

Navigating the 2026 AMCAS Application Cycle

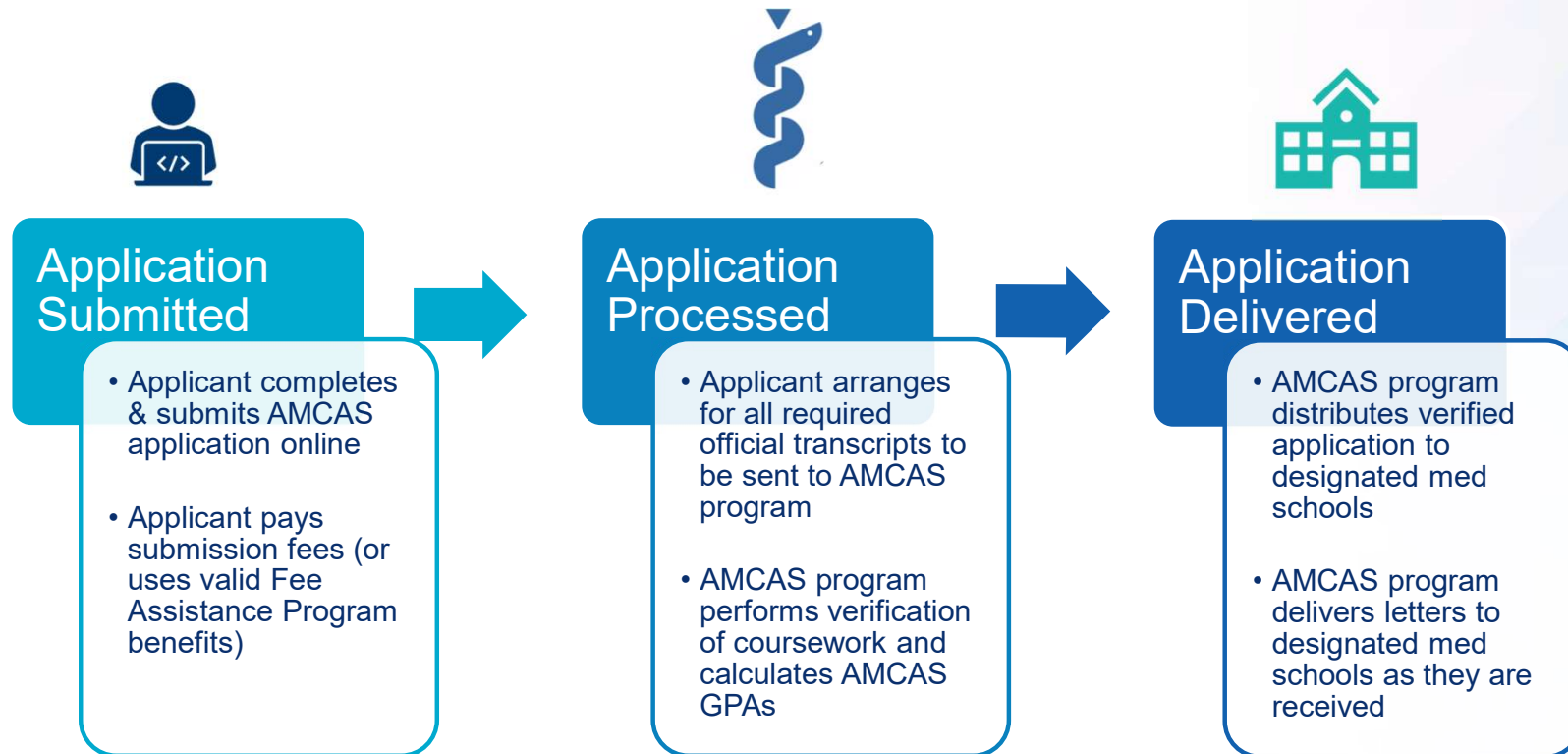
Candice Pantor
Manager, Admissions Communications

The American Medical College
Application Service® (AMCAS®)
is a program of the Association
of American Medical Colleges.

Agenda


- AMCAS Application
 - AMCAS Application Process
 - 2026 Dates and Participation
 - 2026 AMCAS Application Overview
- Verification
- After Submission
- AMCAS Letter Service
 - The Letter Writer Application
 - Letter Guidelines
- Resources

How does the AMCAS Application work?



aamc.org/amcas

[AAMC.ORG](#) [STUDENTS & RESIDENTS](#) [CAREERS IN MEDICINE \(CIM\)](#) [AAMC STORE](#) [SIGN IN](#)

 **AAMC | Students & Residents**

Choosing a Medical Career

Applying to Medical School

Attending Medical School

Applying to Residency

Training in a Residency or Fellowship

Quick Links

[Home](#) / [Applying to Medical School](#) / [Understanding the Process](#) / [Applying to Medical School with the AMCAS® Program](#)

Applying to Medical School with the AMCAS® Program

The American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®) is the AAMC's centralized medical school application processing service. Most U.S. medical schools use the AMCAS program as the primary application method for their first-year entering classes.

AMCAS® Sign In


Connect with AMCAS®


[@AMCASinfo](#)

[AMCASinfo](#)

Contact AMCAS®

[Send us a message.](#)

 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. ET
Closed Wednesday, 3-5 p.m. ET

 202-828-0600

2026 AMCAS® Applicant Guide

The AMCAS applicant guide outlines the current AMCAS application process, policies, and procedures. This comprehensive resource helps you understand how to complete your AMCAS application.

American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®)

The American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®) is the AAMC's centralized medical school application processing service.

2026 AMCAS 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
Nov.-Jan.	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

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

Accessing the Application

Sign In

[Forgot your username?](#) | [Forgot your password?](#)

Sign In

Create AAMC Account

Register for an AAMC account to begin accessing products and services.

Create AAMC Account

[Need help?](#)

AAMC Registration

Create Account

1

2

1

Personal Information
Please complete the fields below.

Email

Confirm Email

Prefix (optional)

First Name

Middle (optional)



You should only complete registration if you do not have an AAMC ID.

My AAMC Profile

My AAMC Profile

SAVE & CONTINUE TO APPLICATION

AAMC ID
21237971

* Indicates required fields

Name

Prefix

Miss

First Name *

Judy

Middle Name

Last Name *

Smith

Generational Suffix

Select Suffix

Legal Name

Legal First Name *

Judy

Legal Middle Name

Legal Last Name *

Smith

Generational Suffix

Select Suffix

Select “2026 Application Cycle”

Open AMCAS Applications

2026 Application Cycle [Help](#)

[New Application](#)

This is the application cycle for applicants who intend to start medical school in the summer or fall of 2026.

START THE 2026 APPLICATION IF YOU WANT TO START MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE FALL OF 2026

2025 Application Cycle [Help](#)

[New Application](#)

This is the application cycle for applicants who intend to start medical school in the summer or fall of 2025.

START THE 2025 APPLICATION IF YOU WANT TO START MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE FALL OF 2025

The screenshot displays the AAMC Application Service interface. At the top, a dark blue navigation bar contains a help icon, the user name 'Jordan Smith' with a profile icon 'JS', and three links: 'Back to Dashboard', 'My AAMC Profile', and 'My Application' with a dropdown arrow. Below this, a light blue bar features two buttons: 'VIEW APPLICATION' and 'SUBMIT APPLICATION'. The main content area has a light gray background. On the left, a vertical list of status indicators shows 'Completed' for various sections. The central area displays a message: 'Not Submitted to the AMCAS Program' with an information icon. Below this message are three links: 'MANAGE TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS', 'MANAGE LETTER REQUESTS', and 'PRINT APPLICATION'. A large red arrow points to the 'MANAGE TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS' link. At the bottom left, there is a button labeled 'VIEW APPLICATION STATUS HISTORY'. The AAMC logo and 'American Medical College Application Service®' are visible in the bottom right corner.



AMCAS Main Menu

Jordan Smith

AAMC ID 21567835
Gender Woman
Date of Birth 01/15/1992
Country of Birth USA
Email amcasevents@aamc.org
Birth State CA
Birth City Los Angeles

Some information is centrally managed by the AAMC and cannot be edited on this page. To edit your preferred email address and citizenship, go to [My AAMC Profile](#)

Application

Not Submitted to the AMCAS Program

Identifying Information	Completed	MANAGE TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS
Schools Attended	Completed	
Biographic Information	Completed	
Course Work	Incomplete	MANAGE LETTER REQUESTS
Work/Activities	Incomplete	PRINT APPLICATION
Letters of Evaluation	Completed	
Medical Schools	Completed	
Essays	Incomplete	
Standardized Tests	Incomplete	

[VIEW APPLICATION STATUS HISTORY](#)

APPLICATION STATUS DEFINITIONS

CURRENT APPLICATION STATUS

Status	Status Change Date	Definition
Not Submitted to the AMCAS Program	Mar 17, 2025 4:16 PM EDT	Not Submitted to the AMCAS Program

[CLOSE WINDOW](#)

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)

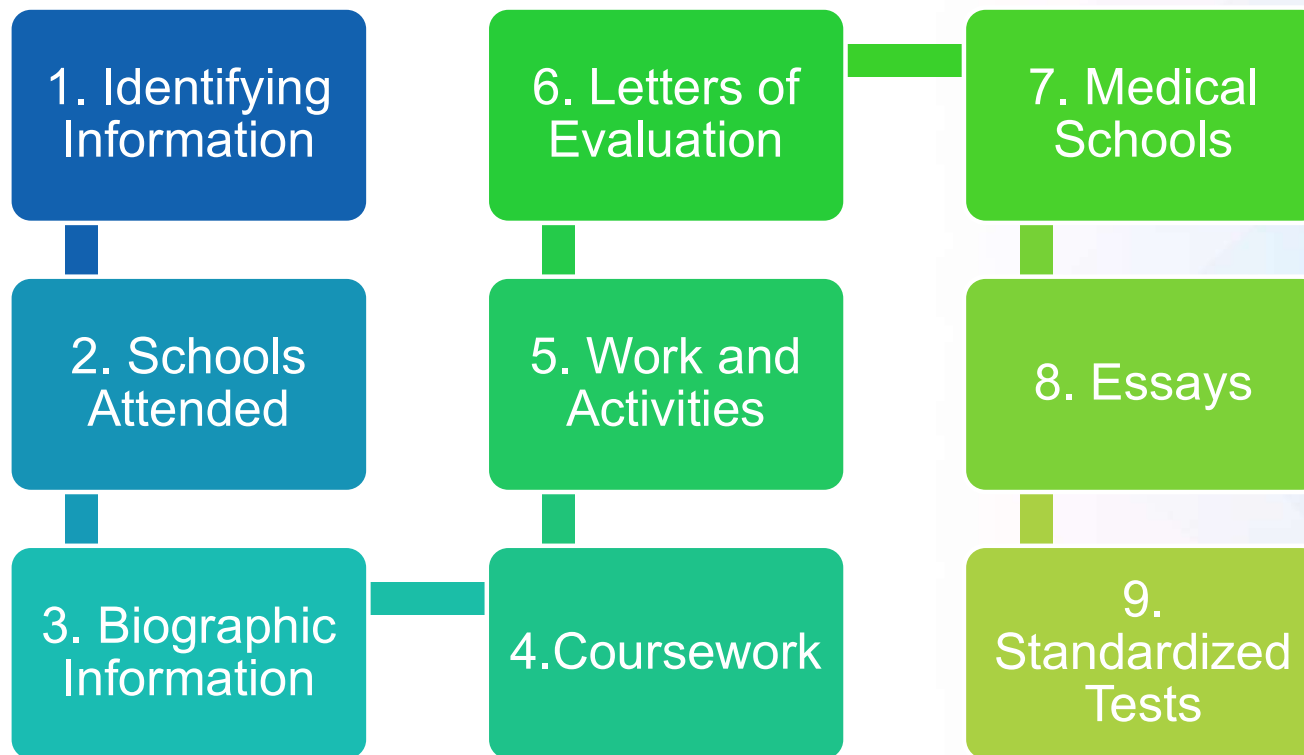
You have no transcripts attached to your application

Letters of Evaluation (0)

You have no letters attached to your application

[VIEW ALL DOCUMENT STATUSES](#)

The AMCAS Application



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.

Identifying Information

AAMC

American Medical College Application Service®

My AAMC Profile

Main Menu

My Application ▾

?

Judy Smith

JS

Identifying Information

Help

SAVE

SAVE & CONTINUE

✓ Identifying Information

✓ Legal Name*

✓ Preferred Name*

○ Alternate Names

○ ID Numbers

✓ Birth Date and Birth Place*

✓ Gender Identity and Pronouns*

○ Schools Attended

○ Biographic Information

○ Course Work

○ Work/Activities

○ Letters of Evaluation

○ Medical Schools

○ Essays

○ Standardized Tests

1

Some information is centrally managed by AAMC and cannot be edited on this page. To edit your legal name, preferred name, birth, and gender, go to My AAMC Profile

Legal Name

Salutation

Select Salutation ▾

1

Medical schools will send you correspondence, and often prefer salutation and properly cased name (e.g. Mr. John Smith)

First Name *

Judy

Middle Name

Last Name *


Smith

Suffix

Select Suffix ▾

1

To edit your Legal Name, go to My AAMC Profile

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Schools Attended

Add College

Country *

Select Country

Program Type *

Select Program Type

Start Date *

MM/YYYY

End Date *

MM/YYYY

Other Options

☐ Summer School Only

☐ Study Abroad Program

Advisor Release

The school-designated advisor(s) have met AMCAS-established requirements and are bound by confidentiality. Information transferred includes your personal/demographic information, work/activity information, credit hours, MCAT scores, GPAs, the names and types of your recommenders, the names of any other schools you have attended, the medical schools to which you have applied and what action those schools have taken, and the status of your application with AMCAS. Additionally, if you applied for fee assistance through the AAMC Fee Assistance Program, and in your fee assistance application agreed to release award information to your health professions advisor this information will be made available along with your application information.

Do you authorize AMCAS to release your application information to the school-designated advisor(s) at this institution? *

☐ Yes


☐ No

Transcript Request

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.

CANCEL

SAVE

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Schools Attended

Transcript Request

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

2026 AMCAS® Applicant Guide



Biographic Information

AAMC

American Medical College Application...

My AAMC Profile

Main Menu

My Application

?

Judy Smith

JS

Biographic Information

Help

BACK

SAVE

SAVE & CONTINUE

Identifying Information

Schools Attended

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*

Dependents*

Course Work

Work/Activities

Letters of Evaluation

Some information is centrally managed by AAMC and cannot be edited on this page. To edit your preferred email address, and citizenship, go to My AAMC Profile

Preferred Address

Country*

Select Country

Address 1*

Street number and name

Address 2

Apt No., Suite No., Building No. etc

City*

Day Phone*

Evening Phone

Email*


jsmith@amcas.com

Fax

To edit your email, go to My AAMC Profile

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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 comfortable sharing personal information in their application.

Have you overcome challenges or obstacles in your life that you would like to describe in more detail? This could include lived experiences related to your family background, financial background, community setting, educational experiences, and/or other life 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

Coursework

Course Work Help

☒ Identifying Information

☒ Schools Attended

☒ Biographic Information

☒ **Course Work**

☐ **Course Work***

☐ Work/Activities

☒ Letters of Evaluation

☒ Medical Schools

☐ Essays

☐ Standardized Tests


*Indicates required field

Course Work *

You must enter all of the courses you took at each school. Prior to entering your coursework, you are encouraged to watch some brief tutorials that will guide you through the process of entering your coursework. Click on the links below to learn about the process of entering coursework:

- [Watch Basic Coursework Tutorial](#)
- [Watch AP Coursework/Credit Tutorial](#)
- [Watch Current and Future Coursework Tutorial \(where you have not yet earned a grade\)](#)
- [Watch Study Abroad Coursework Tutorial](#)

Please review [additional information](#) about coursework in the [AMCAS Applicant Guide](#).



If you do not need to enter coursework for any of your schools attended, please select None for the applicable school(s). In order for AMCAS to process your application, all required coursework must be entered. Please refer to the [AMCAS Applicant Guide](#) for more information about entering coursework.

[BACK](#)[SAVE & CONTINUE](#)

Coursework

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



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.

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 Number: 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 2023** it goes in **AY 2023-2024** in the AMCAS application.

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.

Work/Activities

Add Work/Activities

Experience Type *

Select Experience Type

Experience Name *

1

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

End Date *

Select Month

Total Hours *

Select Years

Select Years

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

Work/Activities: Tips

- Work and activities will appear on your application in chronological order and you cannot rearrange them.
- When writing your response for your “Most Meaningful”, you might want to consider the transformative nature of the experience, the impact you made while engaging in the activity, and the personal growth you experienced as a result of your participation.
- You can indicate anticipated hours if you will complete any additional hours for an experience. The start date must be the current month and year or later, and the latest end date you can select is August 2026.

Work/Activities: Things to think about

- How does this experience impact my future profession in medicine?
- Consider which premed competencies you gained experience in and how you developed or demonstrated these competencies through your experience.
- 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.

Letters of Evaluation

*Indicates required field

Letters of Evaluation/Recommendation *

Your letter authors must send your letters through the AMCAS Program if you are applying to one or more schools participating in the AMCAS Letters Service. Most medical schools participate. [See the list of participating schools](#). You must contact schools that do not participate to determine their letter of evaluation requirements. The AMCAS Program will not forward your letters to these. Please review [additional information about letters of evaluation](#).

Deadlines:

Letter deadlines for authors are established individually by each medical school, so check school websites for deadline date **submit your application before entering letters. You may submit your application before AMCAS receives your letters.**

New letter entries may be added and assigned to medical schools after you have submitted your application. However, once submitted, existing letter entries cannot be edited or deleted; they can only be marked "No Longer Being Sent."

Letter Release Policy and Author Guidelines:

- Letters sent to the AMCAS Program cannot be released to applicants or letter authors under any circumstances, and provided only to medical schools that are participating in the AMCAS Letter Service.
- Re-applicants should note that letters received by the AMCAS Program do not rollover to later application years, so a letter authors to keep a copy of their letter.
- The AAMC publishes a [list of guidelines](#) for letter of evaluation authors. A link to the guidelines is on the letter request page.

A maximum of ten (10) letter entries may be created on this page. Letters may be associated to medical schools on the Medical School Assignments page. For help, watch ["How to Add Letter of Evaluation Entries & Assign them to Medical Schools" Tutorial](#).

* Please create one letter entry for each Committee Letter, Individual Letter, or Letter Packet being sent to the AMCAS Program.

+ ADD LETTER REQUEST

Manage Letter Requests

SHOW MEDICAL SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS

✔ Letter Request Saved!

Ready to email this letter request to Letter Author ?

AMCAS will email your letter author, who will be able to upload a letter through the AMCAS Letter Author Portal or Interfolio. You will be notified via email when your author fulfills your request. If you select "Send Later", you can return to this request at any time to send via email or print [your letter request PDF form](#).

To: letter@example.com
From: amcas@aamc.org
Subject: AMCAS Letter of Evaluation Request Jordan Smith (AAMC ID 21567835)



Letter of Evaluation Request for 2026 AMCAS® Applications Only

Dear Letter Author ,
I hereby request that you submit my letter of evaluation to the AAMC's American Medical College Application Service®(AMCAS®). The AMCAS program is responsible for collecting letters on behalf of medical schools that participate in their Letters Service. This service also allows letter writers to submit their letters directly to the AMCAS program, rather than sending them to each medical school, provided those schools participate in the AMCAS Letter Service. Please see the options below for submitting your letters to the AMCAS Program.

Applicant Information:

First name:	Jordan	AAMC ID:	21567835
Last name:	Smith	Request ID:	8FNH-G9XNS-DMVCF
Email:	j.smith@example.com	Letter:	Letter of Evaluation Request

☐ * I acknowledge that an email will be sent and it is my responsibility to follow up and confirm receipt.

⚠ Please check the required acknowledgement

SEND LATER

SEND



Letters of Evaluation: Things to know

- Up to 10 letter entries may be added to the application.
- Most applicants have 2-3 letters.
- Letter packets cannot be broken up once they are received by the AMCAS program.
- The AMCAS program accepts letters through the AAMC Letter Writer Portal and Interfolio.
- The AMCAS program does not need your letters of evaluation to verify your application.

Medical Schools

The screenshot displays the 'Medical Schools' section of the AAMC application. On the left, a sidebar lists various sections: Identifying Information, Schools Attended, Biographic Information, Course Work, Work/Activities, Letters of Evaluation, Medical Schools (selected), Medical School Information, Essays, and Standardized Test Scores. The 'Add Medical School' modal is open, showing 'Step 1 of 3' with an 'Incomplete' status. The modal includes filter sections for State, Deadline, and Program Type, each with a dropdown menu. Below these is a 'School' section with a dropdown menu labeled 'Select School'. A note states: 'If a school is grayed out within the drop-down menu, check deadlines and eligibility requirements [on MSAR](#).' The modal has 'CANCEL' and 'NEXT' buttons. The background shows the main application interface with 'BACK' and 'SAVE & CONTINUE' buttons.

Medical Schools [Help](#) BACK SAVE & CONTINUE

Identifying Information * Indicates required field

Schools Attended

Biographic Information

Course Work

Work/Activities

Letters of Evaluation

Medical Schools

Medical School Information

Essays

Standardized Test Scores

Add Medical School

Step 1 of 3 Incomplete

Filters

State Filter by State

Deadline Filter by Deadline

Program Type Filter by Program Type

School

If a school is grayed out within the drop-down menu, check deadlines and eligibility requirements [on MSAR](#).

* School Select School

CANCEL NEXT

BACK SAVE & CONTINUE

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

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).

i 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

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.

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.

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

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.

You should indicate any future MCAT testing dates.

aamc.org/mcat

Standardized Tests

☒ Schools Attended

☐ Biographic Information

☐ Course Work

☐ Work/Activities

☐ Letters of Evaluation

☐ Medical Schools

☐ Essays

☒ Standardized Tests

☒ MCAT Scores


☐ MCAT Exam Date*

☒ PREview Scores


☒ PREview Exam Date

☐ Other Tests*

AAMC PREview™ Scores

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

PREview™ Exam Date (Optional)

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

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

☐ Yes

☐ No

PREview scores are automatically released to your application.

You should indicate any future PREview testing dates.

AAMC PREview® Exam

- The AAMC PREview® professional readiness exam 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.
- Several U.S. medical schools will accept AAMC PREview professional readiness exam scores for the 2026 cycle.



aamc.org/preview

Certification Statements

Application Submission Process

Pre-Submission Checks

Certification

Password

CBC

Payment

Certification Statements *

In order to complete and submit your application, you must certify the following statements by checking each box and clicking the Agree button.

I certify that the information in this application and associated materials is current, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I certify that all my writing, including personal comments, essays for MD-PhD applicants, and descriptions of work/activities, is my own. Although I may utilize mentors, peers, advisors, and/or AI tools for brainstorming, proofreading, or editing, my final submission is a true reflection of my own work and represents my experiences. I acknowledge that no changes can be made after submission and will thoroughly proofread my work. Quotations are allowed if I cite the source.

I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the AMCAS Applicant Guide, including the provisions noting that I am responsible for monitoring and ensuring the progress of my application process, by checking the Main Menu of my application.

I understand that I am responsible for reviewing my application after AMCAS processing is complete. I am responsible for notifying AMCAS of any discrepancies resulting from the verification process by using the Academic Change Request process located in the Quick Links section of the Main Menu.

I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants, which set forth guidelines for ethical conduct during the application process, and define important application cycle dates.

AAMC no longer uses the American Arbitration Association. Revised to incorporate policy to avoid future changes: I have read, understand, and accept the AAMC's Policies and Procedures for Investigating Reported Violations of Admissions and Enrollment Standards, which sets forth the AAMC's practices for investigating and reporting discrepancies in credentials, attempts to subvert the admissions process, inaccuracies, material omissions, or other attempts to subvert the admissions process.

I understand that I am responsible for learning the admissions requirements, application policies, and due dates for each school to which I am applying, and that I am not eligible for a refund of AMCAS fees if I do not meet the admissions requirements of the medical schools to which I apply.

I understand that, unless advised otherwise by the recipient school, I am required to inform the Admissions Office of each medical school to which I apply if I am convicted of, or plead guilty or no contest to, a misdemeanor or felony crime after the date of my original application submission and prior to medical school matriculation. I understand that this communication must be in writing and must occur within 10 business days of the conviction.

I understand that I am required to inform the Admissions Office of each medical school to which I apply if I become the subject of an institutional action after the date of my original application submission and prior to medical school matriculation. I understand that this communication must be in writing and must occur within ten (10) business days of the occurrence of the institutional

CANCEL

AGREE

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CANCEL

AGREE

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



AAMC
American Medical College
Application Service®

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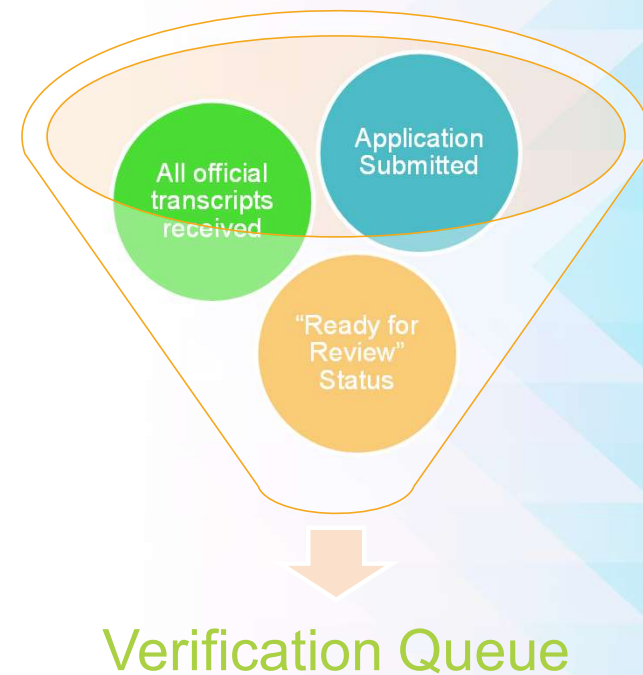
AMCAS Application Verification Process

Transcripts

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

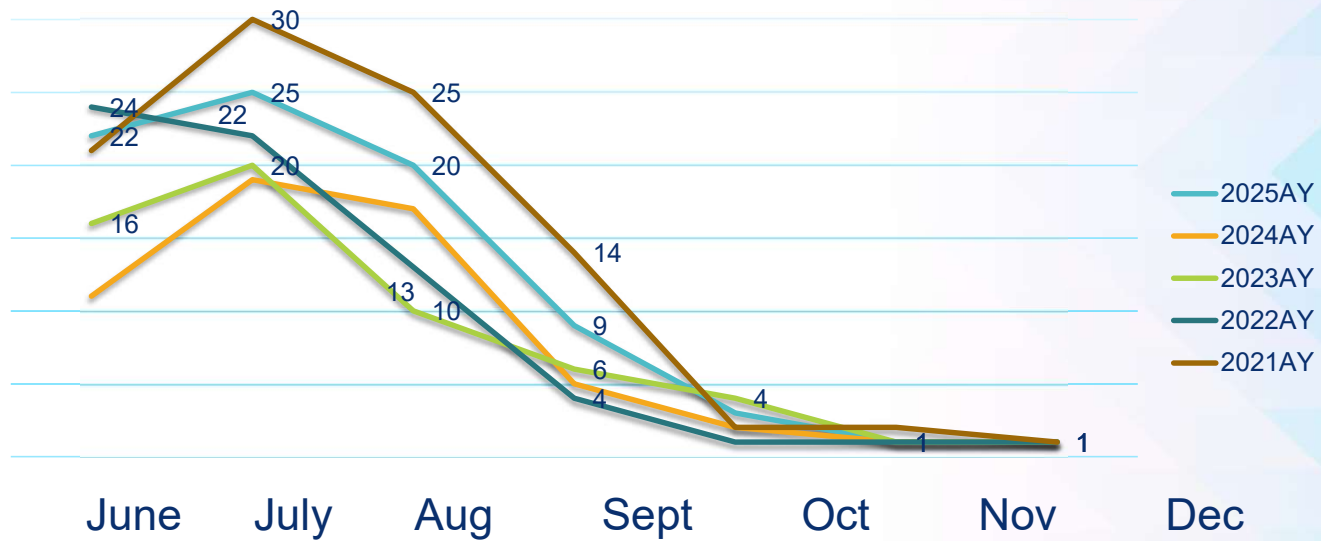
Processing

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



AMCAS Application Verification

Average number of business days to complete verification



Application Reminders

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



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

Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants



Choose a Medical
Career

Apply to Medical
School

Attend Medical
School

Apply to Residency or
Fellowship

Pursue a Career in
Research

Explore Applicant Data and
Reports

Home / Applying to Medical School with AMCAS® / Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants

Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants

ESTIMATED READ TIME: 4 MINUTES

SHARE: [in](#) [X](#) [f](#) [✉](#)

Recommendations to help ensure that all MD and MD-PhD applicants receive timely notification about the outcome of their AMCAS® application. These guidelines are not intended to supersede the policies, timelines, or discretion of individual schools or programs. Each applicant is expected to become familiar with the procedures and requirements of each school to which they apply.

The following steps are recommended to help ensure that all MD and MD-PhD applicants receive timely notification about the outcome of their applications, and to protect schools and programs from having unfilled positions in their entering classes. These protocols are often referred to as “Traffic Rules” by admissions officers and prehealth advisors. Prospective applicants, their advisors, and

AMCAS® Sign In

Connect with AMCAS®

[X @AMCASinfo](#)

[AMCASinfo](#)

Contact AMCAS®

AMCAS Tools

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



Agenda

- AMCAS Application
 - AMCAS Process
 - 2026 Dates and Participation
 - 2026 Application
- Verification
- After Submission
- AMCAS Letter Service
 - AAMC Letter Writer Portal
 - Letter Guidelines
- Resources

Letters of Evaluation

Submission Methods:

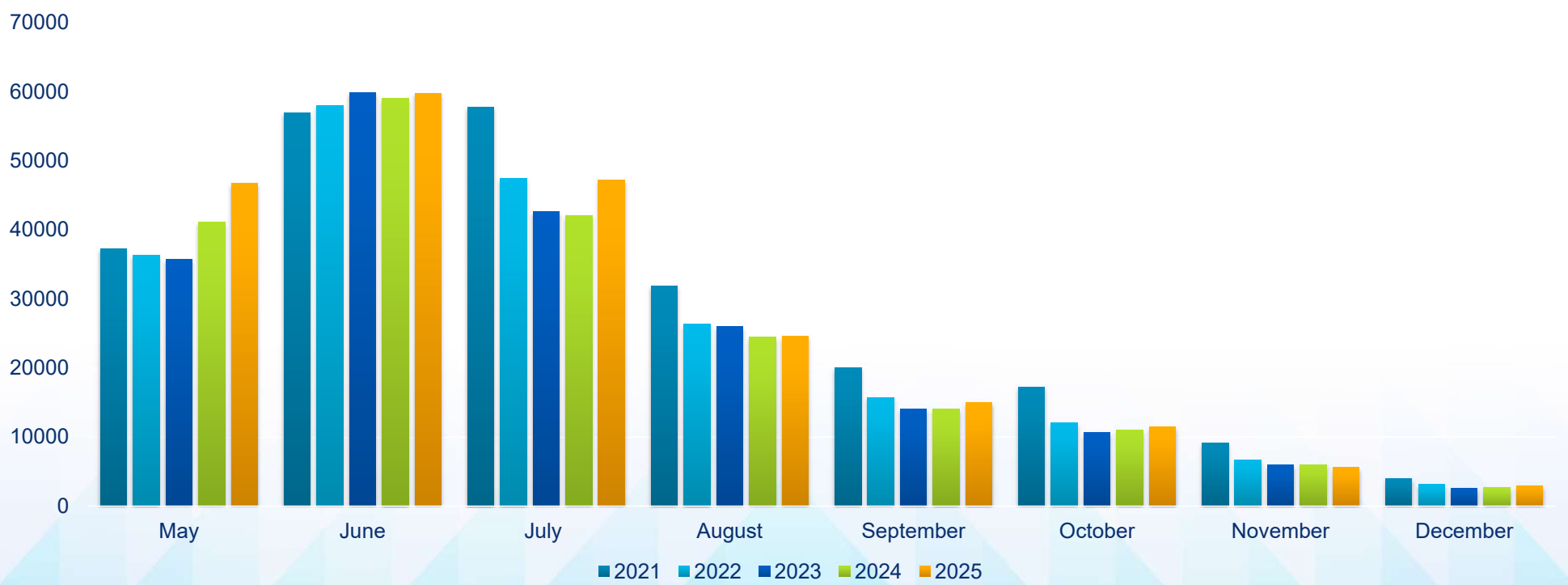
- AAMC Letter Writer Portal
- Interfolio

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.

The screenshot shows the AAMC Letter Writer Portal interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the AAMC logo and the text "Letter Writer Portal". On the right side of the header, there are links for "SIGN IN" and "Contact Us".

The main content area is titled "Fulfill request for Applicant Name". Below this title, there is a prompt: "Please review the information below prior to submitting your letter." and a link to the "AMCAS Letter Writing Guide".

The "Request Information" section contains the following details:

Requestor Name:	Applicant Name	AAMC Service:	AMCAS Program
Requestor AAMC ID:	21536199	Letter Type:	Individual Letter
Requestor Email:	[Redacted]		
Requestor Phone Number:	+1 (123) 456-7890		
Request ID:	W5ZG-FR8NG-J564V		

The "Author Information" section contains the following details:

Author Name:	Author Name
Author Email:	[Redacted]


Below the author information, there are two main options for submission:

- AAMC Account Submission:** Gain access to manage multiple requests, view submission history, and make updates to past submissions as needed. A button labeled "LOG IN OR REGISTER" is highlighted with a red circle.
- Guest Submission:** You will be asked to confirm that you are the author or their authorized designee and will be required to verify your email address. A button labeled "CONTINUE AS GUEST" is present.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text: "Copyright © AAMC 2025 | 655 K Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC, 20001-2399 | [Contact Us](#) | [Follow Us](#) | [Supported Browsers](#) | [Web Accessibility](#) | [AAMC Terms and Conditions](#)".

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

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 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

- Discounted AAMC PREview professional readiness exam registration fees

ERAS Application Benefit

- 60% fee discount on up to 50 ERAS applications

Benefits are NOT Retroactive



AAMC Fee Assistance Program Eligibility

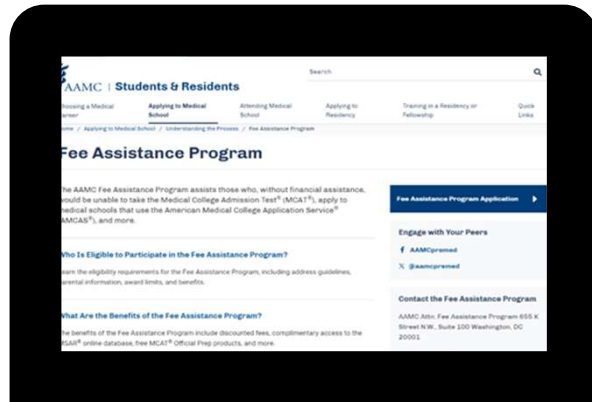
- U.S.-based home address
- Tied to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' poverty level guidelines
- Requires parental financial information and supporting tax documentation for applicants under 26
- Must be preparing to apply to medical school



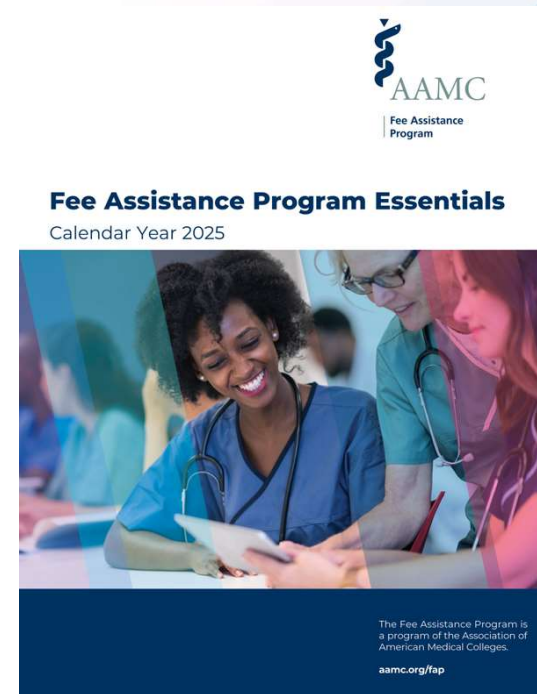
AAMC Fee Assistance Program Income Eligibility

Family Size	Income Guidelines		
	Contiguous States, District of Columbia & U.S. Territories	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$60,240	\$75,240	\$69,240
2	\$81,760	\$102,160	\$94,000
3	\$103,280	\$129,080	\$118,760
4	\$124,800	\$156,000	\$143,520
5	\$146,320	\$182,920	\$168,280
6	\$167,840	\$209,840	\$193,040
7	\$189,360	\$236,760	\$217,800
8	\$210,880	\$263,680	\$242,560
8+	\$5,380 for each additional person	\$6,730 for each additional person.	\$6,190 for each additional person

2025 Fee Assistance Program



aamc.org/feeassistance



AAMC Fee Assistance Program

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



202-828-0600



feeassistance@aamc.org



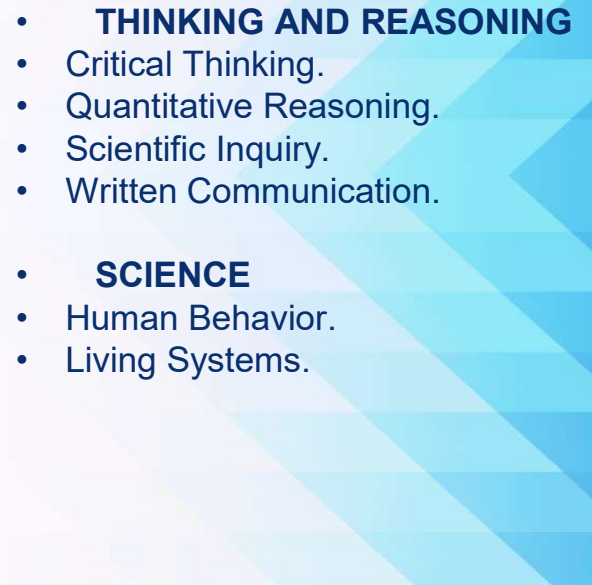
@AMCASinfo

Anatomy of an Applicant

Medical schools consider more than your grades and scores.



Premed Competencies for Entering Medical Students

- 
- **PRE-PROFESSIONAL**
 - Commitment to Learning and Growth.
 - Cultural Awareness.
 - Cultural Humility.
 - Empathy and Compassion.
 - Ethical Responsibility to Self and Others.
 - Interpersonal Skills.
 - Oral Communication.
 - Reliability and Dependability.
 - Resilience and Adaptability.
 - Service Orientation.
 - Teamwork and Collaboration.
- **THINKING AND REASONING**
 - Critical Thinking.
 - Quantitative Reasoning.
 - Scientific Inquiry.
 - Written Communication.
- **SCIENCE**
 - Human Behavior.
 - Living Systems.

Anatomy of an Applicant

Premed Competencies: Self-Assessment

When evaluating your readiness for medical school, schools assess your development, understanding, and proficiency in the premед competencies through your experiences as described in the AMCAS application, personal statement, interview, letters of recommendation, and performance on other assessments (e.g., MCAT exam, PREview exam).

You should periodically assess or reassess your learning and development in these competencies to determine where you may need additional experiences to better prepare for medical school.

Using the sheet below, reflect on each competency area and what experiences have given you an opportunity to learn and develop in the competency. (You can view all competencies and their definitions at the end of this document.)

Date of Self-Assessment:

Competency:

Professional

- ☐ Commitment to Learning and Growth
- ☐ Cultural Awareness
- ☐ Cultural Humility
- ☐ Empathy and Compassion
- ☐ Ethical Responsibility to Self and Others

- ☐ Interpersonal Skills
- ☐ Oral Communication
- ☐ Reliability and Dependability
- ☐ Resilience and Adaptability
- ☐ Service Orientation
- ☐ Teamwork and Collaboration

Thinking and Reasoning

- ☐ Critical Thinking
 - ☐ Quantitative Reasoning
 - ☐ Scientific Inquiry
 - ☐ Written Communication
- #### Science
- ☐ Human Behavior
 - ☐ Living Systems

Level of Competency Development: Planning ☐ Progressing ☐ Demonstrating ☐

How I demonstrated this competency across experiences:

aamc.org/competencies

- Review Premed Competencies.
- Read application stories.
- Complete the Self-Assessment Guide.



Shelby Snyder: Pioneering Paths in Indigenous Healthcare, Breaking Barriers in Medicine

"Lean into your community, culture, and identity to keep you grounded, and remember that your path and perspective are valid. Take time to reflect on why you want to go to medical school and what values or skills you'll carry in that process."



Balancing Act: Lihlenz Saint-Louis' Medical Odyssey of Dedication, Determination, and Healing

"Scores and grades can only get you so far without a story to sell yourself and the experiences to back it up. Everyone from here on out is very intelligent, but that increase in raw intelligence has diminishing returns. At this point in your career, it matters more who you are as a person and the soft qualities you bring to the table that will help you become a better physician and colleague."



Dedication to Making a Difference: Richard Piszczatowski's Journey to Medical School

"Never get discouraged. Each person's path is very different, and the strongest candidates are those that show how they have found their own path headed towards a career in medicine."

Medical School Admission Requirements™

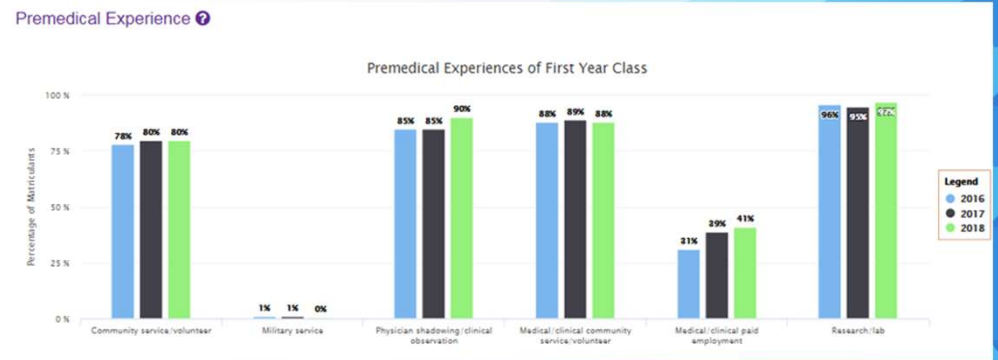
Resources to help you:

- Prepare for the application process.
- Choose where to apply to medical school.



MSAR Features

- Search by location, MCAT score, GPA.
- Review school-specific data.
- Save & rank favorite schools.
- Enter premedical coursework.



My Favorites

Email Favorites

Order ?	Rank	School Name	My Status	Why I'm Interested in this School	Actions
⋮ ↑ ↓	1	California University of Science and Medicine-School of Medicine	Applying	<div> ✓ ✗ <input type="text" value="Ask my pre-health advisor about this program!"/> </div> <div>45 / 1000</div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Compare <input type="button" value="Remove"/>
⋮ ↑ ↓	2	Hackensack-Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University	Considering	<div> ✎ <input type="text" value="Enter comments"/> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Compare <input type="button" value="Remove"/>

aamc.org/msar

Contact Us

The **AAMC** is here to help you navigate the **2026 AMCAS®** application cycle.



202-828-0600



**[aamc.org/contact
amcas](https://aamc.org/contact/amcas)**



@AMCASinfo

Good luck!



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