

Medical School Application Workshop



Steven T. Case, PhD
Associate Dean for Admissions



Your application

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





Your application

- Reflects your preparation for medical school
 - Academics
 - MCAT
 - Work/Activities
 - Exposure to medicine
 - Community service/volunteer experience
 - Leadership





Your application

- Is used to communicate with you
 - Email address
 - Postal address
 - Telephone numbers

Keep updated!





American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS)

- On-line at:
<http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/start.htm>
- Centralized, used by 117 of 126 U.S. medical schools (all but Texas)



AMCAS - The American Medical College Application Service

[AMCAS Home](#)

[AMCAS for Applicants Home](#)

[Support for AMCAS 2009](#)

[Support for AMCAS 2008](#)

[About AMCAS](#)

[Contact Us](#)

The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam

Questions taken from
real MCAT exams,
thoroughly **explained
answers**, and **valuable
applicant data**.

Buy one now!

ASPIRINGDOCS.ORG
Video Contest

Aspiring Doctors Revealed!

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 2009 entering class, [most medical schools](#) are participating in AMCAS.

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. The AAMC and AMCAS neither endorse, nor have any relationship to, commercial counseling services concerned with admission to either U.S. or foreign medical schools.

Regardless of the number of AMCAS schools to which you apply, you submit just one application to AMCAS via the Web. You must also request an official transcript from each college of registration in the United States and Canada. AMCAS then assembles your application file, verifies it and forwards the application to your designated medical schools. AMCAS also sends your MCAT scores for tests taken since April 1991, provided you have released them to AMCAS.

Applicants to medical schools that do not participate in AMCAS, as well as all advanced standing and transfer applicants, should contact schools directly for application instructions. You should also contact schools directly for application information regarding joint or special programs, such as B.A./M.D., M.D./Ph.D., M.D./J.D., etc. [More >>](#)

Related Resources

[AAMC Recommendations for Medical School Admission Officers and Medical School Applicants](#)

[American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service](#)

Apply Now!

Start or continue your AMCAS 2009 application
[AMCAS 2009 Login](#)

[AMCAS 2009 Instruction Book](#)

FAQs

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Fee Assistance Program

For AMCAS applicants and MCAT® examinees with extreme financial need. [More >>](#)

Criminal Background Check

[About the AAMC-Facilitated Background Check Service](#)

AMCAS Letters Pilot

[About the AMCAS Letters of Evaluation/Recommendation Service](#)

[AMCAS Letter Writer Application](#)

American Medical College Application Service

The AMCAS application will be unavailable from 5:00AM -9:00 AM on Sunday, April 5th due to site maintenance.

Last Updated April 2, 2009 at 8:27AM

We are currently entering transcripts into the application that were received on 04.01.09. THIS APPLICATION IS FOR APPLICANTS WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR ENTRY INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL IN 2009. THE 2010 APPLICATION WILL BE OPEN IN EARLY MAY 2009.

Last Updated April 1, 2009 at 8:17AM

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

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

Username:

Password:

Need an AAMC Login username? [Register here.](#)

1. Identifying Information

2. Schools Attended

3. Biographic Information

4. Course Work

5. Work/Activities

6. Letters of Evaluation

7. Medical Schools

8. Essay(s)

9. Standardized Tests

MAIN MENU

ACCOUNT INFO

Applicant: Sdf Sdf

AAMC ID: 12297788

Status: Not Submitted to AMCAS
[Details](#)

- 1** [Identifying Information](#) Completed
- 2** [Schools Attended](#) Completed
- 3** [Biographic Information](#) Completed
- 4** [Course Work](#) Completed
- 5** [Work/Activities](#) Completed
- 6** [Letters of Evaluation](#) Completed
- 7** [Medical Schools](#) Completed
- 8** [Essay\(s\)](#) Completed
- 9** [Standardized Tests](#) Completed

[Submit Application](#)

[Print Application](#)

[Print Transcript Request Form](#)

[Academic Change Request](#)

[Edit Password](#)

[Withdraw Application](#)



General Tips

- Complete all sections
- Pay attention to detail, accuracy
- Proofread
 - Spelling
 - Grammar





General Tips

- Use proper case
John Anthony Jones

Not

john anthony jones

JOHN ANTHONY JONES

jOHN aTHONEY jONES





Sections to review today:

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





Course Work

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





Course Work

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





Course Work

- Accuracy affects speed of verification
 - Less than 10 errors, will be edited
 - If more, application may be returned
 - If returned after deadline, application is disqualified





Work/Activities

- Our medical school seeks well-rounded applicants with experience in
 - Healthcare
 - Volunteer/community service
 - Leadership and responsibility
- Our medical school looks for patterns of sustained interest and commitment





Work/Activities

- Select type
 - Paid Employment - not Military
 - Paid Employment - Military
 - Community Service/Volunteer - not Medical/Clinical
 - Community Service/Volunteer - Medical/Clinical
 - *Research/Lab*
 - *Teaching/Tutoring*





Work/Activities

- Select type
 - *Honors/Awards/Recognitions*
 - *Conferences Attended*
 - *Presentations/Posters*
 - *Extracurricular/Hobbies/Avocations*
 - Leadership - not Listed Elsewhere
 - *Intercollegiate Athletics*
 - *Artistic Endeavors*
 - *Other*

If more than 15, combine related and less important





Work/Activities

- Provide
 - Experience Type
 - Experience Name
 - Hours per week
 - Organization
 - Contact Name and Title
 - Country, City
 - Description (define or do not use abbreviations)





Work/Activities

EXPERIENCE

Experience Type: Community Service/Volunteer - Medical/Clinical **Dates:** **Hours/Week:**
Experience Name:
Contact Name & Title:
Organization Name:
City / State / Country:
Experience Description: Volunteered in a nursing home during the summer of 2005.

Does this impress you?





Work/Activities

EXPERIENCE

Experience Type: Community Service/Volunteer - Medical/Clinical
Experience Name: nursing home volunteer
Contact Name & Title: Mary Smith, RN, Director of Nursing
Organization Name: Community Nursing Home
City / State / Country: Madison / MS / United States of America
Experience Description:

Dates: 05/2005-08/2005 **Hours/Week:** 30

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

How could this be improved?





Work/Activities

EXPERIENCE

Experience Type: Community Service/Volunteer - Medical/Clinical **Dates:** 05/2005-08/2005 **Hours/Week:** 30
Experience Name: Nursing home volunteer
Contact Name & Title: Mary Smith, RN, Director of Nursing
Organization Name: Community Nursing Home
City / State / Country: Madison / MS / United States of America
Experience Description:

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

Better!





Letters

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





Essay - Personal Comments

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





Essay - Personal Comments

- Tell the committee
 - Who you are
 - Why you want to become a physician
- Make it about you
 - Give yourself credit
 - Be honest and forthright
- Use positive language
- Proofread carefully
- Show your passion!





Essay - Personal Comments

“I have attended college, made the grades and MCAT, and covered all of the bases. I did all of this so that I can be a doctor.”

Does this show effort or passion?





Essay - Personal Comments

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

Thoughtful, compassionate!





Biographic Information

- Provide all contact and background information
- Parents
 - Name
 - Living or deceased
 - Highest level of education and school
- Siblings
 - Number
 - Age





Biographic Information

- Since 2004, Mississippi statute requires Criminal Background Checks (CBCs) based on finger prints for all health care providers, including students
- Number of other states requiring CBCs increasing
- Medical schools nationwide are conducting CBCs before students enroll





Biographic Information

- Goal of CBCs is patient safety
- Main concern: Applicants with a history of violent crimes
- Also of concern: Applicants with a pattern of at risk behavior





Biographic Information

- You must self disclosure in AMCAS
 - Misdemeanor convictions
 - Felony Convictions
 - Other than honorary discharge from military
 - Institutional Actions (academic or social probation)





Biographic Information

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

When in doubt; report!





Summary: Your application

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

*Show us you care and are prepared
to enter medical school!*





Contact Information

Steven T. Case, PhD
Associate Dean for Admissions

Peggy Miller Davis, MD, MBA
Director of Admissions

University of Mississippi School of Medicine
601-984-5010

AdmitMD@som.umsmed.edu

<http://som.umc.edu/admissions.html>

