



SO, YOU WANT TO APPLY TO MEDICAL SCHOOL?

Medical School Admissions Committees vary, but there are some near-universal truths for those thinking about applying to medical school. Below, members of our Admissions Committee share their insights.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK.

Why do you want to be a doctor? Make certain. Get insight into the career, show the admissions committees that you know what you will be getting into. Also, know details about the schools to which you are applying.

KNOW YOURSELF.

Be reflective about your career goals and what is a match for you. If you are struggling in your science courses regularly, not connecting well with patients, perhaps being a doctor isn't for you. That's OK! Don't force this. Be genuine.

SEEK ADVISEMENT.

Medical students, admissions officers, physicians – we are all here to help demystify the process of getting into medical and graduate school. Use your resources wisely throughout your journey.

FIT.

Not all medical schools are created equal. Make three lists: 1) What a medical school must have, 2) What would be nice to have at medical school and 3) A list of things that you don't want at medical school.

THE TRIFECTA OF EXPERIENCE.

Admissions committees are looking for experiences that give you three things: 1. Career insight 2. Service work 3. Patient interaction.

QUALITY VS. QUANTITY.

Don't do everything. Find a few things and do them well. Stay committed and rise to levels of leadership within these activities.

GRADES & MCAT.

Yes, they matter, but not because admissions committees want to judge your path. We are in charge of admitting to medical school students who can and will succeed. Having to dismiss a student from medical school is the single worst part of our job — we try to avoid it.

ADDRESS DEFICIENCIES.

If there are gaps or blips in your application, don't leave it to members of the Admissions Committee to imagine what happened. Address anything of concern and explain it. Maybe it has taught you how to overcome challenges, making you a better applicant and, perhaps, a future physician.

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