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# *Carmelle's Random Notes for Pre-med Oliners*

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## Preliminary Ramblings

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Applying to medical school is a rather drawn out and patience-building (or trying, however you look at it ;) process. For me personally, the entire span of 3-4 years during which I went through several cycles of wanting to apply to medical school and not wanting to apply to medical school, was a great learning experience. The fact is that applying to medical school is not really worth the time, energy, preparation, or money if one is not committed to it. And I was scared to go through all that trouble if I wasn't sure I wanted to be a doctor. On top of that, I felt that my GPA would be considered too low by medical school application standards, and that my application would simply be a lost cause.

Despite my numerous doubts about how I would fare in the application process, I took one step at a time towards applying: first simply aiming to finish the pre-medical classes, then getting clinical experience, then taking the MCAT. At each step, I continued to evaluate my motives for wanting to become a doctor. As it turns out, each step of the preparation process has helped me confirm that medicine is where I should be going.

The only reason I am writing this bit about my background is because I want to encourage those of you who are interested in medical school, but may be having the same doubts I had with regards to having a lower GPA, being able to handle the application process, and whether or not medicine was even the right path for me. If you are committed, you can make it happen.

Dr. Pratt has graciously written up a number of important and useful documents that outline all the basic knowledge you need to know about the process. My purpose in writing this is to simply share the conglomeration of random notes and things I have learned through my application process. I hope they will be a useful supplement to the materials Dr. Pratt has prepared for you. Dr. Pratt is an excellent resource and has successfully helped many Oliners to get into medical school. We are lucky to have her!

And as always, I want to be of service to any of you who are applying to medical school. Please feel free to contact me at [Carmelle.Tsai@gmail.com](mailto:Carmelle.Tsai@gmail.com), or (949) 422-5762 if you want to chat. I hope that you will all have a successful application cycle!

Best wishes,

Carmelle Tsai

## On Deciding to Apply to Medical School

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I was unsure about wanting to go to medical school for a long time. Mainly because I was often scared off by physicians who were bitter about long hours, gargantuan debt, and a messed up health care system. Some people simply just know what they are meant to do, and go for it. Which I think is awesome. Sometimes I wish I was like that! But I'm simply not, so these are some things that I felt helped me decide whether or not medicine was still the right fit for me:

- Shadowing – I shadowed all kinds of doctors, in both private and academic settings; seeing what an actual “day in the life” entailed helped me think about whether or not I'd like to be doing that for a living
- Clinical volunteering – This helped me think critically about whether or not the hospital was an environment I would like to work in, and also gave me a small taste of what dealing with and being around sick patients (and their stressed out families!) would be like
- Considered other careers – I gave careful consideration to other related careers I thought I might like, such as social work, nursing, biomedical research, public health, medical anthropology research, physician assistantship, counselor, etc. Going through the alternatives helped make me feel more comfortable that medicine had the right combination of things for me.
- Talk to physicians, happy ones, and not so happy ones – I made a lot of effort to simply ask physicians that I knew (through friends, friends of family, etc) about their perspectives. It was especially helpful for me to talk to the ones who were unhappy. It helped me think through whether or not I felt that the difficult aspects of being a physician were things that I could handle, and things that I would be able to make an effort to keep from getting me down.
- Learned about how the health care system works – This helped me for interviews, and also helped me learn more about what I might be getting myself into, since it seems a fair amount of doctors find the health care system to be a source of career dissatisfaction.
- Wrote my personal statement – For me, having to articulate on paper why I wanted to be a doctor helped me confirm that this was the direction I wanted to go in, and helped me be honest with myself about my motivations. I actually had a close friend who also felt that writing the personal statement was instrumental in helping her decide her career direction. For her, it helped her realize that public health rather than medicine was the best fit for her, and she is now happily finishing her MPH.

## Demystifying the Process

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Dr. Pratt has written a schedule that gives a great overview of the process (<http://www.olin.edu/pgp/docs/InfopacketOlinpremedsF2004.doc>, [http://www.olin.edu/pgp/docs/Med\\_School\\_Calendar.pdf](http://www.olin.edu/pgp/docs/Med_School_Calendar.pdf)). Here are a few more nitty gritty details about the chronology of things that will hopefully make this process seem less confusing.

The American Medical College Application Services (AMCAS <http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/>) is a non-profit organization that is in some ways analogous to the “Common App” for applying to colleges. They collect your transcripts, your MCAT scores, your personal statement, letters of recommendation, and send your application to the schools that you designate. The AMCAS association verifies all your grades from every college, university, and community college you have attended, and calculates two GPAs: an overall GPA and a science GPA (sometimes called the BCPM for Bio, Chem, Physics and Math GPA). They are calculated on a 4.0 scale with different weights for the +’s and –’s (same as Olin’s system). To calculate what your AMCAS GPA’s will be, you can use this: <http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/2009conversionguide.pdf>.

You have to pay a fee to use the AMCAS primary and for each school you designate the primary to be sent to. There is a waiver or fee reduction if you can show financial need. Then, the individual medical schools send you back an invitation to complete their “secondary” or “supplemental” application (usually by email). Some schools screen their applicants prior to sending secondary applications, but most do not. As far as I know, it is only the University of California (UC) public schools that are notorious for actually screening out large numbers of applicants prior to sending secondary invitations. University of Michigan doesn’t screen out applicants for secondary invitations, but they do use a preliminary screen to give automatic interview invitations to applicants with high numbers. The schools always request a “secondary fee” at this point, which usually ranges from \$60-100. You’ll want to APPLY EARLY and submit your primary and secondary as soon as the applications become available.

Based on your primary and secondary, schools then start to offer interview invitations on a rolling basis (which is why APPLYING EARLY is important). How schools decide who they admit post-interview is really still a big mystery. It also seems to vary from school to school. Some schools admit on a rolling basis, while others admit everyone at once. Some put you on a rank list and admit people biweekly, while others will decide after every interview day exactly who gets in and who doesn’t. Some allow your interviewer to personally vouch for you in a committee meeting, others have the interviewer write a narrative about you which then gets sent to several other “committees” (whatever that means). The timeline from interview to admission/waitlist/rejection is completely variable from school to school. Some schools finish admitting in March, while others are still interviewing in April...

After you are admitted, most schools give you a designated time frame within which you have to send them a deposit (usually around \$100-200...I know, more money right? I guess they’re trying to get you used to having to expend money since you’ll be borrowing a lot once you start attending...) to save your seat in the incoming class. If you don’t, they can go ahead and give your acceptance away to someone else. At some schools this deposit is refundable if you end up not attending, and at others, they just keep the money. In any case, you can hold spots at as many schools as you want up until May 15. On May 15, you may only hold onto one acceptance, but you may remain on as many waitlists as you like. Schools have all summer before the academic year starts to choose to take you off their waitlist.

All of the allopathic medical schools use the AMCAS with the exception of the public schools in Texas (which has their own version called the Texas Medical and Dental School Application Service <http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/>). The osteopathic medical schools have their own version as well, called the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Services (AACOMAS <https://aacomas.aacom.org/>).

I used the AMCAS system and the TMDSAS system. I did not apply to osteopathic schools, but a few links to get you started on learning about them are available in the “Picking Schools” section.

#### Summary Chronology of AMCAS Application Process:

1. AMCAS Primary Application (APPLY EARLY...sensing a theme here? =)
  - a. Letters of Evaluation Packet (compiled by Dr. Pratt, see her materials on how this process works at Olin)
    - i. Send one to AMCAS – AMCAS recently started a new system to streamline the process of submitting letters of evaluation. They will collect your letter packet/letters and submit them electronically to the schools that you designate. There are a number of medical schools participating in this, and I’m sure the number will continue to grow. When I applied, not all schools were using the system as it was a pilot system, so I had to send the letter packets to those other schools individually.
    - ii. Send additional copies to individual schools that are not participating on the AMCAS letter of evaluation system
  - b. Personal Statement (and Summary of Research Activities if you are applying MD/PhD)
  - c. Extracurricular activities/leadership/research – there are only ten slots on the AMCAS application to fill out a brief summary of your activities
  - d. MCAT scores – since the MCAT is administered by AAMC, the same organization that administers the AMCAS, your scores should automatically be filled in
  - e. Transcripts – submit from every college/community college/university you attended (even if attended while in high school); you do not need to submit one from BaBOW schools if you were cross-registered.
2. Secondary Application
  - a. More money, and more essays
3. Interview
  - a. Given on a rolling basis (APPLY EARLY)
  - b. Varies in format from school to school. Most common format is two 30 min – 1 hour long interviews with faculty and/or students.
4. Final decision
  - a. Some are rolling, some are not
  - b. Acceptance – hopefully you get these! And many of them!
  - c. Waitlist
  - d. Rejection – what are they thinking?!

## Preparing to Apply

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There are quite a few things that go into preparing to apply. Dr. Pratt has covered all the essentials on the classes you need to take, the MCAT, etc. Here are some added thoughts.

### Grades

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These are definitely a crucial part of putting a strong application together, especially for the initial screening stages. I would agree with Dr. Pratt that you need at least a 3.5 science GPA, but I would also say that you should try and shoot for the 3.7-3.8 range if possible.

I personally applied with a lower GPA; I do feel that I was overlooked at some schools, and I do think that it posed a significant obstacle that I had to overcome with the rest of my application. However, an upward trend in GPA does get noticed by admissions committees, so if your GPA isn't currently up to par, do not despair—just do everything you can to bring it up. I would also consider taking a year off (like Dr. Pratt suggests) in order to get more time to improve your GPA. Don't let it dash your hopes. You can also consider osteopathic schools (which on the whole seem to be more lax on the high GPA thing). D.O. doctors take the same board exams, can go to the same residencies, and can still do things like become a surgeon (see more on “picking schools”).

### Extracurriculars

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Since you are at Olin, I'm sure you are involved in plenty of interesting activities, and I hope that you are actively pursuing your passions. I do think that medical schools are looking for well-rounded candidates, so make sure you keep up those activities. A few thoughts and suggestions:

- When you can, try to “cap off” your activities with some sort of paper, presentation, event, etc. Luckily, Olin lends itself to this quite well. People seemed to like to ask about this when I went for interviews. For example, when I talked about figure skating, they wanted to know what I did with it (for me it was performing in shows and competitions, and coaching kids).
- Do clinical volunteering. Like Dr. Pratt says, I do think that most medical schools are looking for people who know what they're getting into. They want to know you weren't applying on a whim. I was asked about my clinical experience at several of my interviews. It's good for helping you decide whether or not you want to go into medical school, plus, it's fun! I volunteered nearby at Newton-Wellesley Hospital in the pediatrics department. The coordinator there was great in helping me find a part of the hospital that I would enjoy helping out in.
- In choosing which activities to put on AMCAS, I tried to consider how all my activities and interests fit together. This was helpful for interviews where I really tried to emphasize that each of the activities and projects that I had done had its own role in preparing me to be a good medical student and doctor some day. For example, I enjoy teaching, engineering, serving others, and spending time with kids. So, I started an engineering camp for disadvantaged children in Chinatown one summer. This served as a great talking point during interviews because it showcased how my various interests work together. It also helped me talk up Olin and its “interdisciplinary” education =).

## MCAT

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### MCAT Timing

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Dr. Pratt suggests taking this in April before you apply. I definitely agree and would even suggest that you take it earlier if you want. I definitely would not take it later than April because the scores take about a month to come out, and you cannot finish your AMCAS primary until the scores are out. The primary usually becomes available in early June, and the earlier you submit the better.

I actually took my MCAT the January before I applied, right at the start of the spring semester (before Olin took over my life again). This turned out to be a good choice for me because I had studied over the previous summer, and then had the four weeks of winter break to refresh myself.

Dr. Pratt says this, but I'll reiterate it...**schedule your MCAT several months in advance!** You don't want to end up finding out that the test date you want is filled (not kidding about this, they *do* fill fast).

### MCAT Studying

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Like Dr. Pratt suggests, you can take an MCAT class. I actually studied on my own, which I found worked better for my schedule and personal learning style. Everyone will need different amounts of time to study for the test, but what I did was studied 3 hours a day, 5 days a week for 4-6 weeks during the summer (while working a 30 hour/week internship), and then 4 hours a day for the 2 weeks of winter break leading up to my exam. My general tactic was to do an overall review of each of the subjects, making sure I covered each topic listed by AAMC, then took practice test after practice test.

These are the study materials I used (and would highly recommend)

- Official AAMC Practice MCAT tests (<http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/practicetests.htm>) – I would *definitely* get these. I found that taking a lot of practice tests really helped me recognize my strong and weak areas. The official ones from the AAMC are actual MCATs that had been administered in the past. From my experience (and from others I have talked to), how you score on these practice tests ends up being a pretty good indicator of what your real score will be. Additionally, these are online, so you can practice with the computer. It helped me get used to things like doing long reading comprehension passages on screen.
- AAMC list of topics covered on the MCAT (<http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/preparing/bstopics.pdf>) – this is the list from the writers of the MCAT, so I made sure I covered these when I studied
- Kaplan materials (<http://www.kaptest.com/mcat>) – These I felt were the closest to what I saw on the official AAMC tests and the real test that I took, so I relied on Kaplan for the majority of my studying
- Examcrackers books (<http://www.examcrackers.com/>) – I only used Examcrackers for the Biology and Organic Chemistry books. I felt I needed a bit of extra help with the Biology since Olin's curriculum isn't very biology-based. The examcrackers books were great. They are colorful (kept me awake!) and feature a cute cracker named "Salty" who gives you tips in the margins of the books (and I'm all about the cute gimmicks).
- Pre-med classes – if you pay attention and learn everything well the first time in class, you will save yourself extra studying for the MCAT. I know that I basically didn't have to study any chemistry at all for the MCAT because the Intro Chem class I took at Olin was extremely thorough and I got all the concepts down the first time through (thanks Prof Chris Morse!!).

## Applying Early

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Even though this doesn't really fit with the rest of the sections, I think this merits its own section. I personally think that applying early helped me have the best possible chance of being noticed by admissions committees. Because interviews are given on a rolling basis, interviews begin before the official application deadline occurs. A lot of very qualified people apply to medical school each year, so I realized that if I applied late, schools might be less inclined to give an applicant with lower numbers a chance if they've already interviewed many great applicants. In any case, applying early can't hurt, and I believe that it helped me out a lot.

To apply early, you should finish the primary application within the first week or two that it becomes available. This is because AMCAS has to receive all your transcripts and confirm all your grades and recalculate your GPA before they verify your application and send it off to schools. In the beginning of June, this may take a few days. However, once it gets to July and August, this process can take up to a few weeks due to the high volume of applications. This will only delay your primary further, and may cause you to receive secondary applications while others are already starting to receive interview invitations. As an added bonus—if you apply early, you can get all the secondaries finished before school starts and Olin eats your life.

To sum it up: APPLY EARLY (a common theme for this process).

## Personal Statement

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Dr. Pratt has provided this resource, from the AAMC ([http://www.olin.edu/pgp/docs/personal\\_statement\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.olin.edu/pgp/docs/personal_statement_guidelines.pdf)), which I think is really helpful and has all the important information. My only other thought on this is: don't be afraid to simply write from the heart. I remember being concerned about sounding too trite because I figured my reasons for being a doctor couldn't be all that different from other people, and that if I wrote about a medical experience that influenced me, there would be another applicant with a more dramatic story. Letting go of those thoughts helped me write something that was true to me. Also, this is a great chance to talk up Olin!

## Transcripts

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You'll want to get these sent to AMCAS as soon as possible, because AMCAS uses them to validate your primary application before it gets sent to the individual medical schools. Important notes:

- You'll need to submit these not just for Olin, but for any community college/college/university you've taken classes at. If you took summer classes or community college classes in high school, you'll have to track down those transcripts. Sometimes this takes a bit of time—we're spoiled at Olin where our registrar graciously does everything so quickly! I would start tracking these down at least a couple months beforehand.
- You do not need to submit transcripts for BaBOW schools that you cross-registered at.
- AMCAS requires you to request transcripts with their own form, which you can print off after you start your AMCAS application and get your AAMC ID#. So do this early!
- Request unofficial copies for yourself for the purposes of filling out your AMCAS application. You have to individually, painstakingly, fill in every single class you have ever taken, and classify it as biology/chemistry/physics/math etc.
- Request extra official, sealed copies of transcripts to be sent to yourself if you have transcripts that were harder to track down. That way you can forward one if it gets lost in the mail. I'm not

exactly sure if this will work for AMCAS because they have a special form they request be attached to the transcript, but this did work for me when I was applying on TMDSAS. It never hurts to have extra official transcripts around.

## Picking Schools

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It's no secret that medical schools are highly competitive. I was especially nervous about applying given my lower GPA, so I chose to APPLY EARLY and apply BROADLY. It is up to you what schools you apply to, but here are some tips (especially for those like me) for coming up with a list of schools:

- Get a copy of the Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR, <http://www.aamc.org/students/applying/msar.htm>). It lists the average GPA's and MCAT scores for all the U.S. allopathic schools, and some other details about the schools. This is helpful in getting a sense for where you stand in their applicant pool and deciding what schools to apply to. These numbers change from year to year, so try to get a hold of a recent copy.
- Applying to 10-20 schools seems to be the norm – apply to closer to 20 if you're concerned about your GPA.
- As usual, apply to some “reach” schools and some “safety” schools:
  - Apply to your state public schools – they prefer their own residents, and are also usually the cheapest medical schools to attend
  - Apply to private schools with an average GPA of 3.6 or so (most of the more competitive schools have an average GPA of 3.8 or so)
  - Osteopathic medical schools – You can look into this if you are concerned about your GPA being high enough and also if you're interested in a more “whole-body” approach to medicine. D.O. doctors can do the same residencies and take the same board exams. They learn most of the same material, but with a different focus (more holistic, humanitarian), which you can read about here <http://www.princetonreview.com/medical/osteopathic-medicine.aspx> and <http://www.aacom.org/Pages/default.aspx>.

## Navigating the AMCAS Form

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The AMCAS instruction manual is pretty comprehensive, so I would definitely read through this as you are filling out the application:

<http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/amcas2009instructionmanual072808.pdf>. I only have a few notes.

- Regarding filling out coursework: If you have a course that seems like it could fit into more than one category, pick the one that will make your BCPM GPA higher. For example, I did well in a lot of my engineering classes, so the ones that were biology related, I classified as “Biology” to get them counted into my BCPM GPA (e.g. Structural Biomaterials, Topics in Bioengineering).
  - Important caveat – classifying something that's too much of a stretch will delay your primary application verification. You'll get the application back with some X's on it, and you'll have to make changes and resubmit it into the queue for verification. My verification went through with no problems on the first time, but if you are concerned about the classification of any of your courses, APPLY EARLY, while verification only takes a couple days, giving you time to make the necessary changes and still be verified in June.

- Be careful and make sure there are no errors in your AMCAS form before you submit it. Especially the coursework section. It will slow down your verification if there are errors.
- You and Dr. Pratt will probably be in good communication about getting your letter packet together. On the AMCAS side of things, make sure that you print out the appropriate form for Dr. Pratt to send your letter packet together with. On that form, make sure that you designate the letter packet as a “Committee Letter”. I somehow let this slip when I applied and accidentally had it designated as an “Individual Letter”. I had to call AMCAS to have it re-designated, but it’s better to get it right the first time =).
- If you decide to add another school after you have submitted your AMCAS, you’ll have to save that change, and then re-submit the whole application. For some reason, I found this counter-intuitive. Maybe it’s not. I think they have improved this, but just to make sure, double-check that you’ve re-submitted your primary after you add a new school.

## Navigating the Secondaries

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You may receive secondary applications as early as July, and it is best to send them back to the schools as soon as possible. Be prepared to pay some more money, and answer more questions about yourself (haha...)! Here are some suggestions for turning these around as quickly as possible:

- If you have several secondary applications to fill out at one time, try and group together questions that you believe you can write same/similar answers for. A lot of the questions are open-ended, and I found that different schools often asked the same questions in different wordings. So before I wrote my answers, I grouped similar questions together and wrote a response tailored to the one with the shortest character limit first. Then I would go and fill more details in for the answers that allowed more space.
  - In case you apply to some of the schools I did, my personal list of secondary questions (grouped by school, and by question similarity) from the 2008-09 application cycle are provided for you in the Appendix.
- Peruse the school website and talk to friends or friends of friends at the school you are applying to. It often helps to get an insider’s perspective so you can pinpoint what makes you uniquely interested in attending the school.
- Secondary application questions don’t seem to vary from year to year, so you can use the StudentDoctor forum archives (<http://forums.studentdoctor.net>) to find the questions from previous years and get to work on them earlier if you like. I did this for all the schools I applied to, and also grouped similar questions together.
  - Caveat on StudentDoctor – these forums are a great resource (especially for things like finding old secondary questions), but they’re also full of neurotic pre-meds who can be intimidating...don’t be fazed by the people who post asking if their “4.0, and 45 MCAT score” will get them into medical school. I tried my best to use StudentDoctor only as a resource when I needed it. Otherwise it can drive you nuts, especially when people start to post the dates and times that they received interviews, acceptances, etc.

## Interview Thoughts

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The interview that Dr. Pratt does with you to write your letter packet is a great resource for interview preparation. Bring a notepad and pen to take notes on Dr. Pratt's suggestions. As usual, be prepared to talk about any projects and activities you have done (Oliners rock at this!). Talk up Olin. And make sure you understand the health care system and can articulate what you feel can be done to fix it (I read a lot of news articles online which helped me, see "Additional Resources"). For the most part, I think Oliners are good at delivering interviews, but just be prepared and know that you never know what luck may bring you in terms of interviewers. I had one interviewer who came underprepared and spent half the interview thumbing through my application trying to find "that one project you did on...what was it..." rather than asking me questions. I had another who was a very busy and tired resident; he got paged during the middle of my interview, and when he returned, seemed a bit distraught and stopped asking me questions. He instead asked me several times what I wanted to ask about the school. Because you never know what you may run into, I do think it's best to apply broadly to maximize your chances of getting in somewhere.

## Additional Resources

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Here are a list of useful resources (some have been mentioned already, but I figured a list would be helpful)

- The official link for MCAT scheduling and information: <http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/about/start.htm>
- The official link for AMCAS information (includes a handy checklist, the instruction manual, etc): <http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/amcas2009.htm>
- Dr. Pratt's informational packet and calendar: <http://www.olin.edu/pgp/docs/InfopacketOlinpremedsF2004.doc>, [http://www.olin.edu/pgp/docs/Med\\_School\\_Calendar.pdf](http://www.olin.edu/pgp/docs/Med_School_Calendar.pdf)
- AMCAS: <http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/>
- TMDSAS: <http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/>
- AACOMAS: <https://aacomas.aacom.org/>
- StudentDoctor Forum: <http://forums.studentdoctor.net>
- MedEdits Blog (a blog written by an admission consultancy program...while I didn't use the program, I did find occasional useful articles on the blog): <http://www.mededits.blogspot.com/>
- MedScape (interesting blogs from medical students, and a good resource for finding articles on current health care issues): <http://www.medscape.com/medicalstudents>
- NYTimes Health (lots of interesting articles): <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/health/>

## Appendix A: Carmelle's Secondary Questions – by school

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### Boston University – email invite

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Please provide a narrative or timeline to describe any features of your educational history that you think may be part of particular interest to us: (2000 character limit, approximately 400 words)

And the optional essay:

While we no longer require an essay, we find that some applicants feel that additional information is necessary in order to provide us with a comprehensive understanding of their strengths as a candidate for a career in medicine. If you wish to use the space below to offer an essay or any other information, up to a total of 500 words, addressing any issue you feel is of importance, feel free to do so. If you choose to use the space, please do not duplicate information provided elsewhere in this supplemental application or in material you have submitted to AMCAS. Use this optional section only if you believe that the additional information will help us to learn something about you as a person, to get a sense of who you are and what you are about, beyond the basic facts of your academic work and your life history as it is otherwise available to us.

### Harvard (MD/PhD) – email invite

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Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in applying to Harvard Medical School. We have been notified that you have listed Harvard as one of your designated AMCAS schools and are pleased to send you these instructions for completing our online Supplemental Application for Admission.

As you make a decision about submitting the Harvard Medical School supplemental application, you should read carefully the sections of our website which describe our programs, requirements, and selection factors. Although there is no application cutoff in terms of grade point average or MCAT scores, academic excellence is expected. The mean GPA of the students selected for admission has been 3.8, with a range that is broader. Similarly, the MCAT scores of matriculants most commonly are in the double digits with a range that includes scores in keeping with the national averages. We do take into consideration the level of courses taken when considering academic performance. Honors courses and independent study or research are noted. In addition, the successful matriculant will have substantive out-of-classroom experiences indicating humanitarian concerns, leadership potential, and an aptitude for working with people. We welcome applications from students representing groups that historically have had few members in the field of medicine. If you feel that you are a competitive applicant, you should complete the online supplemental application and submit it

electronically to the Office of the Committee on Admissions as soon as possible. All supporting material should be submitted no later than November 1.

Thank you again for your interest in Harvard Medical School. We wish you well in this important endeavor.

Instructions for Completing the Online Supplemental Application to Harvard Medical School  
Application Form

The Supplemental Application is available on the World Wide Web at

<https://application.med.harvard.edu>. It must be submitted electronically; no hard copies or facsimiles will be accepted. All applications must be submitted no later than November 1, 2007, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time; no exceptions will be made.

Then you choose whether you want to apply to the New Pathway Program, the HST Program, or the MD/PhD program (or all of the above).

The only essay that is required is if you have been out of school.

***If you have already graduated, briefly (4000 characters max) summarize your activities since graduation***

## Tufts

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- 1. Is there any compelling personal reason or circumstance/history that motivates you to attend TUSM in particular or to study in Boston, as opposed to attending another school or studying in another city? YesNo**
  
- 2. Do you consider yourself a person who would contribute to the diversity of the student body of Tufts University School of Medicine? YesNo**
  
- 3. Did you take any leaves of absence or significant breaks from your undergraduate education? (Do not include time off after graduation.) YesNo**
  
- 4. Is any member of your family a graduate of TUSM or a current member of our faculty? YesNo**
  
- 5. I have read and understand the Technical Standards of TUSM and can comply with those requirements. YesNo**
  - 1. Is there any compelling personal reason or circumstance/history that motivates you to attend TUSM in particular or to study in Boston, as opposed to attending another school or studying in another city? YesNo**

**2. Do you consider yourself a person who would contribute to the diversity of the student body of Tufts University School of Medicine?** YesNo

**3. Did you take any leaves of absence or significant breaks from your undergraduate education? (Do not include time off after graduation.)** YesNo

**4. Is any member of your family a graduate of TUSM or a current member of our faculty?**  
YesNo

**5. I have read and understand the Technical Standards of TUSM and can comply with those requirements.** YesNo

### Case Western – email invite

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(Required)The Admissions Committee is interested in gaining insight into you as a person. Please describe an experience or situation which you found personally challenging and discuss how it helped to shape you as a person. You may discuss a moral or ethical dilemma, situation of personal adversity or other life-event you believe to have been important in your personal development. Please limit your essay to 1 page (about 3,500 characters), and leave a blank line between paragraphs. If you cut and paste your essay from a word processing program, be sure to place your cursor at the end of the pasted text and click on the space bar. This assures that the program will save your text correctly.

(Required)One of the four pillars of the Western Reserve Curriculum 2 is Research and Scholarship. Although research is not a pre-requisite requirement for the University Program, if you have participated in a scholarly project please tell us about it. Describe your experience, including the question you pursued and how you approached it, your results and interpretation of the results, and most importantly, any thoughts about **what this experience meant to you**. Remember that research is broad-based and can include such projects as a senior capstone or a thesis and can include both medical and non medically-related investigations. If you have not participated in research or scholarly work, please indicate so in the text area below. Please limit your response to 1 page (about 3,500 characters), and leave a blank line between paragraphs. If you cut and paste your essay from a word processing program, be sure to place your cursor at the end of the pasted text and click on the space bar. This assures that the program will save your text correctly.

### Columbia – email invite

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1. What satisfactions do you expect to receive from your activities as a physician?\*

Enter your response in essay format. LIMIT WRITING TO 2475 CHARACTERS.

2. In what collegiate extracurricular activities did you engage?\*

Enter your response in list format using commas. LIMIT WRITING TO 760 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

3. Please list collegiate honors, awards, and memberships in honorary societies\*

Enter your response in list format using commas. LIMIT WRITING TO 345 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

4. About how many hours per week, if any, did you spend in work for which you were recompensed during the college year?\*

LIMIT WRITING TO 200 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

5. What sort of work did you do (include summer employment)?\*

Enter your response in list format using commas. LIMIT WRITING TO 1100 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

6. If your education has been interrupted for any reason, please indicate briefly the reasons, the duration of the interruption and how your time was spent.

Enter your response in essay format. LIMIT WRITING TO 1300 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

7. If you have additional information that you would like to include with your application, compose a document offline in a word processor and upload it here.

Use this uploaded document to record any information that does not fit into the application form, including additional majors or colleges.

You may upload only one document here. Merge your information into a single file before uploading it.

### [Cornell – email invite](#)

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If you are not attending college during the 2007-8 academic year, what are your plans? Please limit your statement to less than 200 words.

and

Please write a brief statement giving your reasons for applying to Weill Cornell Medical College. Please limit your statement to less than 200 words.

### [NYU – email invite](#)

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The usual, describe what you've done since you graduated, if you aren't in college.

If there is any information you wish to bring to the attention of the Admissions Committee regarding a physical or emotional problem that you feel may have affected your scholastic performance, please indicate below.

## Drexel

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There really aren't even EC questions...

Just annoying blanks to fill in (like a table format) that are the same as the AMCAS information, but here they are:

List employment experiences in chronological order. Start with most recent:

List medically related volunteer activities in chronological order. Start with most recent:

List extracurricular, other volunteer, or community service activities in chronological order. Start with most recent:

## U Penn

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email invite, no essays

## Georgetown – email invite

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Why have you chosen to apply to Georgetown University School of Medicine, and how do you think your education at Georgetown will prepare you to become a physician for the future? Please note: You have a maximum of 5000 characters (about 1 single-spaced page in Times New Roman font) to complete this essay.)

## Northwestern

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1. Describe the top 3 distinguishable characteristics (non-academic) you possess and tell us how you think these characteristics will enhance your success as a FSM medical student and future physician. (400 words)
  
2. Describe the coping skills and/or strategies you have employed to overcome a challenge that was not school related. If you believe you have not had such an experience, feel free to tell us anything more you'd like the Committee on Admissions to know about how you deal with personal challenges (e.g. financial, relationship, family, employment). (400 words)
  
3. Please select either a), b), or c) to answer: (300 words)
  - a.  
If, by the time you enter medical school, you have not been (or, will not have been) enrolled as a full-time student in a formal education program for more than 6 months at any time, please list the dates below and describe what you did (or, will be doing) during your time away from formal education.

b.

If you have been enrolled in formal education and have spent a semester or more overseas, please describe what you did and its influence on your personal development.

c.

If you have been enrolled in formal education but option b) does not apply to you, please describe in detail an out-of-the-classroom activity that has influenced your personal development.

## Rush

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1. Describe two examples of working with people, one of which highlights your leadership skills and one which highlights your problem solving abilities. (1000 characters)
2. Please describe 1-2 experiences you have had working with individuals from diverse backgrounds and what you have gained from these experiences. (1000 characters)
3. State one major problem you encountered during the past several years and explain how you responded to it. (1000 characters)
4. Describe the path you took to prepare, both academically and personally, for a career in medicine. (1000 characters)
5. List other careers you considered:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
6. Does your academic record show a time gap or reflect a non-traditional calendar?:  
If Yes, give dates and explain. (1000 characters)
7. List interests (outside of academics) in order of importance to you, with a. being the most important:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.

8. Indicate whether you have skills/accomplishments/honors in any of the following areas:

Select all that apply

a.

Artistic endeavors - painting, drawing, sculpting, writing, design.

b.

Entrepreneurial - have you started your own business.

c.

Athletics - Minimally at the college varsity level

d.

Performance Art - music, theatre, dance

e.

Publications

f.

Research

g.

Other

Briefly describe:

BeSpecific:

(250 chars) :

9. Indicate your planned activities between July 2007 and September, 2008: (1000 characters)

10. Have you ever been convicted of a crime, or pleaded guilty and been placed on probation, court supervision or another preconviction program? A "Yes" answer does not automatically result in your disqualification for admission to Rush Medical College. (1000 characters)

If YES please describe:

On the second page:

3. Separate from the previous 2 questions, have you had experiences in which you were responsible for the care of others?: (1000 characters max)

Describe:

### [University of Chicago \(MD/PhD\) – email invite](#)

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3500 and 2400 characters respective

3A. At the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, we strive to identify students who will be a great "fit" with our medical school. Our Mission Statement is an expression of our core purpose and educational philosophy. Please reflect on its content and write an essay describing why you see yourself as a great "fit" for Pritzker. Please include examples of past service, community, clinical, educational, and research experiences. Please also discuss your future goals.

"At the University of Chicago, in an atmosphere of interdisciplinary scholarship and discovery, the Pritzker School of Medicine is dedicated to inspiring diverse students of exceptional promise to become leaders and innovators in science and medicine for the betterment of humanity."

3B. Tell us about a difficult or challenging situation that you have encountered and how you dealt with it. In your response, identify both the coping skills that you called upon to resolve the dilemma, and the support person(s) from whom you sought advice.

### University of Colorado – email invite

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They want essays on 2 of the 5 possible topics, 2500 characters max each.

- Discuss an experience you have had in which cultural diversity, or the lack thereof, has made a difference
- Describe how the environment in which you lived while growing up has affected your decision to enter medicine
- Tell us about leadership positions you have held and what you have learned about yourself as a leader
- If no careers in health care were available at this time, tell us what your career plans would be
- Give an example of an experience or situation that was difficult for you and explain how you handled it

### University of Pittsburg – email invite

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Describe a personal experience which resulted in a substantial moral or ethical dilemma. What was the outcome? We are reluctant to accept assertions that you have never encountered such a situation. Please do not address cheating in an academic setting. (Limit your response to 250 words or less.)

The recruitment of a diverse student body is a major goal of the University of Pittsburgh's Medical School Admissions Committee. Please tell us whether facets of your life, background or education to date would contribute to the achievement of this goal.

### University of Michigan

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Select one experience from your list in part B (Non-Academic Activities) and describe in a brief essay how it impacted on your decision to go into medicine. Do not exceed 1500 characters (about 250 words).

At the University of Michigan Medical School, we are committed to building a superb educational community with students of diverse talents, experiences, opinions, and backgrounds. What would you as an individual bring to our medical school community? Do not exceed 1500 characters (about 250 words).

### Washington University in St. Louis (MD/PhD) – email invite

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In part B:

**(optional) Do you have unique experiences or obstacles that you have overcome that were not covered in your application about which you would like to inform our Admissions Committee?**

**(maximum 3000 characters including spaces)**

In part C:

**If you have already completed your education, if your college or graduate education was interrupted, or if you do not plan to be a full-time student during the current year, describe in chronological order your activities during the time(s) when you were not enrolled as a full-time student.**

In part D (MSTP):

**Please give a brief description (no longer than 6 sentences) of the area of biomedical science you are most interested in studying.**

Side Note:

"The MSTP Admissions Committee expects letters of recommendation submitted on your behalf from all individuals you wrote about as research mentors in the "Significant Research Essay" Section of the AMCAS application."

### Yale (MD/PhD) – online

Yale's only essay is a question on why you want to go to Yale, 500 word limit.

### UC Davis

Describe a difficult situation you have had to overcome in your life or during your college academic experience. How do you feel this will prepare you for a career in medicine?

Who would you consider to be the most influential person in your life and why?

Each applicant brings with them goals of what they want to accomplish as a physician. They also have their larger dreams with regards to what they hope to accomplish in their lifetime. In a brief paragraph, please describe how you would want to be remembered at the end of your life.

### UC Irvine

In evaluating applicants with a variety of backgrounds and strengths the Admissions Committee assesses each applicant as to what they can contribute to their class and also the potential of an applicant to contribute to society. Please describe to the Admissions Committee what you have to offer in this regard. (1800 characters, with spaces).

Please describe to the Admissions Committee a challenge you have overcome and what you learned about yourself from that experience. (1800 characters, with spaces).

This essay is only for applicants that have already received their baccalaureate degree. Please clarify for the Admissions Committee your activities (school, work and/or volunteer, travel, etc.) since receiving your undergraduate degree. You may list them in chronological order or you may incorporate them into an essay, stating why you chose particular activities. (1800 characters, with spaces).

## UC San Diego – email invite

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This should be a true autobiographical statement. Topics to be included are family, childhood, primary and secondary school years, early adult years, and future career goals in medicine. You should also discuss the motivational factors which led you to a career in medicine including any disadvantages or obstacles which might put your accomplishments into context. Do not exceed two pages.

## UCLA

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There is a limit of 800 characters for essay responses. This includes spaces and punctuation. Please do not attempt to send more than the allotted amount since the system will not save your responses and your information form will be returned to you with an error. A character counter is provided to assist you with this limitation.

The committee would like to know about your interests, experiences, and personal characteristics which are relevant to a career in medicine. Please only provide information you believe is important. It is not necessary or required to supply information in all sections. Each response is limited to 800 characters. A character counter for each response has been included to assist you with this limitation. You can save your information by clicking either the 'Save' or 'Update' buttons at the bottom of this form. The information entered on this form will not be available to the Admissions Office until you electronically file the information by clicking the 'Submit' button and pay the document fee.

### Extracurricular Interests and Activities

Describe involvement in the **ONE** most important **non-academic activity** that has been important in your life?

What has been the **ONE** most unique **leadership, entrepreneurial or creative activity** in which you participated?

What has been the **ONE** most important **volunteer work** you have done and why was it meaningful?

### Scholastic Activities

What is the **ONE** most important **honor** you have received? Why do you view this as important?

What has been your most **scholarly project** (thesis, research or field of study in basic or clinical science or in the humanities)? Describe one and give number of hours, dates and advisor.

### Personal

Describe a **problem** in your life. Include how you dealt with it and how it influenced your growth.

List major **paid work experience** during (or since) college. Give dates, description, approximate hours worked (list the most recent first).

If there is any **hardship** to which you would like the committee to give special attention in evaluating

your application, then check the box labeled 'Hardship' and briefly explain why you are indicating a hardship. Include any geographic, language, economic, academic, physical, or mental factors.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? What experiences have led you to this goal?

## UCSF (MD/PhD)

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No essays, update if necessary

## USC – email invite

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1a. Have you applied to any medical school in the past? Yes No

1b. Have you applied to the Keck School of Medicine in the past? If yes, please describe your activities since you last applied Yes No

Please limit response to no more than 250 words

2. Please briefly explain your interest in the Keck School of Medicine.

3. Briefly describe any unique qualities and abilities you possess which would contribute to:

- (A) the educational environment

Please limit response to no more than 250 words

- (B) the diversity of the entering class

Please limit response to no more than 250 words

4. Please provide a summary of your most relevant leadership experiences.

Please limit response to no more than 250 words

5. Briefly describe your most relevant extra-curricular activities (volunteer, research, serving disadvantaged or underserved populations, etc...) related to your interest in medicine.

Please limit response to no more than 250 words

6. Are you planning on taking the August 2007 MCAT Yes No

7. Completed Course Summary

Course Requirement

General Biology + Lab 2 semesters/ 3 quarters

General Chemistry + Lab 2 semesters/ 3 quarters

Organic Chemistry + Lab 1 semester/ 2 quarters

Physics + Lab 2 semesters/ 3 quarters

Biochemistry 1 semester/ 1 quarter

Molecular Biology

(may include: molecular genetics, cell and molecular biology, advanced cell biology or the equivalent) 1 semester/1 quarter

Social Sciences, Humanities, and English Composition 30 semester hours/units

## Stanford

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1. The Committee on Admissions strongly encourages you to share unique, personally important, and/or challenging factors in your background, such as the quality of your early educational environment, socioeconomic status, culture, race, ethnicity, or life or work experiences. Please discuss how such factors have influenced your goals and preparation for a career in medicine.

Please limit your answer to 2,000 characters including spaces.

2. What do you see as the most likely practice scenario for your future medical career?

- a. Choose the single answer that best describes your career goals.

1. Private Practice
2. Health Policy
3. Academic Medicine
4. Public Health
5. Health Care Administration

- b. Why do you feel you are particularly suited for this practice scenario? What knowledge, skills and attitudes have you developed that have prepared you for this career path?

Please limit your answer to 1,000 characters including spaces.

3. The Stanford School of Medicine curriculum integrates the scientific basis of medicine with clinical practice. A key element of this curriculum is a requirement for in-depth didactic and scholarly activities through participation in a scholarly concentration of your choice. Details of the curriculum and scholarly concentrations are available at <http://med.stanford.edu/md/curriculum>, which we ask you to review prior to answering the following essay question.

- c. How will the Stanford curriculum, and specifically the requirement for a scholarly concentration, help your personal career goals?

Please limit your answer to 1,000 characters including spaces.

4. If you have publications resulting from scholarly endeavors, then in the space below, please

complete a citation for each of your publications using the following format: Author, Title, Journal, Volume, Pages, and Date of Publication. This section applies for papers that have been published or been accepted for publication.

### Baylor

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A really general essay (2000 characters) about whatever you want to talk about that wasn't mentioned in AMCAS.

<http://www.bcm.edu/admissions/?PMID=1776>

### UT Houston

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None

### UT Southwestern, Dallas

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Describe the setting which you envision conducting your medical career. Also include how and why you think this setting would help fulfill your interests related to the practice of medicine. (Word/Char limit currently unknown. Someone post when they find out, and I'll update this)

## Appendix B: Carmelle's Secondary Questions – by similarity

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### **Boston University**

While we no longer require an essay, we find that some applicants feel that additional information is necessary in order to provide us with a comprehensive understanding of their strengths as a candidate for a career in medicine. If you wish to use the space below to offer an essay or any other information, up to a total of 500 words, addressing any issue you feel is of importance, feel free to do so. If you choose to use the space, please do not duplicate information provided elsewhere in this supplemental application or in material you have submitted to AMCAS. Use this optional section only if you believe that the additional information will help us to learn something about you as a person, to get a sense of who you are and what you are about, beyond the basic facts of your academic work and your life history as it is otherwise available to us.

### **Columbia**

7. If you have additional information that you would like to include with your application, compose a document offline in a word processor and upload it here.

Use this uploaded document to record any information that does not fit into the application form, including additional majors or colleges.

You may upload only one document here. Merge your information into a single file before uploading it.

### **NYU**

If there is any information you wish to bring to the attention of the Admissions Committee regarding a physical or emotional problem that you feel may have affected your scholastic performance, please indicate below.

### **WashU**

In part B:

(optional) Do you have unique experiences or obstacles that you have overcome that were not covered in your application about which you would like to inform our Admissions Committee? (maximum 3000 characters including spaces)

### **UCLA**

If there is any **hardship** to which you would like the committee to give special attention in evaluating your application, then check the box labeled 'Hardship' and briefly explain why you are indicating a hardship. Include any geographic, language, economic, academic, physical, or mental factors. (800 characters)

### **Stanford**

The Committee on Admissions strongly encourages you to share unique, personally important, and/or challenging factors in your background, such as the quality of your early educational environment, socioeconomic status, culture, race, ethnicity, or life or work experiences. Please discuss how such factors have influenced your goals and preparation for a career in medicine.

Please limit your answer to 2,000 characters including spaces.

### **Baylor**

really general essay (2000 characters) about whatever you want to talk about that wasn't mentioned in AMCAS.

---

### **Harvard**

If you have already graduated, briefly (4000 characters max) summarize your activities since graduation

**Cornell**

If you are not attending college during the 2007-8 academic year, what are your plans? Please limit your statement to less than 200 words.

**NYU**

The usual, describe what you've done since you graduated, if you aren't in college.

**Northwestern**

3. Please select either a), b), or c) to answer: (300 words)

a.

If, by the time you enter medical school, you have not been (or, will not have been) enrolled as a full-time student in a formal education program for more than 6 months at any time, please list the dates below and describe what you did (or, will be doing) during your time away from formal education.

b.

If you have been enrolled in formal education and have spent a semester or more overseas, please describe what you did and its influence on your personal development.

c.

If you have been enrolled in formal education but option b) does not apply to you, please describe in detail an out-of-the-classroom activity that has influenced your personal development.

**Rush**

9. Indicate your planned activities between July 2007 and September, 2008: (1000 characters)

**WashU**

In part C:

If you have already completed your education, if your college or graduate education was interrupted, or if you do not plan to be a full-time student during the current year, describe in chronological order your activities during the time(s) when you were not enrolled as a full-time student.

**UCI**

This essay is only for applicants that have already received their baccalaureate degree. Please clarify for the Admissions Committee your activities (school, work and/or volunteer, travel, etc.) since receiving your undergraduate degree. You may list them in chronological order or you may incorporate them into an essay, stating why you chose particular activities. (1800 characters, with spaces).

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**Case Western**

(Required)The Admissions Committee is interested in gaining insight into you as a person. Please describe an experience or situation which you found personally challenging and discuss how it helped to shape you as a person. You may discuss a moral or ethical dilemma, situation of personal adversity or other life-event you believe to have been important in your personal development. Please limit your essay to 1 page (about 3,500 characters), and leave a blank line between paragraphs. If you cut and paste your essay from a word processing program, be sure to place your cursor at the end of the pasted text and click on the space bar. This assures that the program will save your text correctly.

**Northwestern**

Describe the coping skills and/or strategies you have employed to overcome a challenge that was not school related. If you believe you have not had such an experience, feel free to tell us anything more you'd like the Committee on Admissions to know about how you deal with personal challenges (e.g. financial, relationship, family, employment). (400 words)

**Rush**

State one major problem you encountered during the past several years and explain how you responded to it. (1000 characters)

**UChicago**

Tell us about a difficult or challenging situation that you have encountered and how you dealt with it. In your response, identify both the coping skills that you called upon to resolve the dilemma, and the support person(s) from whom you sought advice.

**University of Colorado**

-Give an example of an experience or situation that was difficult for you and explain how you handled it

**University of Pittsburg**

Describe a personal experience which resulted in a substantial moral or ethical dilemma. What was the outcome? We are reluctant to accept assertions that you have never encountered such a situation. Please do not address cheating in an academic setting. (Limit your response to 250 words or less.)

**UC Davis**

Describe a difficult situation you have had to overcome in your life or during your college academic experience. How do you feel this will prepare you for a career in medicine?

**UCI**

Please describe to the Admissions Committee a challenge you have overcome and what you learned about yourself from that experience. (1800 characters, with spaces).

**UCLA**

Describe a **problem** in your life. Include how you dealt with it and how it influenced your growth. (800 characters)

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**Case Western**

(Required)One of the four pillars of the Western Reserve Curriculum 2 is Research and Scholarship. Although research is not a pre-requisite requirement for the University Program, if you have participated in a scholarly project please tell us about it. Describe your experience, including the question you pursued and how you approached it, your results and interpretation of the results, and most importantly, any thoughts about **what this experience meant to you**. Remember that research is broad-based and can include such projects as a senior capstone or a thesis and can include both medical and non medically-related investigations. If you have not participated in research or scholarly work, please indicate so in the text area below. Please limit your response to 1 page (about 3,500 characters), and leave a blank line between paragraphs. If you cut and paste your essay from a word processing program, be sure to place your cursor at the end of the pasted text and click on the space bar. This assures that the program will save your text correctly.

**UCLA**

There is a limit of 800 characters for essay responses. This includes spaces and punctuation. Please do not attempt to send more than the allotted amount since the system will not save your responses and your information form will be returned to you with an error. A character counter is provided to assist you with this limitation.

What has been your most **scholarly project** (thesis, research or field of study in basic or clinical science or in the humanities)? Describe one and give number of hours, dates and advisor.

---

### **Columbia**

What satisfactions do you expect to receive from your activities as a physician?\*

Enter your response in essay format. LIMIT WRITING TO 2475 CHARACTERS.

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### **Cornell**

Please write a brief statement giving your reasons for applying to Weill Cornell Medical College. Please limit your statement to less than 200 words.

### **Georgetown**

Why have you chosen to apply to Georgetown University School of Medicine, and how do you think your education at Georgetown will prepare you to become a physician for the future? Please note: You have a maximum of 5000 characters (about 1 single-spaced page in Times New Roman font) to complete this essay.)

### **Yale**

Yale's only essay is a question on why you want to go to Yale, 500 word limit. Yay for being easy!

### **USC**

2. Please briefly explain your interest in the Keck School of Medicine.

### **Stanford**

The Stanford School of Medicine curriculum integrates the scientific basis of medicine with clinical practice. A key element of this curriculum is a requirement for in-depth didactic and scholarly activities through participation in a scholarly concentration of your choice. Details of the curriculum and scholarly concentrations are available at <http://med.stanford.edu/md/curriculum>, which we ask you to review prior to answering the following essay question.

c. How will the Stanford curriculum, and specifically the requirement for a scholarly concentration, help your personal career goals?

Please limit your answer to 1,000 characters including spaces.

---

### **Northwestern**

Describe the top 3 distinguishable characteristics (non-academic) you possess and tell us how you think these characteristics will enhance your success as a FSM medical student and future physician. (400 words)

---

### **Rush**

Describe two examples of working with people, one of which highlights your leadership skills and one which highlights your problem solving abilities. (1000 characters)

**University of Colorado**

They want essays on 2 of the 5 possible topics, 2500 characters max each.

-Tell us about leadership positions you have held and what you have learned about yourself as a leader

**UCLA**

There is a limit of 800 characters for essay responses. This includes spaces and punctuation. Please do not attempt to send more than the allotted amount since the system will not save your responses and your information form will be returned to you with an error. A character counter is provided to assist you with this limitation.

What has been the **ONE** most unique **leadership, entrepreneurial or creative activity** in which you participated?

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**Rush**

Please describe 1-2 experiences you have had working with individuals from diverse backgrounds and what you have gained from these experiences. (1000 characters)

**University of Colorado**

They want essays on 2 of the 5 possible topics, 2500 characters max each.

-Discuss an experience you have had in which cultural diversity, or the lack thereof, has made a difference

**University of Pittsburg**

The recruitment of a diverse student body is a major goal of the University of Pittsburgh's Medical School Admissions Committee. Please tell us whether facets of your life, background or education to date would contribute to the achievement of this goal.

(Limit your response to 250 words or less.)

**University of Michigan**

At the University of Michigan Medical School, we are committed to building a superb educational community with students of diverse talents, experiences, opinions, and backgrounds. What would you as an individual bring to our medical school community? Do not exceed 1500 characters (about 250 words).

**UCI**

In evaluating applicants with a variety of backgrounds and strengths the Admissions Committee assesses each applicant as to what they can contribute to their class and also the potential of an applicant to contribute to society. Please describe to the Admissions Committee what you have to offer in this regard. (1800 characters, with spaces).

**USC**

3. Briefly describe any unique qualities and abilities you possess which would contribute to:

- (A) the educational environment

Please limit response to no more than 250 words

- (B) the diversity of the entering class

Please limit response to no more than 250 words

---

**Rush**

Describe the path you took to prepare, both academically and personally, for a career in medicine. (1000 characters)

**University of Colorado**

They want essays on 2 of the 5 possible topics, 2500 characters max each.

-Describe how the environment in which you lived while growing up has affected your decision to enter medicine

**Stanford**

2. What do you see as the most likely practice scenario for your future medical career?

a. Choose the single answer that best describes your career goals.

1. Private Practice

2. Health Policy

3. Academic Medicine

4. Public Health

5. Health Care Administration

b. Why do you feel you are particularly suited for this practice scenario? What knowledge, skills and attitudes have you developed that have prepared you for this career path?

Please limit your answer to 1,000 characters including spaces.

**UT Southwestern**

Describe the setting which you envision conducting your medical career. Also include how and why you think this setting would help fulfill your interests related to the practice of medicine. (Word/Char limit currently unknown. Someone post when they find out, and I'll update this)

---

**Rush**

3. Separate from the previous 2 questions, have you had experiences in which you were responsible for the care of others?: (1000 characters max)

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**University of Colorado**

They want essays on 2 of the 5 possible topics, 2500 characters max each.

-If no careers in health care were available at this time, tell us what your career plans would be

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**WashU**

In part D (MSTP):

Please give a brief description (no longer than 6 sentences) of the area of biomedical science you are most interested in studying.

Side Note:

"The MSTP Admissions Committee expects letters of recommendation submitted on your behalf from all individuals you wrote about as research mentors in the "Significant Research Essay" Section of the AMCAS application."

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**UC Davis**

Who would you consider to be the most influential person in your life and why?

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**UC Davis**

Each applicant brings with them goals of what they want to accomplish as a physician. They also have their larger dreams with regards to what they hope to accomplish in their lifetime. In a brief paragraph, please describe how you would want to be remembered at the end of your life.

**UCLA**

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? What experiences have led you to this goal? (800 characters)

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**UCLA**

There is a limit of 800 characters for essay responses. This includes spaces and punctuation. Please do not attempt to send more than the allotted amount since the system will not save your responses and your information form will be returned to you with an error. A character counter is provided to assist you with this limitation.

**Extracurricular Interests and Activities**

Describe involvement in the **ONE** most important **non-academic activity** that has been important in your life?

**University of Michigan**

Select one experience from your list in part B (Non-Academic Activities) and describe in a brief essay how it impacted on your decision to go into medicine. Do not exceed 1500 characters (about 250 words).

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**UCLA**

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What has been the **ONE** most important **volunteer work** you have done and why was it meaningful?

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### **UCLA**

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What is the **ONE** most important **honor** you have received? Why do you view this as important?

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### **Non Essay Secondary Questions**

#### **Columbia**

In what collegiate extracurricular activities did you engage?\*

Enter your response in list format using commas. LIMIT WRITING TO 760 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

2. In what collegiate extracurricular activities did you engage?\*

Enter your response in list format using commas. LIMIT WRITING TO 760 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

3. Please list collegiate honors, awards, and memberships in honorary societies\*

Enter your response in list format using commas. LIMIT WRITING TO 345 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

4. About how many hours per week, if any, did you spend in work for which you were recompensed during the college year?\*

LIMIT WRITING TO 200 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

5. What sort of work did you do (include summer employment)?\*

Enter your response in list format using commas. LIMIT WRITING TO 1100 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

6. If your education has been interrupted for any reason, please indicate briefly the reasons, the duration of the interruption and how your time was spent.

Enter your response in essay format. LIMIT WRITING TO 1300 CHARACTERS. Do not use return or enter.

7. If you have additional information that you would like to include with your application, compose a document offline in a word processor and upload it here.

Use this uploaded document to record any information that does not fit into the application form, including additional majors or colleges.

You may upload only one document here. Merge your information into a single file before uploading it.

#### **Drexel**

List employment experiences in chronological order. Start with most recent:

List medically related volunteer activities in chronological order. Start with most recent:

List extracurricular, other volunteer, or community service activities in chronological order. Start with most recent:

**Rush**

List other careers you considered:

- a.
- b.
- c.

6. Does your academic record show a time gap or reflect a non-traditional calendar?:  
If Yes, give dates and explain. (1000 characters)

7. List interests (outside of academics) in order of importance to you, with a. being the most important:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

8. Indicate whether you have skills/accomplishments/honors in any of the following areas:  
Select all that apply

- a.  
Artistic endeavors - painting, drawing, sculpting, writing, design.
- b.  
Entrepreneurial - have you started your own business.
- c.  
Athletics - Minimally at the college varsity level
- d.  
Performance Art - music, theatre, dance
- e.  
Publications
- f.  
Research
- g.  
Other  
Briefly describe:  
Be Specific:  
(250 chars) :

10. Have you ever been convicted of a crime, or pleaded guilty and been placed on probation, court supervision or another preconviction program? A "Yes" answer does not automatically result in your disqualification for admission to Rush Medical College. (1000 characters)  
If YES please describe:

### **UCLA**

List major **paid work experience** during (or since) college. Give dates, description, approximate hours worked (list the most recent first).

### **USC**

1a. Have you applied to any medical school in the past? Yes No

1b. Have you applied to the Keck School of Medicine in the past? If yes, please describe your activities since you last applied Yes No

Please limit response to no more than 250 words

4. Please provide a summary of your most relevant leadership experiences.

Please limit response to no more than 250 words

5. Briefly describe your most relevant extra-curricular activities (volunteer, research, serving disadvantaged or underserved populations, etc...) related to your interest in medicine.

Please limit response to no more than 250 words

6. Are you planning on taking the August 2007 MCAT Yes No

7. Completed Course Summary

Course Requirement

General Biology + Lab 2 semesters/ 3 quarters

General Chemistry + Lab 2 semesters/ 3 quarters

Organic Chemistry + Lab 1 semester/ 2 quarters

Physics + Lab 2 semesters/ 3 quarters

Biochemistry 1 semester/ 1 quarter

Molecular Biology

(may include: molecular genetics, cell and molecular biology, advanced cell biology or the equivalent) 1 semester/1 quarter

Social Sciences, Humanities, and English Composition 30 semester hours/units

### **Stanford**

4. If you have publications resulting from scholarly endeavors, then in the space below, please complete a citation for each of your publications using the following format: Author, Title, Journal, Volume, Pages, and Date of Publication. This section applies for papers that have been published or been accepted for publication.