Leveraging Your Medical School Application

School of Medicine
Your application

• Is our first impression of you
  o Attention to detail shows that you are serious
  o Blank spaces, incomplete information suggest that you don’t care

• Reflects your preparation for medical school
  o Work/Activities
  o Essay
  o Academics
  o MCAT
Your application

• Reflects your preparation for medical school
  o Work/Activities
  o Essay
  o Academics
  o MCAT
Your application

• Is used to communicate with you
  o Email address
  o Postal address
  o Telephone numbers

• Keep all updated!
American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS)

- On-line at: http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/start.htm

- Centralized, used by 132 of 141 U.S. medical schools (all but Texas public medical schools)
American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®)

Welcome to the American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®) Web site. AMCAS is a centralized application processing service that is only available to applicants to the first-year entering classes at participating U.S. medical schools. Most medical schools use AMCAS as the primary application method. Advanced standing and transfer applicants should contact the medical schools directly for assistance.

Regardless of the number of medical schools to which you apply, you submit just one online application to AMCAS. AMCAS does not render any admission decisions and does not advise applicants where to apply.

2014 AMCAS Application

An overview of the application including important dates and information on coursework and transcripts, letters of evaluation, and criminal background checks.

The 2014 AMCAS Application
American Medical College Application Service

This is not the application for the 2012 entering class. The 2012 entering class application will not open until early May of 2011.
Last Updated February 3, 2011 at 11:15AM

AMCAS is currently processing transcripts that were received on March 2, 2011.
Last Updated March 2, 2011 at 10:09AM

Welcome to the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). Please enter your AAMC Login username and password below.

AMCAS, MCAT THx, and the Fee Assistance Program use the same usernames and passwords. If you have used one of these systems enter that username and password below.

Username: 
Password: 

Login  Reset

Need an AAMC Login username? Register here.

Can't remember your AAMC username or password?

Still having trouble? Contact us at AMCAS@aamc.org.
### 2011 Application

**Marilyn M Mack | AAMC ID: 12298729**

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**Account Info**

**Applicant:** Marilyn M Mack  
**AAMC ID:** 12298729  
**Status:** Not Submitted to AMCAS 
**Details**
General Tips

• Complete all sections
• Pay attention to detail, accuracy
• Proofread
  o Spelling
  o Grammar
General Tips

• Use proper case
  John Anthony Jones

  Not
  john anthony jones
  JOHN ANTHONY JONES
  jOHN aTHONEY jONES
Sections to note

• Course Work
• Work/Activities
• Letters
• Essay(s)
• Biographic Information
Course Work

- Organize transcripts of all college course work
- Must have transcript for every college attended, even if only one course taken there
Course Work

• For each college course, you must enter
  o Name of school where taken
  o Status (FR, SO, JR, SR)
  o Term (summer, fall, winter)
  o Course Classification (BIOL, CHEM)
  o Course Number (Bio 352)
  o Course Name (Molecular Biology)
  o Grade
  o Credit Hours
Course Work

• Accuracy affects speed of verification
  o Less than 10 errors, may be edited
  o If more, application may be returned
  o If returned after deadline, application is disqualified
Work/Activities

• Our medical school seeks well-rounded applicants with experience in
  o Health care
  o Volunteer/community service
  o Leadership/responsibility
  o Research
  o Employment
  o Other time commitments (athletics, artistic endeavors, etc.)
Work/Activities

- File Review Subcommittee reads Work/Activities and Essay only, then scores:
  - Number of activities
  - Length of time devoted to each activity
  - Quality, or lack thereof, of activity description
Work/Activities

• Select type (most important)
  o Community Service/Volunteer - Medical/Clinical
  o Community Service/Volunteer - not Medical/Clinical
  o Leadership - not Listed Elsewhere
  o Teaching/Tutoring
Work/Activities

• Select type (most important)
  o Research/Lab
  o Paid Employment - not Military
  o Paid Employment – Military
  o Intercollegiate Athletics
  o Artistic Endeavors
Work/Activities

- Select type **(less important)**
  - Honors/Awards/Recognitions
  - Conferences Attended
  - Presentations/Posters
  - Extracurricular/Hobbies/Avocations
  - Other
Work/Activities

- Provide
  - Experience Type
  - Experience Name
  - Hours per week
  - Organization
  - Contact Name and Title
  - Country, City
  - Description (define or do not use abbreviations)
  - Multiple dates may be entered for same activity
Experience Type: Community Service/Volunteer - Medical/Clinical  
Dates:  
Hours/Week:  
Experience Name:  
Contact Name & Title:  
Organization Name:  
City / State / Country:  
Experience Description: Volunteered in a nursing home during the summer of 2005.

Does this impress you?
EXPERIENCE

Experience Type: Community Service/Volunteer - Medical/Clinical
Dates: 05/2005-08/2005
Hours/Week: 30

Experience Name: Nursing home volunteer
Contact Name & Title: Mary Smith, RN, Director of Nursing
Organization Name: Community Nursing Home
City / State / Country: Madison / MS / United States of America

Experience Description:
During the summer of 2005 I volunteered at a local nursing home. I assisted with activities of daily living for both long-term residents and skilled nursing facility (SNF) patients. One of the SNF patients I worked closely with was a man in his 40’s who was recovering from a traumatic brain injury. I helped him with physical and occupational therapy exercises and was able to watch him progress from being wheelchair bound and barely able to talk to walking upright with assistance and speaking in short sentences. He has continued to progress and was able to return home shortly after my summer at the facility. I was amazed at how happy some of the elderly, permanent residents were to see him get better. I learned that helping one person actually helps the community as a whole.

How could this be improved?
EXPERIENCE

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Contact Name & Title: Mary Smith, RN, Director of Nursing
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Better!
Letters

• Author must be faculty who taught you in class or supervised research outside of class room
• Letters must be signed and on school letterhead
Letters

• Enter
  o Committee or individual
  o Name of school or institution
  o Author’s name, title, contact information
• Print Letter Request Form (AAMC and Letters IDs); to give to authors
• Author submits letter electronically
Essay - Personal Comments

• Think before you write
  o What may be unique about your background, family or area where you were raised?
  o What 3-5 words describe your core values?
  o What were turning points in your life?
  o Who influenced you most in life?
  o What were reasons for major decisions in your life?
Essay - Personal Comments

• Tell the committee
  o Who you are
  o Why you want to become a physician
• Make it about you
  o Give yourself credit
  o Be honest and forthright
• Use positive language
• Proofread carefully
• Show your passion!
“I have attended college, made the grades and MCAT, and covered all of the bases. I did all of this so that I can be a doctor.”

Does this show effort or passion?
“The little girl had fallen from a tree and her wrist was swollen and painful. Both she and her young mother were crying. She was afraid, and her mother blamed herself for the accident. Dr. Green was so gentle. He made the child feel safe. He made the mother feel okay about it--kids got hurt and did just fine, and it wasn’t her fault. I knew at that point I had found my role model! Dr. Green was a competent doctor, but he also had the gift of understanding people.”

Thoughtful, compassionate!
Biographic Information

• Provide all contact and background information

• Parents
  o Name
  o Living or deceased
  o Highest level of Education
  o Occupation
Biographic Information

• Since 2004, Mississippi statute requires Criminal Background Checks (CBCs) based on finger prints for all health care providers, including students
• Medical schools nationwide are conducting CBCs
Goal of CBCs is patient safety
Main concern: Applicants with a history of violent crimes
Also of concern: Applicants with a pattern of at risk behavior
You must self disclosure in AMCAS
  - Misdemeanor convictions
  - Felony convictions
  - Other than honorary discharge from military
  - Institutional Actions (academic or social probation)
Biographic Information

• Failure to disclose an incident that is subsequently found on a CBC may be worse than the incident itself and disqualify the applicant from admission.

*When in doubt; report!*
Summary: Your application....

- Is our first impression of you
- Reflects your preparation for medical school
- Is used to communicate with you

Show us you care and are prepared to enter medical school!
What’s next?

Find additional details: http://www.umc.edu/som/

Submit specific questions: AdmitMD@umc.edu

For counseling appointments: 601-984-5010