

Q&A Virtual Chat Transcript - June 29, 2017

Visit the *AMCAS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)* page for more: <http://ow.ly/PIBf30dH5UT>

Table of Contents: Question Topics

Application Protocols	1
Application Processing	1
Coursework	3
Letters of Evaluation	4
MCAT.....	5
Work & Activities.....	5
Criminal Background Check.....	6
Fee Assistance Program.....	6
Interviews.....	6
Reapplying/ Misc.....	7

Application Protocols

How many acceptances can be held at one time?

If you receive an offer of acceptance from more than one school or program, choose the school at which you will enroll by April 30. Then, promptly withdraw your application, by written correspondence, from all other schools or programs that have offered you an acceptance.

For the AAMC Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants, please visit: <http://ow.ly/1Ynk30dxNoJ>

Does a medical school know how many schools a candidate apply?

No, medical schools can never see information about the other schools you have applied to. However, beginning February 10 of the application cycle will be able to see Multiple Accept Data. This means that if they've accepted you, they will be able to see any other schools who have also offered you an acceptance letter.

Beginning April 1 of the application cycle, medical schools have access to the National Acceptance Report, which lists all applicants with a current acceptance letter or who have matriculated. For all AAMC Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants please visit - <http://ow.ly/1Ynk30dxNoJ>

How early can one start their AMCAS application?

The AMCAS application cycle opens every year in early May.

Application Processing

What are medical schools looking for overall from non-traditional students?

Medical schools are looking at AMCAS application with a holistic review approach, which includes checking for your pre-med experience overall. Use your application to express what motivates you, and any possible challenges that may have influenced your educational pursuits.

AMCAS Virtual Chat for Applicants and Pre-health Advisors

After the initial wave of applications are sent out to medical schools on June 30, how frequent will AMCAS distribute the processed applications?

After June 30, we will be sending processed applications to your designated medical schools on a daily basis. Be sure to monitor your application status by checking "Details" link on Main Menu.

How can one overcome application anxiety?

Check out this Aspiring Docs fact sheet with help managing AMCAS application anxiety:

<http://ow.ly/tPEY30dDFwS>

What advice do you have for Canadian applicants to medical schools located in the United States?

The application process to medical schools with AMCAS for Canadian students is identical to U.S. students.

What happens after the applications are sent to medical schools? Will we get secondary applications from AMCAS or from the medical schools?

On June 30, we began sending processed applications to your designated medical schools. After this point you may start to receive secondary applications from medical schools directly.

Medical schools do not have access to our official transcripts, is that correct?

Correct. Your official college transcript(s) are sent to AMCAS only. We use the transcripts to process your application and then send your application to medical schools.

Are background checks a regular part of the AMCAS medical school application process?

Yes, the AAMC recommends that all U.S. medical schools procure a national background check on applicants upon their conditional acceptance to medical school. AAMC uses the services of Certiphi Screening, Inc. to run the background check reports. Not all medical schools require a background check however through AMCAS. Check here for which medical schools require a background check - <http://ow.ly/3iNm30dvOov>

If your primary application needs corrections due to problems with coursework entry, is the date your updated application gets resubmitted considered your new submission date?

If not many errors we can use official transcripts to make corrections. More than 10 errors could result in a return. If your application is returned this could result in delay in processing the application.

The MCAT is an 8-hour exam in English, I have noticed that some schools still require the TOEFL for students whose first language is not English. Is it necessary to take the TOEFL?

Contact your desired medical schools for more information about their admissions policies and requirements as they may vary for each school.

When exactly is the AMCAS peak season for applications and what does this mean?

The AMCAS application peak season is considered June through September, when there's an increase of application intake and, therefore, processing times.

When I submit my application, will it automatically be sent to every school I have entered in the application or can I select what individual's schools to send the application to one-by-one? I want to see my MCAT score before sending my application to certain schools.

Once your application is verified, it will be sent to all the schools you have designated. You can add schools at any point, as long as their application deadline has not passed.

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I know submitting early is the best option, but what date is considered early?

The Early Decision Program (EDP) is the earliest to submit the AMCAS application (on August 1). To qualify for EDP, you must apply to only one medical school. All application materials (including transcripts) must be received by the deadline. For more information visit: <http://ow.ly/4nszHX>

If you are accepted into a medical school, can you defer your acceptance for a year?

Yes, after you have received an acceptance to medical school, you may request a deferral by submitting a letter or petition to the dean or committee on admissions. The process is different for each school. At most schools, requesting a deferral means that you postpone the date you are scheduled to start medical school by a year. Contact your desired medical schools for more information about their admissions policies.

Can I send an official stamped transcript to the application service that was previously mailed directly to me from my undergraduate university?

Your official college transcript(s) must be sent directly by your college's registrar's office. They should use the AMCAS Transcript Request Form for specific instructions to send.

Does our application need to be submitted before the AMCAS medical school application deadline?

Your application needs to be submitted by 11:59pm ET by your designated medical school's application deadline. Those deadlines can be found here: <http://ow.ly/ITEZ30dBkyR>

I have a transcript from a community college and I have obtained an electronic copy of it. Will this suffice or do I have to call the school and have them send it directly to AMCAS?

Your official college transcript(s) should be sent directly by your college's registrar's office. They should use the AMCAS Transcript Request Form for specific instructions to send.

I'm a medical student abroad and I want to transfer to a school in the United States or Canada. I took the MCAT exam and did not get my desired score. How should I go about applying with AMCAS?

Please review these instructions for applying as an international applicant: <http://ow.ly/EUQX30dDIGX>

Coursework

Do schools prefer that future coursework is included in the AMCAS application?

Most medical schools would like to know what you have completed prior to matriculation, which is especially important if you have not yet completed medical school prerequisites.

Watch this video for help entering Current/Future coursework into the AMCAS application:

<http://ow.ly/4YA930drXZb>

Should Graduate (GR) status be applied to Respiratory Therapy credits (Associate of Applied Science for Respiratory Therapy degree earned)?

Assign Graduate (GR) status to any professional or graduate-level coursework that is not applied to an undergraduate degree.

Should clinical coursework be entered as "lab only," "lecture only," or as "lab and lecture combined"?

Enter coursework as it appears on your official college transcript. Also, use your best judgement based on the content and structure of each course.

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I have a few Forensic Science courses that I took (not as pre-requisites) that are interdisciplinary in many of the sciences. How should I go about designating the "Course Classification" for them?

Each course must be assigned a course classification based strictly on the primary content of the course. Use your best judgment to choose correct course classification and the AMCAS Course Classification Guide:

ow.ly/4npCCT

I know that the AMCAS coursework section stresses that we should enter the title of each of our courses exactly as how they appear on our official transcript. But what if some of the class titles on our transcript are completely non-descriptive?

It's more efficient for you to enter your coursework information exactly as it appears on your official college transcript(s). You may indicate the type of course in the Course Classification field: ow.ly/4npCCT

If I received dual credit from courses I took while in high school, does this mean I need to acquire a transcript from that accredited university?

Enter all dual credit or any college coursework as it appears on your official college transcript(s). Send all post-secondary institution official transcripts to AMCAS in order for us to verify those courses. Review the 2018 AMCAS Instruction Manual for more info: <http://ow.ly/WVx930br9Q5>

My final quarter grades came out after I submitted my primary application. How do I communicate the final quarter grades to medical schools?

You cannot add, remove, or modify coursework information after the AMCAS application is submitted. You may contact the medical school(s) directly for more information and other possible options of sending updated grades or transcript(s).

Letters of Evaluation

According to the Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR) database, most medical schools have a minimum number of letters accepted of three. Does this mean that the medical schools would like three AMCAS "letter entries" or three actual letters?

Check with your desired medical schools for their specific admission policy regarding required Letters of Evaluation. Use the MSAR to find contact information for each of your medical school designations. Letter entries on the AMCAS application can be a Committee Letter, Letter Packet, or Individual Letter. For more information also check out: <http://ow.ly/UVAi30drXxw>

How should the health profession office send AMCAS our letters of evaluation?

Your letter author can forward your letter to AMCAS in one of three ways, [AMCAS Letter Writer Application](#), Mail, [Interfolio](#), or [Virtual Evals](#). Print your Letter Request form from Main Menu. This form will include your AAMC ID, Letter ID, and instructions for your letter authors to send letters to AMCAS. For more information please visit: <http://ow.ly/Q6rD30awE4b>

How will I know when my letters have been received by AMCAS?

You will know that AMCAS has your letters once they are marked as "Received." If sent electronically, it could take one business day. Letters sent via mail can take up to 15 business days from the time they are received.

How can store letters throughout the years before I am ready to apply to medical school?

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If you would like to get started with storing letters for your AMCAS application you can suggest to your letter authors to use the Interfolio system: [www.http://interfolio.com/](http://interfolio.com/). This is a letter of recommendation service can help letter writers store, organize, and (confidentially) send letters.

I cannot delete a Letter of Evaluation entry once the application is submitted, why is that? What if the letter writer can no longer send the letter?

You can add Letters of Evaluation entries to your AMCAS application even after submission, but you cannot delete letter entries. You can designate a letter as “No Longer Being Sent” if your letter writer is no longer planning to send letters on your behalf. This notifies medical schools that the letter is no longer being sent to AMCAS.

MCAT

How will the medical schools view my MCAT exam scores if I took it more than once?

Some Medical schools may take the average of your MCAT exam score results and some may consider your highest score. Check with your desired medical schools for more information about their admissions policies and requirements as it relates to exam scores.

Should I wait to submit my AMCAS application until after my MCAT exam score results are available?

You do not need to have an MCAT score available to have your application verified. Once your MCAT score is available and your application has been verified, it will automatically be sent to the school(s) you have designated.

Do medical schools usually send secondary applications before receiving the MCAT scores?

Each school has its own system and timeline for secondaries. It is possible to receive secondaries before a school has received MCAT scores.

What's the latest someone can take MCAT exam for the 2018 application cycle?

You will need to consult the [MCAT test administration and score release calendar](#) and be sure that your scores will be available prior to the application deadline(s) of the school(s) you are interested in. You can find the AMCAS medical school application deadlines here - <http://ow.ly/BJQ430dxpgl>

Work & Activities

Is it better to list my work and activities in bullets or paragraphs? Also, what should be included in the description field?

There is no special formatting permitted in the AMCAS application, so typing in a paragraph format would work best. You may use the description field to elaborate on each experience with the different physicians. Check with your pre-health advisor on completing your Work & Activities section of the AMCAS Application. Contact your desired medical schools for more information on their admissions requirements. Review page 55 of the AMCAS Instruction Manual for help completing the Work & Activities section: <http://ow.ly/tNX930coXri>

How do we determine the number of hours for an activity that we have listed in the Work & Activities section if it was ongoing such as involvement?

Include the start and end dates for each Work & Activities experience. For ongoing activities the latest end date must be no later than August of 2018. Enter total number of hours completed or expect to complete each Work & Activity experience during the date range indicated.

What should I put for the contact name and phone number if the manager I worked for is no longer there and if the business no longer exists?

In the Work & Activities section if the contact name is not known, you may enter the name of a person who can verify your participation, including yourself. You are required to provide a phone number and/or email address for this contact person.

How should I go about entering a publication that I am still working on and has not yet been published?

You may enter the future publication date, but be sure it is no later than the matriculation date of August 2018. Medical schools want information about experiences you have begun prior to matriculation next fall. Review page 55 of the AMCAS Instruction Manual for help completing the Work & Activities section:

<http://ow.ly/4Fi230bsNfN>

Is the Work and Activities description field 700 characters limit with spaces or without?

The Work and Activities description field is your opportunity to describe or summarize each experience. The space allotted for this description is 700 characters, which includes spaces.

What type of experiences should be included in the Work and Activities section?

Enter a different entry per Work & Activity experience. You can enter a maximum of 15 experiences, and 3 most meaningful. Use best judgement to choose experiences. Consider those med career related, extracurricular activities, honors, or publications. For more information visit: <http://ow.ly/BGQu30dHcM4>

Criminal Background Check

We advise many students with violations that have been expunged from their records after paying fines (MIP, etc.). If the violation is no longer on their record, should they disclose it at the primary or secondary stage of their application?

You must indicate whether you have ever been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no contest to, a Felony crime, excluding 1) any offense for which you were adjudicated as a juvenile or 2) convictions which have been expunged or sealed by a court (in states where applicable). Check the 2018 AMCAS Instruction Manual for more information regarding state-specific requirements - <http://ow.ly/tNX930coXri>

Fee Assistance Program

When is the best time to apply to the Fee Assistance Program?

The AAMC Fee Assistance Program benefits can last up to 2 years, expiring on December 31 of the following year of approval. You may apply for this program when it works best for you and your pathway to medical school.

Visit the website for more information - www.aamc.org/FAP

Interviews

When do medical school interviews typically start?

Most begin in the fall, but each medical school has its own process and timeline for interviews. Check with your desired medical school for more information on their interview process and timeline. Also, here's a breakdown of how each medical school interview format - <http://ow.ly/Q3FI30dxswR>

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If we have a less competitive GPA and MCAT exam score, should you focus more on work, volunteering, teaching, leadership skills and experiences, or should we still talk about relevant coursework in classes you enjoyed and excelled in?

It would be a good idea to consult with your advisor on what to focus on during the interviews. We also have an Ask Admissions webinar about Acing Your Interview: <http://ow.ly/V5jl30dDuYU>

Reapplying/Misc.

If I decide to reapply next cycle, are my letters of recommendation saved and eligible to be resent? Would I need to resubmit transcripts and evaluation letters should I choose to hold off and apply for 2019?

AMCAS does not keep letters of evaluation or transcripts on file from applications in previous years. You must resubmit letters of evaluation to AMCAS for each application cycle you apply. Likewise, even though you applied previously to AMCAS, you will need to resubmit official transcripts. Since we must verify to your designated medical schools that you have not taken any additional courses at a particular school, you must submit new transcripts each year you apply.

I applied previously as a regular M.D. applicant and am now reapplying to M.D. /PhD programs. Am I considered a reapplicant for schools from which I previously was only an MD applicant?

You're considered a reapplicant if your application is verified and sent to your designated medical schools.

I don't have a premed advisor because I've been out of school for a while. Is there anyone that I can contact for help?

If a pre-health advisor isn't available to you, please check out the Professions' (NAAHP) student resource, [Find An Advisor](#).