OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS PROCESS

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Director of Admissions

UWSOM is Committed to:

• The states of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI)
• Training physicians of all specialties to practice in the region
  • Recognizing the special importance of training primary care doctors
• Contributing to biomedical research
• Providing educational opportunities for educationally and economically disadvantaged
**Expectations**

**All Applicants**
- Meet our mission
- Knowledge of being a physician
- Understanding of current issues facing medicine
- Understanding of socio-economic determinants in health
- Academic ability
- Analytical thinking
- Communication and interpersonal skills

**Non-WWAMI Applicants**
- Extensive record of service with underserved
- Disadvantaged background

**Holistic Review**
Application Process

- MCAT Exam
  - Before 9/30 AM

- AMCAS
  - Application
    - Submit by 10/15

- Secondary Application
  - Received by 12/1

- Screening for Interview

- Interviews
  - 10/1-3/1

- Decision
  - 10/15-3/1

AMCAS: The Primary Application

Deadline: October 15th, 2019

AMCAS® Processing Fee:
$170 (includes one medical school designation).
Additional medical school designations: $40 each.
AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP)

- Reduced MCAT registration fees
  - from $315 to $125
- The Official Guide to the MCAT Exam and other MCAT preparation materials
- Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) ($54 value)
- Waiver for all AMCAS fees for one application submission (up to 20 medical schools) ($930 value)

https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/what-are-benefits-fee-assistance-program/

Pre-Medical Course Requirements

- 4 semesters or 6 quarters of Social Sciences, Humanities, or “Human Condition”
- 6 semesters or 9 quarters of Chemistry and Biology
  - general chemistry, general biology, biochemistry, molecular genetics, and cell biology/cell physiology
- 2 semesters or 3 quarters of Physics; or 1 semester or 2 quarters of Physics plus 1 semester or 2 quarters of calculus or linear algebra

- Recommended: Ethics, Anatomy or Comparative Anatomy, Human or Mammalian Physiology, and Embryology
**Disadvantaged Status**

From AMCAS:

"Do you wish to be considered a disadvantaged applicant by any of your designated medical schools that may consider such factors (social, economic or educational)?"

Underserved
Immediate Family Situations/Circumstances
State and/or Federal Aid
Work/Activities

- Insightful reflections on:
  - Domestic Physician Shadowing
  - Community Service
  - Patient Contact
  - Leadership Positions
  - Research
  - Employment
  - Military
  - Sports, Hobbies, Interests, or any activities that are meaningful

Other Biographic Information

- Institutional Actions

- Misdemeanor Conviction

- Felony Conviction
UWSOM Secondary Application

• Additional statements
• Letters of recommendation
• CASPer
• Residency certification/eligibility
• $35 application fee

• Deadline: December 1st, 2019

Secondary Statements

• Autobiographical Statement Addendum
• How have societal inequities in the U.S. affected you or patients you’ve worked with?
• How have your experiences prepared you to be a physician?
• What perspectives or experiences do you bring that would enrich the class?
• What obstacles to your goals have you experienced and how have you dealt with them?

• For re-applicants: From your most recent application until now, how have you strengthened your application?
Special Programs

**Targeted Rural Underserved Track (TRUST)**
- Underserved rural or underserved small city experience
- Open to all WWAMI applicants

**Community-focused Underserved Scholars Program (CUSP)**
- Urban underserved
- Open to Washington applicants and non-WWAMI applicants with ties to Washington state

Letters of Recommendation

- Required: a committee letter or 3 letters of recommendation
- Well-rounded picture of applicant

- An additional 3 letters will be accepted

- **Academic ability**
- **Commitment to service**
- **Leadership potential**
- **Clinical or research experiences**
- **Interpersonal skills**
- **Interaction with patients**
- **Ability to function on a team**
- **Potential as a physician**
- **Respect for others**
- **Compassion**
- **Maturity**
- **Communication skills**
- **Work ethic**
Additional Comments RE: Letters

- Letters could include:
  - Strengths/emerging strengths of the applicant
  - Unique characteristics
  - Applicant’s response to disappointing or stressful situations
  - Reasons why you feel that the applicant should become a physician

- Committee letters should include a ranking (e.g. excellent, outstanding, average, etc.)

- Avoid rehashing academics/metrics

CASPer

Your role is the more experienced employee
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  - Received by 12/1
- **Interview**
  - 10/1-3/31
- **Acceptance**
  - 10/15-3/31

**Preliminary Screening**

- Applicants with low GPA AND low MCAT score could be rejected
  - Applicants with 3.0 GPA and w/o post-bacc or graduate coursework is rejected
  - Wyoming and Montana applicants below the cut off will be reviewed for a secondary

- International students without United States permanent residency or citizenship will be rejected
  - WWAMI DACA residents (verified by residency office) will be considered for admission

- Applicants who have three previous applications will be rejected
MCAT-GPA Table

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Preliminary Screening (cont.)

• WWAMI applicants above the academic cut off will get a secondary

• Non-WWAMI applicants above the academic cut off may get a secondary if they:
  • Demonstrate commitment to working with underserved
  • Come from a disadvantaged background
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  - 10/1-3/31

- Acceptance
  - 10/15-3/31

Screening Applications

- Complete applications are reviewed by two to three screeners for an invitation to interview.

- Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho applicants with a negative outcome will get a final review.

- For Washington Applicants:
  - CUSP and TRUST Screens

- Decision to extend an interview can take up to 6 weeks.
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  - 10/1-3/4

Think of the interview as a supplement to your application

**What we get from the application**
- Motivation
- Clinical exposure
- Service
- Leadership
- Research
- Other’s opinions of you
- Academic ability

**What we get from the interview**
- Motivation
- Communication skill/empathy
- How well you know yourself
- Problem solving skill
- Evidence of curiosity
- Understanding what you are getting into
Interview

- Panel interviews
  - 3 interviewers to 1 applicant
  - 30 minutes
- Interviewers are partially blinded to MCAT scores and grades
  - EXCOM interviewer has complete file
- Interview impressions and recommendations are forwarded to Executive Committee

Interview Day

- Interviews take place in Anchorage, Bozeman, Laramie, Moscow, Seattle, and Spokane
- Applicants will be considered comparatively to others interviewing at the same site
- Includes tour of facilities, meeting current students and/or faculty, and lunch
Interview Resources

- Interviewee Private Website
  - Video introducing interview format
  - Practice questions
  - Curriculum and financial aid information
  - Directions and lodging information

- More practice questions on https://www.uwmedicine.org/school-of-medicine/admissions/interview
  - Interview dates also posted on public admissions site

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- Screening for Interview
- EXCOM Meetings
- Interview
  - 10/1-3/4

- Decision
  - 10/15-3/11
**Decision**

- Applications are reviewed throughout the season (“rolling admissions”) by the Executive Committee
- Timing of decisions are affected by competitiveness of the applicant pool
- All applicants will be notified of final decisions by the end of March

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Disappointed Applicants

• Applicants are encouraged to reapply
  • Demonstrate growth from previous application
    • New essays
    • New experiences

• Check out UWSOM resources
  • Annual Forum Sessions
  • One-on-One Feedback

For More Information

Visit Our Website
http://www.uwmedicine.org/admissions
  • Advice from the Admissions Dean
  • Application procedure
  • Resources to prepare your application
  • FAQs

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QUESTIONS