

# Medical School Application and Admission Timeline

## Wells College Health Careers Advisory Committee



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\* Adapted from the AMCAS Application and Admission Timeline

It is important that you start planning for your application to medical school as soon as you begin your college career. Most medical schools require a specific set of common classes including two semesters each of biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, physics and English. Keep in mind that there are different types of medical schools you can apply to including allopathic, osteopathic, US based and offshore schools.

Medical schools are extremely competitive. In addition to performing well in your classes, you must also earn a good score on your MCAT. The exact score you need on your MCAT varies from school to school. While you are in college, you should be cultivating relationships with medical professionals who you can later ask to write you a letter of recommendation. Internships are a very good way to get experience in the field with a medical professional and get academic credit. Throughout your career you should be thinking about what you can do to differentiate yourself from other medical school applicants.

### **College Year 1**

#### **Fall semester**

- Meet with a health careers advisor to discuss your future plans.
  - Sketch out a plan for completing the courses required for medical school.
- Begin classes required for medical school and your major (if known).
- Identify experiential learning opportunities (EOL) to complete during the winter intersession. We suggest that you use the intersession to pursue EOLs within career fields that are not in your primary area of interest, but that do intrigue you. This short exposure (2-3 weeks) is a useful way to add/eliminate career options that you are considering. If you intend to get academic credit for an EOL, there are additional guidelines and due dates you must adhere to.

#### **Spring semester**

- Identify summer EOLs relevant to your goals, and apply for them. Complete available second-semester classes required for health career schools and your major (if known).

#### **Summer**

- Complete your summer EOL. Be sure to ask your on-site supervisor to complete the evaluation forms provided by Wells for the files of the College and the Health Careers Advisory committee, who will use this information when writing your committee letter.

## **College Year 2**

### **Fall semester**

- Check in with your Health Career advisors to discuss progress in classes and EOLs.
- Continue with additional class (es) required for medical school.
- Identify relevant EOLs to apply for and complete during the winter intersession.
- Attend any graduate/professional school fairs or visits.

### **Spring semester**

- Identify summer EOLs.
- Complete second-semester class(es) required for health career schools and your major.
- Attend any graduate/professional school fairs or visits.

### **Summer**

- Complete EOL

## **College Year 3** (When the application work really begins!)

### **Fall semester**

- Check in with the Health Career advisors to discuss your progress in classes and EOLs.
- Complete any remaining class(es) required for health career schools and your major.
- Apply for winter intersession EOLs.
- **Consider engaging in independent research with a Wells advisor in the spring and college year 4.**
- Attend any graduate/professional school fairs or visits.
- Investigate the following webpages for important information about medical school applications:
  - Applying to medical school <http://www.aamc.org/students/applying/start.htm>
  - Medical schools in the US and Canada  
[http://services.aamc.org/memberlistings/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.search&search\\_type=MS](http://services.aamc.org/memberlistings/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.search&search_type=MS)
  - Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)  
<http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm>
  - AAMC Fee Assistant Program <http://www.aamc.org/students/applying/fap/start.htm>
- Begin preparation and register for the desired MCAT test date. Visit the MCAT website for available test dates.
  - <http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm>

### **Spring semester**

- Check in with your Health Careers advisors to:
  - Discuss progress in classes and EOLs.
  - Discuss potential health career schools (off-shore, US, allopathic, osteopathic).
  - Review deadlines for receipt of letters of recommendation, the AMCAS application (and deadlines for specific medical schools), and MCAT test dates.

- Request letters of recommendation from supervisors of your relevant EOLs, research experiences and professors (especially those teaching classes required by the schools you are planning to apply to).
  - Submit a list of the names and titles of the people who wrote or will write you letters of recommendation. This will help the Health Careers advisory committee keep track of which letters have or have not arrived.
  - All letters of recommendation must be submitted on appropriate letterhead, with the name and title of the writer typed. Letters on inappropriate letterhead or where the name and title of the writer are illegible will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to inform the letter writers of these requirements. Letters should be in a sealed envelope with the name of recommender signed across the seal, or they may be electronically submitted to a Wells College Health Careers advisor.
- PREPARE FOR TAKING THE MCAT! Buy a book, take a class or get a tutor. A lot is riding on your score on this test – you absolutely must be prepared. Make a schedule for MCAT preparation and stick to it.
- Take the MCAT (if desired).
- Continue to complete class (es) required for health career schools and your major.
- Apply for summer EOLs.

## Summer

- Begin to write your personal statement. Ask friends and family for their comments. Bring that statement to your Health Careers advisor for input and help with proofreading.
- Letters of Recommendation –JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>
  - Make sure all letters of recommendation are to the Health Careers advisory committee by July 1<sup>st</sup>! If you would like a letter from a supervisor for an experience completed in this summer, talk to the Health Careers advisors. All other letters should be received by July 1<sup>st</sup>! This is to ensure that the letters are received in time to write a committee letter.
- Complete the AMCAS application.
- MCAT – SECOND FULL WEEK IN JULY
  - Take the MCAT no later than the second full week in July. This is to ensure that the scores are received in time to write a committee letter.
  - Prepare the LIST OF SCHOOLS to which you intend to apply by AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>
- CURRENT CV – JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>
  - Your CV should have the following information:
    - Health care experience (What contact have you had with sick people or animals? How have you prepared yourself with a realistic picture of what a career in the health professions is all about?)
    - Work (Other work related experience)
    - Service (How have you shown commitment to helping and understanding the needs of animals/others?)
    - Extracurricular (Leadership roles you have taken, initiatives you have taken, creativity)

- Research or Independent work
- Teaching (TA, prep, tutor)
- Review the following webpages:
  - Recommendations concerning medical school acceptance procedures <http://www.aamc.org/students/applying/policies/applicants.htm>
  - Applicant responsibilities <http://www.aamc.org/students/applying/policies>
- Consider what your plans will be if you do not get accepted into the school of your choice. Are there other areas you would consider? Will you delay your application? What will you do in the meantime, after you graduate?

## **College Year 4**

### **Fall semester**

- Complete supplementary application materials for schools you've applied to.
- Check in with your Health Careers advisor about completion of school specific requirements and the status of the application for schools to which you've applied.
- Continue with research or looking for appropriate EOLs.
- Interview at Health Careers schools (if requested).
- Continue with your major requirements.

### **Spring semester**

- Make decisions about Health Careers school choices.
- Notify schools you will not be attending as soon as possible.
- Make sure all IRS forms are submitted as soon as possible.
- Continue with research or looking for relevant EOLs.
- Consider other options: applying again, other health careers, different schools, a new area completely, graduate school. Discuss options with your academic advisor as well as the Health Careers advisory committee.
- Continue with your major requirements.
- Graduate!

## **NOTES ABOUT DUE DATES/DEADLINES**

The due dates and deadlines for specific items are absolute and are in place to help maximize your chances of getting into the school of your choice. Please review the deadlines and go over them with a Health Careers advisor. The due dates for medical schools vary, but start as early as Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Many schools in the area (SUNY Upstate, UB, Weill) have October 15<sup>th</sup> deadlines. Although your application will be considered as long as it is received before the deadline, it is highly recommended that you submit your application as early as possible, preferably before the start of the fall semester. Medical schools begin to review applications as early as the end of June, so the sooner you can get all your materials together the better your chances.

If you are planning to apply to medical school for the Fall of 2012, you must complete your application in the Fall of the previous year (2011). Due dates for specific materials and information are given below:

- MCAT –NO LATER THAN THE SECOND FULL WEEK OF JULY
  - You must take the MCAT no later than the *second full week of July* of the year before you wish to matriculate (e.g. the second full week of July of 2011 to matriculate in Fall 2012). This is to ensure we receive the scores with enough time to incorporate them into a committee letter. You should register for your desired MCAT test date 60 days prior to the date – don't put it off until the last minute.
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION – JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>
  - ALL of your letters of recommendation MUST be received no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year before you wish to matriculate. To ensure that letters are received on time, you should have your supervisor from your most recent EOL send one to the Health Careers committee IMMEDIATELY after completing the experience. All other letters should be received by July 1<sup>st</sup>! This is to ensure that the letters are received in time to write a committee letter.
- CURRICULUM VITAE – JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>
  - See above for a description of what you should include in your CV. A CV is crucial for the Health Careers advisory committee to write the best letter possible. Visit our Director of Experiential Learning and Career Services, Eric Vaughn, for help with your CV if you need it.
- LIST OF SCHOOLS – AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>
- If you have been out of Wells College for a year or more and are considering applying to medical school, you must submit letters of recommendation, a current CV and take the MCAT. You must adhere to all the date described. In addition, you should also submit a brief summary of what you have been doing since you graduated. It should include any new skills you have learned and any new relevant experiences. It should be sent as a word document (spell checked, proper grammar, punctuation, etc).