AMCAS 2008
AGENDA

• About AMCAS
• Understanding the Medical School Admissions Process
• The 2008 AMCAS Application
  ▪ Completing the primary application
  ▪ Submitting the application
  ▪ Monitoring your application’s progress
  ▪ Knowing your responsibilities
• AMCAS Application Life Cycle
• AMCAS Changes for 2008
• The AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP)
• Applicant FACTS
A. ABOUT AMCAS

A service of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

Non-profit, centralized application service

• Collects applicant information
• Collects one set of transcripts
• Verifies academic records
• Provides standardized grading information to participating schools
B. UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

Applying is a two-step process

1. Primary Application: AMCAS
2. Secondary Applications: Medical Schools

AMCAS does not screen applications or make admissions decisions

Admissions requirements and decision processes vary from school to school
B. UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

Primary Application

AMCAS processes the primary application. Once this processing is complete, AMCAS sends the primary application to the medical schools selected by the applicant. At this point, the medical school takes over the application.

- Complete online application
- Send college transcripts
- Pay application fee

Secondary Application

Upon invitation from the medical school:

- Submit letters of recommendation
- Submit additional writing samples
- Send updated transcripts if necessary
- Pay additional application fee if required

Medical School

Schedule interview date upon invitation from the medical school.
B. UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

Application Resources

- AMCAS frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Online application instructions

AMCAS -
The American Medical College Application Service

The American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) is a non-profit, centralized application processing service for applicants to the first-year entering classes at participating U.S. medical schools. For the 2007 entering class, most medical schools are participating in AMCAS. Regardless of the number of AMCAS schools to which you apply, you submit just one application to AMCAS via the Web.

AMCAS does not render any admission decisions and does not advise applicants where to apply. Each participating school is completely autonomous in reaching its admissions decisions. AMCAS provides only the application processing service. More>>>

Frequently Asked Questions
C. AMCAS 2008

General Information/Getting Ready

• Know the admissions requirements at each school
• Obtain copies of your transcripts
• Make sure you have access to a computer that meets AMCAS system and browser requirements
• Make payment arrangements
C. COMPLETING THE PRIMARY APPLICATION

AMCAS Registration

Use “real” biographical information during registration:

[Image of AMCAS registration form]
C. COMPLETING THE PRIMARY APPLICATION

Application Navigation

Become familiar with the navigation sections of the application:
C. COMPLETING THE PRIMARY APPLICATION

ETHNICITY AND RACE

Some medical schools want to know information about your ethnicity and race. You may optionally enter this information on this page.

Ethnicity

☐ Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina
☐ Spanish/Hispanic/Latino/Latina
☐ Puerto Rican
☐ Cuban
☐ Other
☐ Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/Chicana

Specify, if other:
(Separate multiple ethnicities with commas) *
Panamanian

Race

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
☐ Asian
☐ Black or African-American
C. COMPLETING THE PRIMARY APPLICATION

Add a Course

- Academic Year *
  - Select One

- Academic Term *
  - Select One

- Year in School *
  - Select One

- Course Number

- Course Name *

- Course Classification *
  - Select One

- Transcript Grade

- Credit Hours

- Did the course include a lab section? *
  - Lecture Only
  - Lab Only
  - Combined Lecture and Lab

Course Work

University Of Maryland-College Park (1990-1994)

- 1989-1990 -- 1st Semester (Fall)
  - Fresh English
  - Biology 1
Common Pitfalls

- Missed application deadlines
- Delayed processing/missed transcript deadlines
  - Late shipping
  - Incomplete or inaccurate
  - Missing
  - Unofficial
- Typos and other errors in essay, experiences, etc.
- Failure to receive and respond to AMCAS notifications
Common Pitfalls

- Course work errors
  - Missing course work
  - Missing grades / credits
  - Incorrect academic status
  - Incorrect course classifications
C. SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Early is good. Error-free is better!

• Emphasize completeness and accuracy over early submission
• Use print option to check your data as final step before submission
• Have your payment information ready
• Ensure successful submission by checking the Main Menu
C. MONITORING YOUR APPLICATION’S PROGRESS

Check your AMCAS status

Monitor progress by frequently checking e-mail and Main Menu:
C. KNOWING YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Applicant Responsibilities

In addition to meeting deadlines and accurately completing the AMCAS application, you must:

- Know the admissions requirements at each school
- Promptly notify AMCAS of change in contact info
- Review verified course work immediately after AMCAS processing is complete
C. KNOWING YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

• Applicant Responsibilities

In addition to meeting deadlines and accurately completing the AMCAS application, you must:

– Respond promptly to interview invitations from the medical schools
– File for financial aid as soon as possible
– Withdraw from the schools you will not attend
D. AMCAS APPLICATION LIFE CYCLE

- Not Submitted to AMCAS
- Submitted to AMCAS – Ready for Review
  - Submitted to AMCAS – Waiting for Transcripts
  - Returned to Applicant
- Submitted to AMCAS – Under Review
- AMCAS Processing Complete

May take up to 6 weeks*
E. Changes for 2008

- Criminal Background Checks
- New Conviction / Discharge Questions
- Transcripts
- MCAT Questions
- Birth Date/Sex Changes
- Withdrawal Feature
E. Changes for 2008

- Criminal Background Checks:
  - Implementation Advisory Committee
    - 10 Pilot Schools
    - 1 Advisor
    - 1 Current Medical Student
  - 2008 Pilot
    - Conducted on first Acceptance
    - Alternate List
  - Disclosure / Consent
    - To be certified by all applicants
E. Changes for 2008

- Criminal Background Checks:

  **Social Security Number Search**
  A search of credit report header data to help confirm the applicant's identifying information such as name, aliases, address(es), Social Security Number and to determine areas of prior residence.

  **County Criminal Records Searches**
  A direct search of county courthouse records for any felony or misdemeanor criminal history. All records are researched to help ensure positive identification and complete, easy-to-read details.

  **Statewide Criminal Records Search**
  A search conducted through statewide criminal records repositories or court systems for any felony or misdemeanor criminal history.
E. Changes for 2008

• Criminal Background Checks:

  Federal Criminal Records Search
  A direct search of federal courthouse records for any felony or misdemeanor criminal history. All records are researched to help ensure positive identification and complete, easy-to-read details.

  National Criminal Database Search
  This search is an **instant, multi-jurisdiction private database search covering more than 194 million criminal records** collected from across the country. While the database does not contain information from all states, it is an excellent supplement to county, statewide and federal criminal searches. To ensure compliance with FCRA, all database “hits” are verified directly through the source of information to ensure that records reported are current and up-to-date.

  National Sexual Offender Database Search
  A search of a national private database which contains sex offender data collected from across the country. All records are researched to help ensure positive identification.
E. Changes for 2008

• Criminal Background Checks:

US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals/Entities Search
A search of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (LEIE), a database which provides information to the public, health care providers, patients, and others relating to parties excluded from participation in the Medicare, Medicaid, and all Federal health care programs.

Search for Dishonorable Discharge from the Armed Forces
Military records are verified through either telephone interviews with the subject's former commander or by obtaining the applicant's DD-214 form. Verification generally includes subject's name, Service Number, rank, dates of service, awards and decorations, and place of entrance and separation.
E. Changes for 2008

- Criminal Background Checks:

**International Screening**

*International criminal records searches* are generally performed by facilitating the applicant in obtaining an official Police Clearance or Police Certificate from the desired country. In those countries that have established third-party criminal records search facilities—including Canada and Great Britain—searches will be obtained directly through those channels.
E. Changes for 2008

• New Conviction / Discharge Questions:
  • Felony
  • Misdemeanor
  • Military Discharge
E. Changes for 2008

• Felony Question

Have you 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)?
E. Changes for 2008

• Misdemeanor Question

Have you ever been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no contest to, a Misdemeanor crime, excluding 1) any offense for which you were adjudicated as a juvenile, 2) any convictions which have been expunged or sealed by a court, or 3) any misdemeanor convictions for which any probation has been completed and the case dismissed by the court (in states where applicable)?
E. Changes for 2008

Applicants need not disclose any instance where applicant:

• was arrested but not charged;
• was arrested and charged, but the charges were dropped;
• was arrested and charged, but found not guilty by a judge or jury;
• was arrested and found guilty by a judge or jury, but the conviction was overturned on appeal; or
• received an executive pardon.
E. Changes for 2008

• Military Discharge
    Have you ever been discharged by the Armed Forces of the United States? Select ‘No’ if you have never served in the Armed Forces, or currently serving without previous discharge.

If yes…

• Did you receive an honorable discharge or a discharge under honorable circumstances?
E. Changes for 2008

• Transcripts
  • Because transcripts are the most common reason for delays in application we have instituted three questions in the transcript section of the web application to ensure the applicant understands their responsibilities. The questions are:

  1. *Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Services*
  2. *Have you ever taken a post-secondary course anywhere other than at your home institution, including college courses taken while in high school?*
  3. *Have you ever taken foreign coursework including a study abroad course?*
E. Changes for 2008

Example:
E. Changes for 2008

Military Education

Use the following guidelines to establish whether a military transcript is available:

- Active duty and reserve personnel should contact the education office at their current duty station. In most cases, the education office can assist with obtaining available records for all military coursework.

- The next option is to contact individual schools directly. It is generally faster to obtain transcripts from the individual programs directly than trying to obtain information from the central records office.

If a transcript is not available from a military school or program directly, U.S. Army active duty enlisted personnel and veterans may obtain an Army/ACE Registry System (AARTS) transcript providing they entered the service on or after October 1, 1981. The transcript documents courses, MOSes held, proficiency test scores, and college-level standardized test results as well as course descriptions and ACE credit recommendations. These transcripts may be obtained by writing to: AARTS Operations Center; 416 McPherson Avenue; Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027-1373.

Note: This is the only transcript available for courses completed at the Academy of Health Sciences, Ft. Sam Houston, TX. Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) experience should not be listed on the Academic Record unless a U.S. or Canadian institution has accepted credit in transfer.
E. Changes for 2008

• Transcripts (continued)
  
  • Institution has closed no transcript available
  • Institution only provides certificate of completion, no transcript available

If the institution only provides a certificate of completion or no official transcript is available, the registrar of the institution must send AMCAS an official letter verifying that no official transcript is available. Without this letter the application will not be processed. We will treat these letters as we treat transcripts and the student will be notified when the letter is received.
E. Changes for 2008

• MCAT Questions Update

Medical schools need to discern whether or not additional MCAT scores from calendar year 2007 should be expected in support of your application.

Have you taken, or do you plan to take the MCAT in calendar year 2007 from May through September?

[Yes] [No]
E. Changes for 2008

- MCAT Questions Update (continued)
E. Changes for 2008

• DOB/Sex
  • An applicant can now change their birthdate and/or sex at anytime during the application cycle.
E. Changes for 2008

• Withdrawal of Application
E. Changes for 2008

• Withdraw (continued)

• The applicant would have to enter his/her password for the withdraw to be processed.
• The applicant can not un-withdrawal at anytime or re-apply for the current year, once withdrawn.
F. AAMC FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Assists individuals with extreme financial limitations
- Based on federal poverty guidelines
- Reduces MCAT fee from $210 to $85
- Provides 12 free medical school designations for AMCAS
- Funded by AAMC
- Applicants apply online and receive timely decision

www.aamc.org/fap
F. AAMC FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FAP)

• FAP Eligibility
  ▪ Algorithm bases eligibility decisions on:
    – Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) poverty level guidelines
    – AAMC Multiplier
      o **300%** for 2007 calendar year
F. AAMC FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FAP)

FAP 2007

• 1,477 Submitted Applications
• 1,296 applicants have met the eligibility criteria
### G. APPLICANT FACTS

#### Average MCAT Scores

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BCPM = Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math
All Other = all courses not classified as BCPM
Cumulative = all courses
## 2006 Applicants & Matriculants by Primary Undergraduate Major

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<td>Specialized Health Sciences</td>
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G. Applicant Facts

For more applicant data, go to:

http://www.aamc.org/data/facts/start.htm
When is the MCAT offered?

19 days/year
22 administrations
3 time limit/year
Hold one seat at a time
Scores delivered in about 30 days
# MCAT Administrations 2007

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ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
How do schools receive scores?

• Most US medical schools receive scores via AMCAS

• All scores are reported to AMCAS (beginning August 2003)

• AMCAS begins sending January – June scores in July; July, August, September scores sent 30 days after each exam date

• You can send your scores anywhere through the THx Online Score Reporting System
## What areas are covered?

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