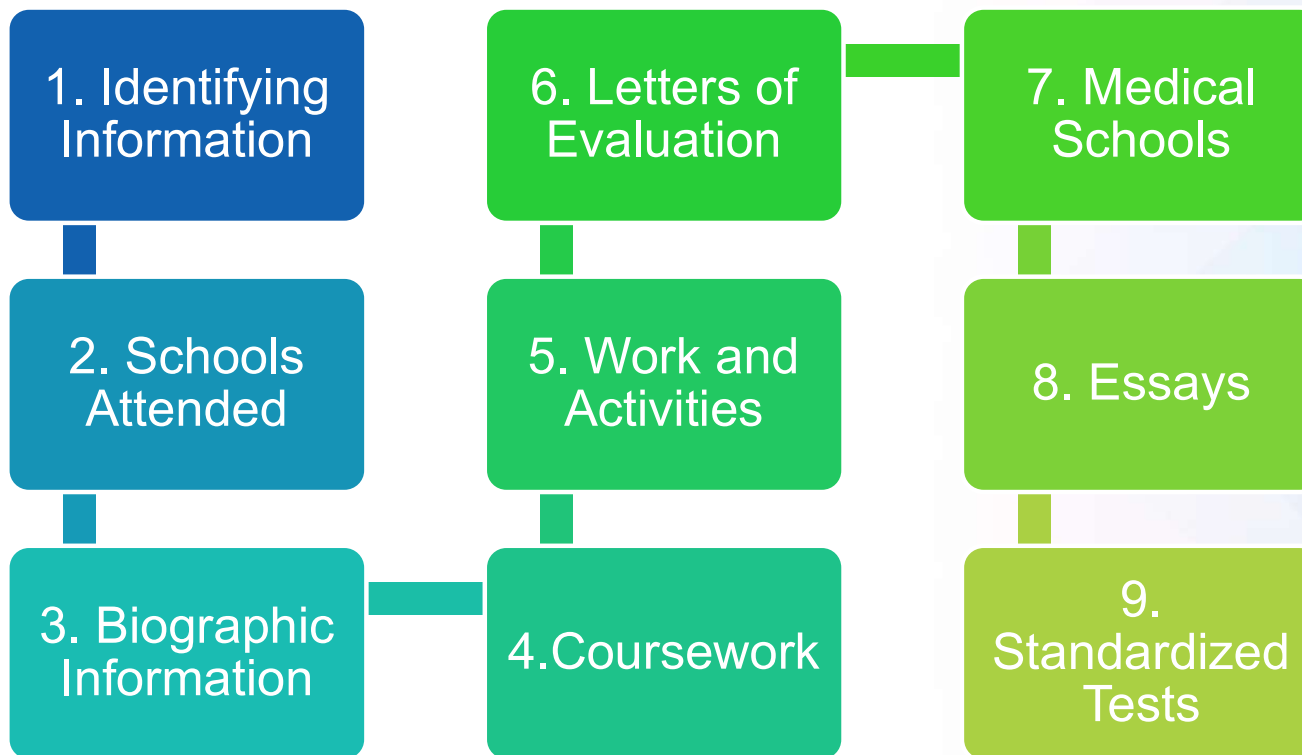- Visit www.aamc.org/amcasdeadlines

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2026 AMCAS Participation

Tentative 2026 Participation	
Application	155 Schools/Programs All MD granting schools in the United States with the exception of MD programs at Texas public schools
AMCAS Letters	153 Schools/Programs
Criminal Background Checks	133 Schools/Programs

2026 AMCAS Application Fees:

- $175 processing fee (includes one school designation)
- $47 for each additional school

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The AMCAS Application

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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2026 AMCAS Application Changes

AAMC Letter Writer Portal integration: Screens for creating new Letter of Evaluation requests have been updated, including a new email feature for contacting letter authors.

Reapplicant data will roll over for the Military Discharge, Misdemeanors, Felonies, and Institutional Actions sections.

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Accessing the Application

AAMC Registration

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

My AAMC Profile

Application Walk-through

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AMCAS Application Main Menu

AMCAS Application Main Menu

AMCAS Application 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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Identifying Information

Schools Attended

Schools Attended

Transcript Request

ℹ️ 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

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Biographic Information

Other Impactful Experiences

Biographic Information

- ✏ Preferred Address*
- ○ Permanent Address*
- ○ Alternate Contact
- ✓ Citizenship*
- ○ Legal Residence*
- ○ Self Identification
- ○ Languages*
- ○ Childhood Information*
- ○ Military Service*
- ○ Military Discharge*
- ○ Felony*
- ○ Misdemeanor*
- ○ **Other Impactful Experiences***
- ○ Parents and Guardians*
- ○ Siblings*

Other Impactful Experiences

To provide some additional context around each individual's application, admissions committees are interested in learning more about the challenges applicants may have overcome in life. The following question is designed to give you the opportunity to provide additional information about yourself that is not easily captured in the rest of the application.

Please consider whether this question applies to you. Medical schools do not expect all applicants to answer "yes" to this question. This question is intended for applicants who have overcome major challenges or obstacles. Some applicants may not have experiences that are relevant to this question. Other applicants may not feel comfort...

Have you overcome challenges or obstacles in your life that you wo...
experiences related to your family background, financial backgrou...
circumstances.*

How should I know if I should answer "Yes" to this question?

○ Yes

○ No

Other Impactful Experiences Description ✕

The following examples can help you decide whether you should respond "yes" to the question, and if so, what kinds of experiences you could share. Please keep in mind that this is not a fully inclusive list and any experiences you choose to write about should be ones that directly impacted your life opportunities.

Example Experiences

- **Family background:** serving as a caretaker of a family member (e.g., siblings, parent/guardian), first generation to college.
- **Community setting:** rural area, food scarcity, high poverty or crime rate, lack of access to regular healthcare (e.g., primarily used urgent care clinics or emergency room, no primary care physician).
- **Financial background:** low-income family, worked to support family growing up, work-study to pay for college, federal or state financial support.
- **Educational experience:** limited educational opportunities, limited access to advisors or counselors who were knowledgeable/supportive of higher education requirements.
- **Other general life circumstances** that were beyond your control and impacted your life and/or presented barriers.

Writing Instructions

- **Select the most impactful experiences.** Describe the challenge(s) or hardship(s) you consider most impactful in your life.
- **Write about how experiences impacted your life.** Write about any topics you deem important to discuss, including information that might be mentioned elsewhere in your application (e.g., your personal statement). You can use the space provided in this question to further elaborate on those topics, if desired.
- **Use a narrative style format.** Describe your impactful experience(s) in a narrative format to help admissions committees understand your story, but be mindful of the 1,325 character limit.

OK

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Coursework

Coursework

Applicants should use an official transcript to complete this section.

Add Course

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

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Work/Activities

Add Work/Activities   ×

Experience Type *   Experience Name *

[Select Experience Type ▼]   [   ]

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 *   End Date *   Total Hours *

[Select Month ▼]   [Select Month ▼]   [   ]

[Select Years ▼]   [Select Years ▼]

Repeated *

◯ Yes

◯ No

Organization Name

[   ]

                          CANCEL   [SAVE & ADD ANOTHER]   [SAVE]

- Maximum of 15 entries
  - Applicants can enter 3 additional date ranges for repeated activities
  - Applicants 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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Letters of Evaluation

Applicants can submit their application before AMCAS receives their letters.

Medical Schools

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

ℹ️ 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

ℹ️ 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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Standardized Tests

Applicants should indicate any future testing dates.

Standardized Tests ❓ Help

- ✅ 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

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

MCAT® Exam Date

ℹ️ Please remember to keep this information current, especially after initial submission, as it alerts medical schools 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 a recently taken MCAT exam date where official MCAT scores have yet to be released? *

○ Yes
◉ No

2025 Schedule for the Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®)*

aamc.org/mcat

MCAT Scores

Score breakdowns and confidence bands will appear in the AMCAS application.

Standardized Tests

aamc.org/preview

Certification Statements

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

AMCAS Application Verification Process

Transcripts

- All required official transcripts must be received before an application can join the verification queue

Processing

- From date of **"Ready to Review"** application status, about 6 weeks

- Find processing on the AMCAS application sign in page
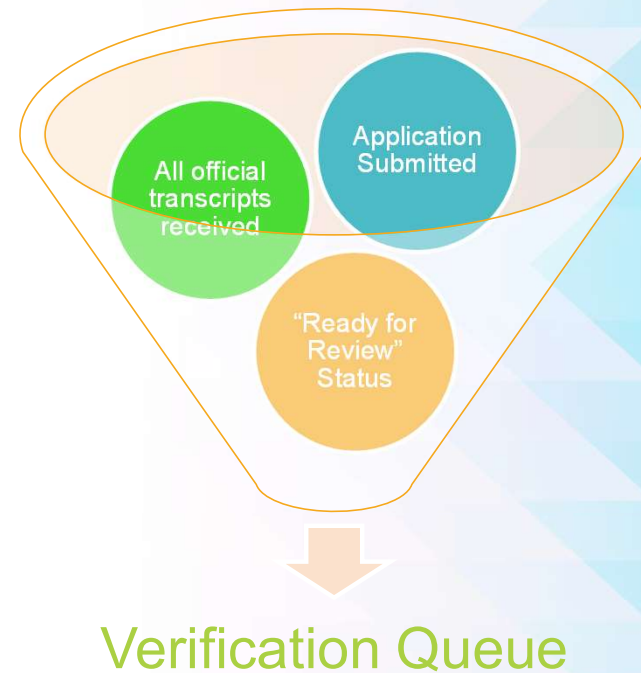
All official transcripts received

Application Submitted

"Ready for Review" Status

Verification Queue

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AMCAS Application Verification
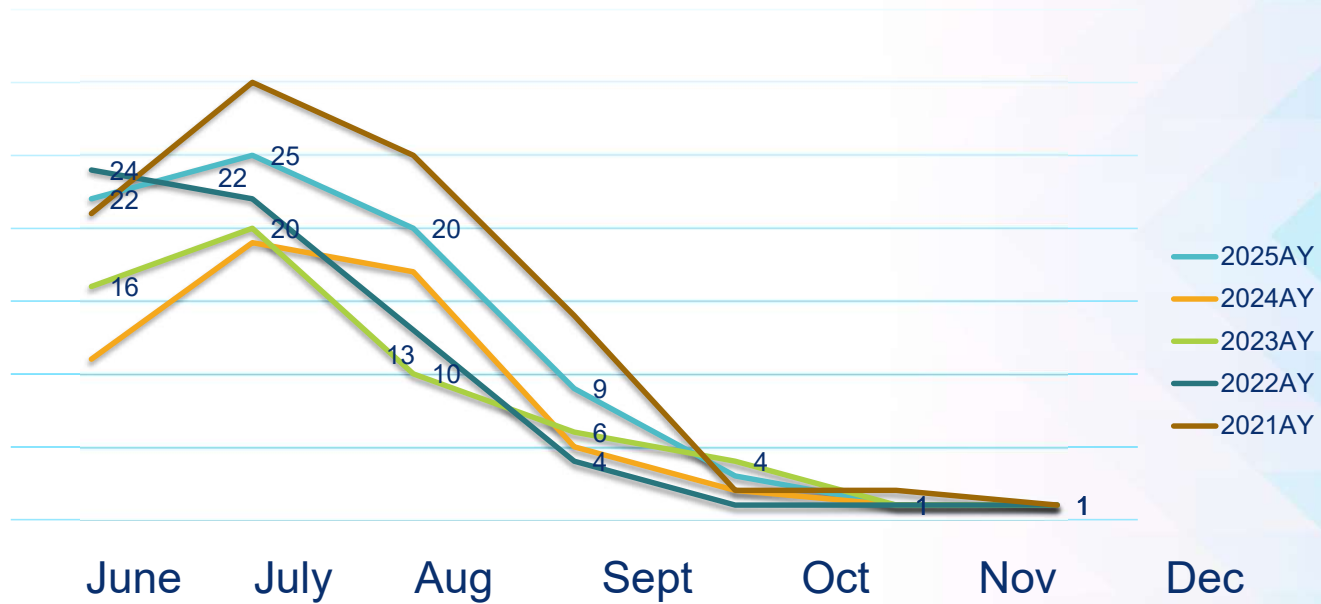
Application Reminders

- Criminal Background Checks

- *Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants*

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Criminal Background Checks

- Participating schools conduct background checks on accepted 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

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Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants

Letters of Evaluation

Submission Methods:

- AAMC Letter Writer Portal

- Interfolio

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

Letters of Evaluation

Letters of Evaluation Received, 2021AY – 2025AY
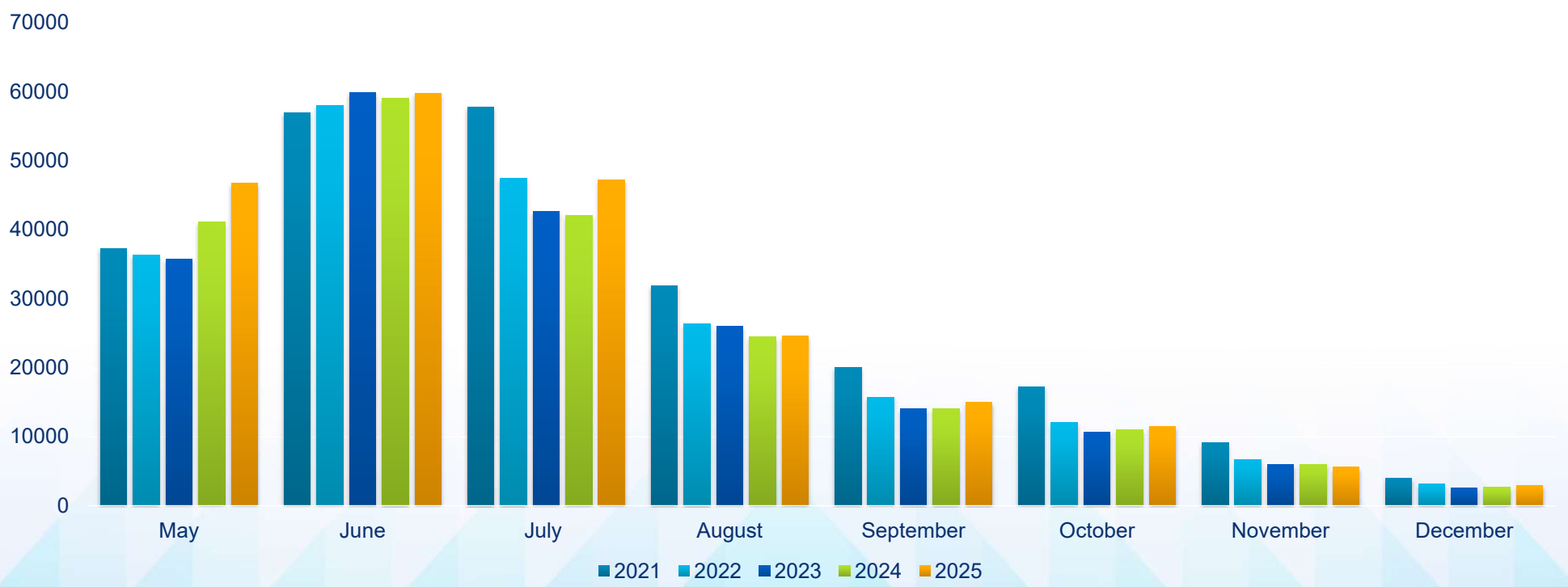
AAMC Letter Writer Portal

- Letter writers use this system to manage requests and submit documents.
- Eliminates the need to search by request ID.
- Submit letters with or without an AAMC account.
- Enhanced request search, filter, and sorting for both completed AND pending requests.
- Expanded history of all requests, including submitted documents.

AAMC Letter Writer Portal Tips

- Upload letters via the link in the letter request email.

- The portal allows for PDF or Microsoft Word files

- Individual medical schools may require your letters to be on official letterhead and to include the author's signature.

- Once you upload a letter, no deletions or modifications can be made. Future letters you upload with this request ID will be pre-pended to letters previously uploaded.

aamc.org/services/aamc-letter-writer-portal

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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.

Letter Writer Guidelines

Premed Competencies

Describe how the applicant has, or has not, demonstrated any of the following competencies that are necessary for success in medical school.

Professional Competencies

Commitment to Learning and Growth: Practices continuous personal and professional growth for improvement, including setting and communicating goals for learning and development; reflects on successes, challenges, and mistakes; pursues opportunities to improve knowledge and understanding; and asks for and incorporates feedback to learn and grow.

Cultural Awareness: Appreciates how historical, sociocultural, political, and economic factors affect others' interactions, behaviors, and well-being; values diversity; and demonstrates a desire to learn about different cultures, beliefs, and values.

Cultural Humility: Seeks out and engages diverse and divergent perspectives with a desire to understand and willingness to adjust one's mindset; understands a situation or idea from alternative viewpoints; reflects on one's values, beliefs, and identities and how they may affect others; reflects on and addresses bias in oneself and others; and fosters a supportive environment that values inclusivity.

Empathy and Compassion: Recognizes, understands, and acknowledges others' experiences, feelings, perspectives, and reactions to situations; is sensitive to others' needs and feelings; and demonstrates a desire to help others and alleviate others' distress.

Ethical Responsibility to Self and Others: Behaves with honesty and integrity; considers multiple and/or conflicting principles and values to inform decisions; adheres to ethical principles when carrying out professional obligations; resists pressure to engage in unethical behavior; and encourages others to behave honestly and ethically.

Interpersonal Skills: Demonstrates an awareness of how social and behavioral cues affect people's interactions and behaviors; adjusts behaviors appropriately in response to these cues; recognizes and manages one's emotions and understands how emotions impact others or a situation; and treats others with dignity, courtesy, and respect.

Oral Communication: Effectively conveys information to others using spoken words and sentences; actively listens to understand the meaning and intent behind what others say; and recognizes potential communication barriers and adjusts approach or clarifies information as needed.

Reliability and Dependability: Demonstrates accountability for performance and responsibilities to self and others; prioritizes and fulfills obligations in a timely and satisfactory manner; and understands consequences of not fulfilling one's responsibilities to self and others.

Resilience and Adaptability: Perseveres in challenging, stressful, or ambiguous environments or situations by adjusting behavior or approach in

Advisor Information System (AIS) Access & Resources

- Visit https://students-residents.aamc.org/advisors/advisor-information-system/

- Get info about gaining access to AIS, report instructions, and other helpful resources

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Advisor Information System (AIS)

- Applicant data from students who have released their information to school-designated advisors

- Statement of Confidentiality

Name	Purpose
Quick Lookup	Search for a single advisee
Roster of Applicants	Retrieve data for a particular set of AMCAS applicants
MCAT Roster/Summary	Retrieve individual or aggregate data for a particular set of` MCAT examinees
PREview Roster	Retrieve data for PREview examinees
Designated School	Lists medical schools that your students have applied to, the number who have applied, the number who have been accepted, and the number who have matriculated
Application Year Statistics	Compare school statistics to national statistics for a given application year
Trends	Graphs of aggregate data for closed application years

Quick Lookup | Roster of Applicants | MCAT Roster/Summary | PREview Roster | Designated School | App Yr Stats | Trends

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Admissions Insights for Prehealth Advisors website

Admissions Insights for Prehealth Advisors

ESTIMATED READ TIME: 6 MINUTES

SHARE: in X f ✉

The AAMC provides valuable insights to help you guide your advisees along their journey to medical school. Learn more about national American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®) and Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®) trend data, AMCAS operations, and additional resources. If you have any questions or feedback, please email advisors@aamc.org.

On this page:

- Upcoming Advisor Communications
- Activities, Webinars, and Meeting Sessions
- Behind the Scenes of AMCAS Operations and Processes
- AMCAS Application Data Trends
- MCAT Testing Data
- Advisor Information System (AIS) Corner
- Around the AAMC

Advisor Information System ▶

AMCAS® Letter Writer Application ▶

Medical School Admission Requirements ▶

Prehealth Advisor Support

The AAMC's prehealth advisor support team offers assistance for the Advisor Information System, AMCAS, MCAT, Medical School Admission Requirements, the Fee Assistance Program, Aspiring Docs, and FIRST.

Prehealth Advisor Email Series

PREHEALTH ADVISOR EMAIL SERIES

March 2025

Spring is around the corner, bringing fresh opportunities for growth and new beginnings for both you and your advisees. This month, we've included information on registration for the Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®), PREview® professional readiness exam insights and prep, and the annual American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®) webinar registration. We're here to help you guide the next generation of health care professionals. We sincerely thank you for your continued dedication.

The AAMC is committed to helpful data to assist you in well-informed and well-equip and we appreciate the vital not hesitate to reach out an

Missing our print materials? page.

Admissions Data Insights

Here are valuable data insights to aid you in guiding your advisees along their journey to medical school. We feature different admissions data each month. **You can find more admissions data on our new** Admissions Insights for Prehealth Advisors website (Advisor Information System log-in required).

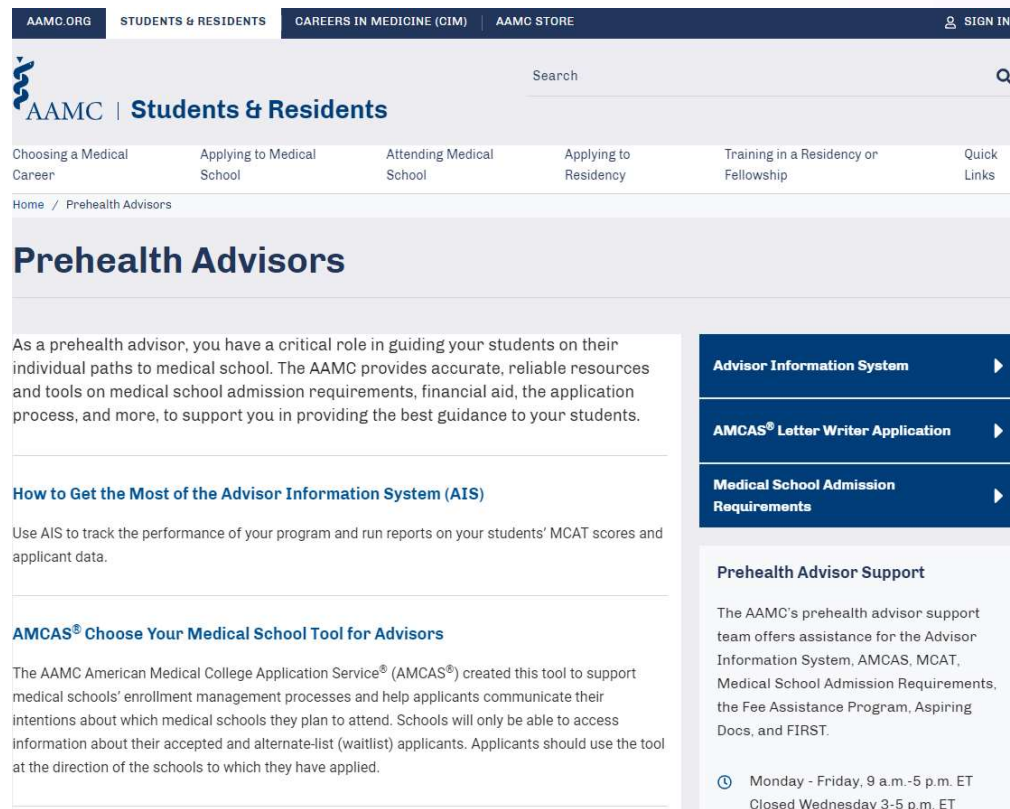#### AMCAS® Choose Your Medical School Tool: Plan to Enroll Numbers

The AMCAS Choose Your Medical School (CYMS) tool is now live for eligible applicants (those with at least one current acceptance from an AMCAS-participating school) within the AMCAS application. Applicant CYMS selections are visible inside the Advisor Information System. This includes information about the applicant's current selection, as well as the history of selections for each applicant. Since the CYMS tool is linked directly to admission action data, the 14-day action data embargo applies to CYMS selections. Here is a break-down of the Plan to Enroll (PTE) numbers for the 2025 AMCAS application cycle (compared to AY2024).

AMCAS Application Year	Number of Applicants	Percent of Accepted Applicants
2025 (*as of Feb. 26, 2025)	4,502	28.7%
2024 (*as of Feb. 27, 2024)	4,196	27.5%

This data represents point-in-time comparisons. Each date range reflects the same number of days for this information. To provide an accurate count of the number of days, the "as of ..." dates demonstrate a week from the program opening date.

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The Advisor Hub

aamc.org/advisors

AAMC Fee Assistance Program

MCAT Exam Benefit

- Reduced registration fees
- Access to all 15 online AAMC MCAT Official Prep Products
- Stipend for updated evaluation for accommodations

AMCAS Application 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™ Exam Benefit

- Waiver for AAMC PREview™ professional readiness exam registration fees

ERAS Application Benefit

- 60% fee discount on up to 50 ERAS applications

Benefits are NOT Retroactive

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AAMC Fee Assistance 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.

- Must be preparing to apply to medical school.

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AAMC Fee Assistance Program

Website resources to direct your advisees to:

- What You Need to Apply
- *2025 Fee Assistance Program Essentials*
- Fee Assistance Program FAQ's

202-828-0600

feeassistance@aamc.org

@AMCASinfo

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Advisor Support

Advisor support for all pre-med AAMC programs and services will be accessible via one phone number and email address:

AAMC Advisor Support

Phone: 202-828-0950

Emails: advisors@aamc.org

MCAT

AAMC Fee Assistance Program

Medical Admissions Requirements

FIRST

Aspiring Docs

AAMC Advisor Support

Advisor Information System

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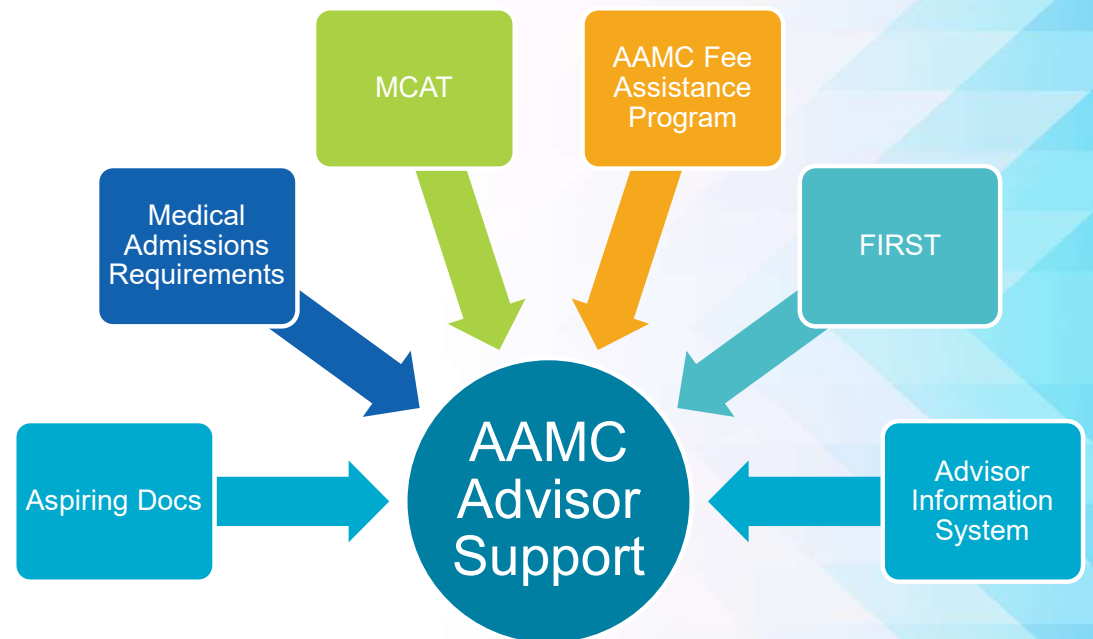
AAMC Premed Navigator
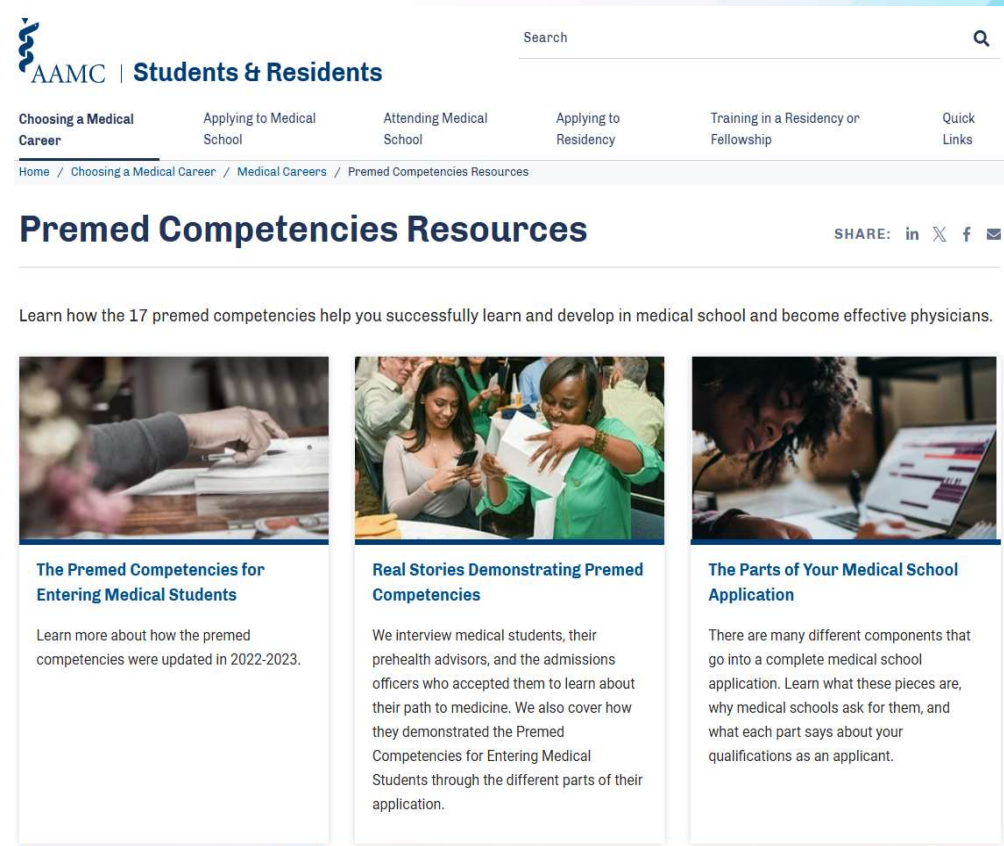
Monthly e-newsletter for applicants and helpful web content.
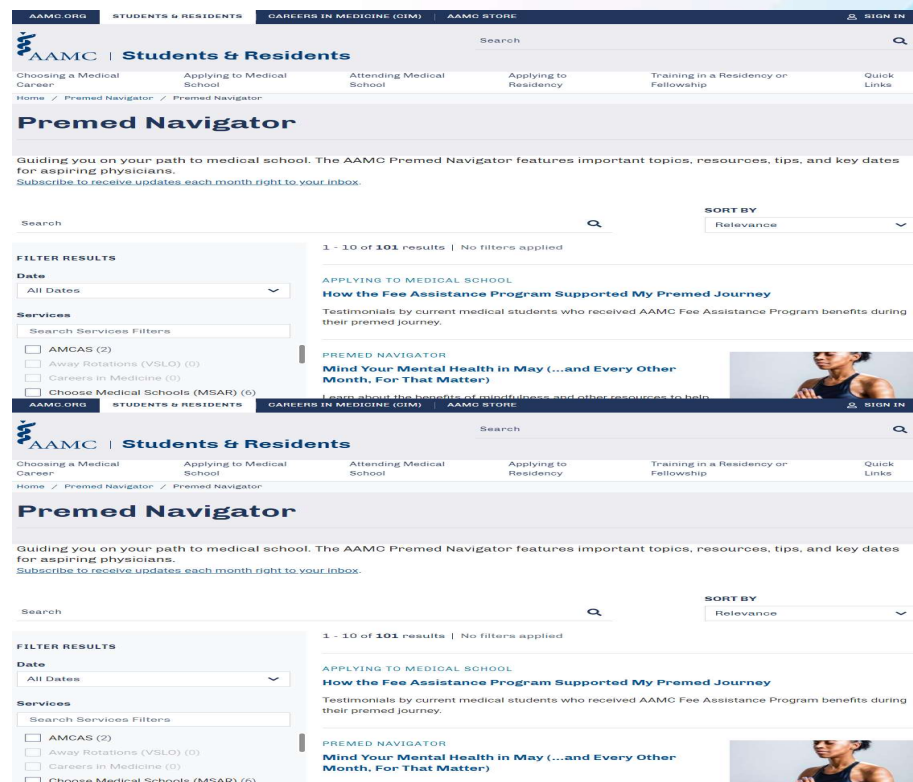
students-residents.aamc.org/navigator

Anatomy of an Applicant

- Core Competencies

- Student Profiles

aamc.org/competencies

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Access Code Management Tool (ACMT)

ACMT allows advisors to easily distribute, manage and keep track of your access codes in a "Code Bank."

Questions?

Thank you!

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

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