

~~Recommendation~~ Letters for Medical School Applicants



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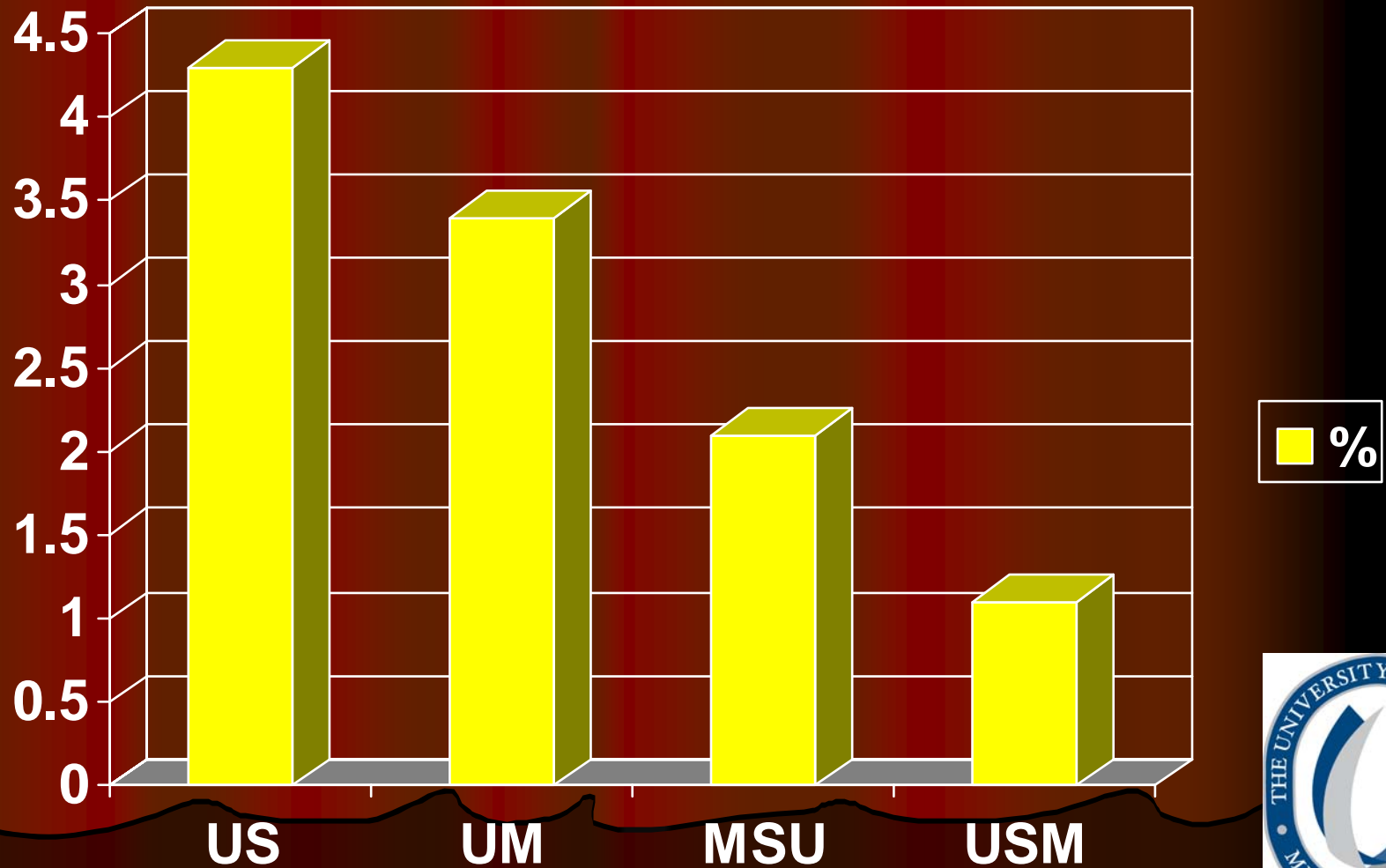
Why is UMC here?

- Mississippi has the fewest MDs per capita and severe healthcare needs
- UMC increasing medical school class size to train more MDs
- Policy to limit applications to Mississippi residents will remain in effect so long as size of applicant pool remains sufficient.

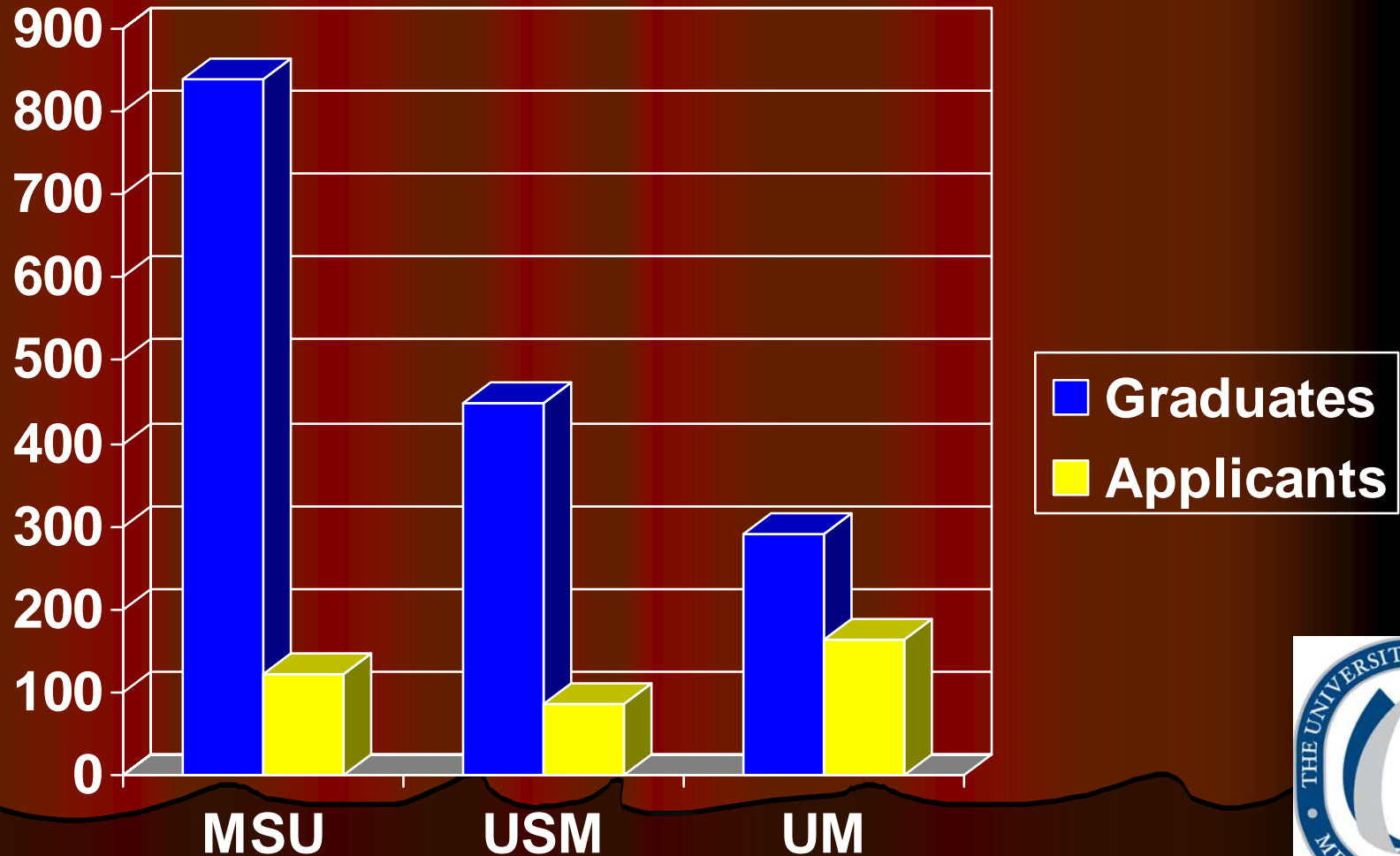


Applicant Yield 2001-2004

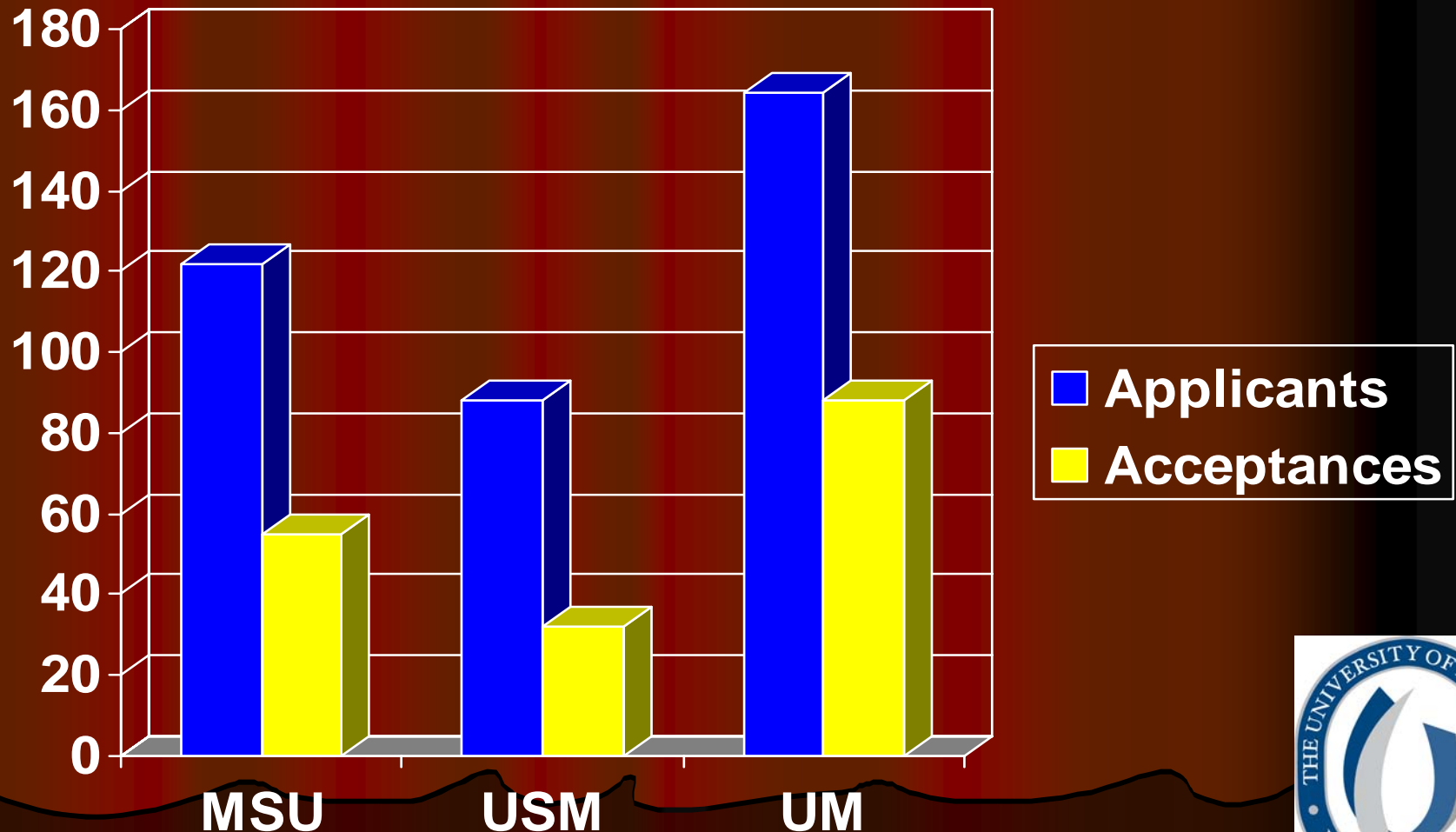
[(Applicants/Graduates) x 100]



Biological Science Graduates and Applicants 2001-2004



Biological Science Applicants and Acceptances 2001-2004



MSU Should Be Part of the Solution!

- Graduation rate of MSU alumni attending UMC School of Medicine same as all other schools
- MSU has
 - Large student body
 - Strong science & engineering programs
 - Prerequisites offered at multiple times
 - New pre-professional advising office



How can MSU faculty help?

- Encourage students who seek careers in medicine
- Know what UMC seeks in applicants
- Send prospective applicants to counseling
 - MSU Preprofessional Advising Office
 - UMC School of Medicine Admissions Office
- Write effective evaluation letters



UMC seeks applicants...

- Committed to studying and training to become healthcare providers
 - All majors welcome, including non-science
 - Average 26 degrees in each entering class
 - Core science and math requirements
 - Biology I and II
 - General Chemistry I and II
 - Organic Chemistry I and II
 - Physics I and II
 - [Algebra and Trigonometry] or Calculus I



UMC seeks applicants...

- Willing to learn how to take and prepare for standardized tests [MCAT]
- With personal experience interacting with people in the context of
 - Medicine/health-related activities
 - Volunteer work/community service
 - Leadership/responsibility



UMC seeks applicants...

- With personal attributes and communication skills that will enable effective and compassionate delivery of healthcare
- Students who exhibit professional behavior



Professionalism

- Applies to
 - Applicants
 - Students (UMC Professionalism Policy 2/2005)
 - Residents (growing concern nationally)
 - Physicians
- Past behavior is the best predictor of future behavior



Professionalism

- **Altruism:** unselfish regard for the welfare of others
- **Accountability:** obligation or willingness to accept responsibility
- **Excellence:** exceeds ordinary expectations



Professionalism

- **Duty:** fulfills obligations
- **Honor and integrity:** firm adherence to a code of ethical conduct
- **Respect for others:** respect or deference to feelings and beliefs of others



Faculty Evaluation Letters

- Indicate course(s) taught but no need to provide content, grades, class rank, etc.
- Describe effort student made, especially to overcome unsatisfactory performance
- Evaluate student's professionalism



Submission of Letters

- Do not send to UMC
- Applicant provides author Letter Request Form with tracking information
- Submit electronically:
 - AMCAS Letter Writer Application [LWA]
<http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/faq/amcasletterwriter.htm>
 - Virtual Evals
 - Interfolio
- Option to submit hard copy to
 - AMCAS
- UMC Premedical Faculty Evaluation Form available



Confidentiality

- Federal Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) provides student, but not applicant, access to files
- Previous hard/electronic copies of letters have been purged
- Electronic letters purged annually; new letters required each application cycle



Summary

- UMC seeks faculty evaluation letters for medical school applicants that evaluate
 - Academic effort
 - Professionalism
- An evaluation may or may not be a recommendation!



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