Navigating the 2024 AMCAS Application Cycle

Candice Pantor
Manager, Admissions Communications

Jena Wimsatt
Digital Communications & Outreach Specialist
Agenda

• AMCAS Application
  • AMCAS Process
  • 2024 Dates and Participation
  • 2024 Application

• Verification

• After Submission

• AMCAS Letter Service
  • The Letter Writer Application
  • Letter Guidelines

• Resources
How does AMCAS work?

**Application Submitted**
- Applicant completes & submits AMCAS application online
- Applicant pays submission fees (or uses valid Fee Assistance Program benefits)

**Application Processed**
- Applicant arranges for all required official transcripts to be sent to AMCAS
- AMCAS performs verification of coursework and calculates AMCAS GPAs

**Application Delivered**
- AMCAS distributes verified application to designated med schools
- AMCAS delivers letters to designated med schools as they are received
# 2024 Application Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date*</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>2024 AMCAS resources available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>AMCAS application opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>AMCAS application submission begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30</td>
<td>Initial transmission of application data to medical schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Early Decision Program deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.-Dec.</td>
<td>Application deadlines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dates subject to change

**Application Deadlines**

- Application must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. ET of the deadline date.
- Transcript deadlines must be received by AMCAS within 14 calendar days of the application deadline date.
- Must be received by August 1 for early decision applicants.
- Visit [www.aamc.org/amcasdeadlines](http://www.aamc.org/amcasdeadlines)
## 2024 AMCAS Participation

### Tentative 2024 Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number of Schools/Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application</td>
<td>153 Schools/Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All MD granting schools</td>
<td>in the United States with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the exception of MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>programs at Texas public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCAS Letters</td>
<td>151 Schools/Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Background</td>
<td>126 Schools/Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2024 AMCAS Application Fees:

- $175 processing fee (includes one school designation)
- $45 for each additional school

aamc.org/amcas
Accessing the Application
AAMC Registration

Applicants should only complete registration if they do not have an AAMC ID.
My AAMC Profile

![AAMC Profile Screen](image-url)
Select “2024 Application Cycle”
AMCAS Main Menu
AMCAS Main Menu
AMCAS Main Menu

Quick Links
- Academic Change Request
- Update Advisor Release
- Learn more about the AAMC Fee Assistance Program
- View AMCAS Participating Medical Schools and Deadlines
- Find AMCAS resources on the Tools and Tutorials page
- Visit the AMCAS website
- Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)
- Review AMCAS transcript processing timelines

My Document Statuses
- Transcripts (0)
  - You have no transcripts attached to your application
- Letters of Evaluation (0)
  - You have no letters attached to your application

Follow us on Twitter

View all document statuses
### 2024 AMCAS Application Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Experience Type</th>
<th>Biographic Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Social Justice/Advocacy&quot; in the AMCAS Web App Work/Activities section</td>
<td>“Other Impactful Experiences” is replacing the self-reported &quot;Disadvantaged Status&quot; question, including new help text</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutional Actions</th>
<th>Preview™ Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Conduct” and/or “Academic” filters as a dropdown within the existing Institutional Action question</td>
<td>An optional field to indicate an upcoming Preview™ exam and the date of the exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun &amp; Gender Identity</th>
<th>Help Texts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Update to the “Other” labels for Pronoun and Gender Identity</td>
<td>Update to Essay prompts and Certification statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Identifying Information
Schools Attended
Schools Attended

Transcript Request

Note: One official transcript is required from each U.S., U.S. Territorial, or Canadian post-secondary institution at which you have attempted course work, regardless of whether credit was earned.

If you click Yes, you must have an official transcript sent to AMCAS by the Registrar’s Office of the institution.

If you click No, this means that you are submitting a Transcript Exception Request and does not preclude you from transcript requirements. AMCAS will review your request and notify you if your Transcript Exception is not granted. This may result in delays for processing your application.

Does AMCAS require an official transcript from this school? Generally, a transcript is required. Please review this additional information if you need assistance in determining if a transcript is required.

- Yes
- No
Schools Attended
Biographic Information
Other Impactful Experiences

To provide some additional context around each individual’s application, admissions committees are interested in learning more about the challenges applicants may have overcome in life. The following question is designed to give you the opportunity to provide additional information about yourself that is not easily captured in the rest of the application.

Please consider whether this question applies to you. Medical schools do not expect all applicants to answer “yes” to this question. This question is intended for applicants who have overcome major challenges or obstacles. Some applicants may not have experiences that are relevant to this question. Other applicants may not feel comfortable sharing personal information in their application.

Have you overcome challenges or obstacles in your life that you would like to describe in more detail? This could include lived experiences related to your family background, financial background, community setting, educational experiences, and/or other life circumstances.

How should I know if I should answer “Yes” to this question?

- Yes
- No

Example Experiences

- Family background: serving as a caretaker of a family member (e.g., siblings, parent/guardian), first generation to college.
- Community setting: rural area, food scarcity, high poverty or crime rates, lack of access to regular healthcare (e.g., primarily used urgent care clinics or emergency room, no primary care physician).
- Financial background: low-income family, worked to support family growing up, worked-study to pay for college, federal/state financial support.
- Educational experiences: limited educational opportunities, limited access to advisors or counselors who were knowledgeable/supportive of higher education requirements.
- Other general life circumstances that were beyond your control and impacted your life and/or prepared barriers.

Writing Instructions

- Select the most impactful experiences. Describe the challenges or hardships you consider most impactful in your life.
- Write about how your experiences impacted your life. Write about any topics you deem important to discuss, including information that might be mentioned elsewhere in your application (e.g., your personal statement).
- You can use the space provided in this question to further elaborate on those topics, if desired.
- Use a narrative style format. Describe your impactful experiences in a narrative format to help admissions committees understand your story, but be mindful of the 1,205 character limit.
Coursework

You must enter all of the courses you took at each school. Prior to entering your coursework, you are encouraged to watch some brief tutorials that will guide you through the process of entering your coursework. Click on the links below to learn about the process of entering coursework:

- Watch Basic Coursework Tutorial
- Watch AP Coursework/Credit Tutorial
- Watch Current and Future Coursework Tutorial (where you have not yet earned a grade)
- Watch Study Abroad Coursework Tutorial

Please review additional information about coursework in the AMCAS Applicant Guide.

If you do not need to enter coursework for any of your schools attended, please select None for the applicable school(s). In order for AMCAS to process your application, all required coursework must be entered. Please refer to the AMCAS Applicant Guide for more information about entering coursework.
Coursework

You should use a personal copy of your official transcript to complete this section.
Coursework Tips

• Include plus or minus grades.
• The AMCAS academic year begins with the summer term.
• Include your Physical Education courses.
• Have course descriptions available when entering course classifications and review the course classification chart thoroughly.
• If you applied in a previous year, update your final grades.
• Include your original alpha grade for all attempts of a repeated course.
Coursework: Things to Avoid!

• If your transcript shows letter grades do not enter numeric grades or quality points in the grade field.

• Do not enter the course number as the course name.
  • For example: BIO 101 Intro to Biology should be entered as Course Name: Intro to Biology and Course Name: BIO 101 NOT Course Name "BIO" Course Number “101”.

• Do not enter special symbols or characters when entering the courses name and course number.

• Do not enter your summer courses in the wrong year.
  • For example: If your course was taken in the summer of 2020 it goes in AY 2020-2021 in the AMCAS application.
Coursework: Things to Avoid!

- **Do not** classify Physics classes as *Natural Physical Science*. The classification for Physics courses is as **Physics (PHYS)**.

- If any course has both a lecture and a lab component, **do not** list both grades in a single entry.
  - For example: Biology Lecture B+ Biology Lab C+ **do not enter** Biology B+/C+

- **Do not** omit withdrawals or repeated courses.

- **Do not** forget to add Advanced Placement courses.

- If your application is returned for 10+ missing courses, do not omit any courses when you resubmit.
Work/Activities

Maximum of 15 entries
- You can enter additional date ranges for repeated activities
- You can enter anticipated hours
- Maximum of 3 “Most Meaningful”
Work/Activities
Work/Activities: Tips

• Work and activities will appear on your application in chronological order and you cannot rearrange them.

• When writing your response for your “Most Meaningful”, you might want to consider the transformative nature of the experience, the impact you made while engaging in the activity, and the personal growth you experienced as a result of your participation.

• You can indicate anticipated hours if you will complete any additional hours for an experience. The start date must be the current month and year or later, and the latest end date you can select is August 2024.
Work/Activities: Things to think about

• How does this experience impact my future profession in medicine?
• Be mindful that medical schools are trying to determine how you have tested out your decision of pursuing medicine.
• Enter only significant experiences.
• Include clinical and non-clinical activities – especially activities where you have led projects and/or people.
• Some schools have required experiences.
Letters of Evaluation

You can submit your application before AMCAS receives your letters.
You should be sure to select the correct program type and be mindful of program and transcript deadlines.
Essay

Personal Comments Essay

Some questions you may want to consider while drafting this essay are:

- Why have you selected the field of medicine?
- What motivates you to learn more about medicine?
- What do you want medical schools to know about you that hasn’t been disclosed in another section of the application?

In addition, you may wish to include information such as:

- Special hardships, challenges or obstacles that may have influenced your educational pursuits
- Commentary on significant fluctuations in your academic record which are not explained elsewhere in your application

Personal Comments Essay

Consider and write your Personal Comments carefully; many admissions committees place significant weight on this section. Make sure you proofread carefully because no changes may be made after you submit your application. What information should I consider including in my personal comments?

Use the space provided to explain why you want to go to medical school.

5,300 characters left of 5,300
MD/PhD Essay

Please state your reasons for wishing to pursue the combined MD/PhD degree.

Your response will only be forwarded to your designated MD/PhD program(s).

Significant Research Hours

Please enter your total hours of prior research experience.

Significant Research Essay

Your response will only be forwarded to your designated MD/PhD program(s).

If your research resulted in a publication on which you were an author, please provide the full citation in the Work/Activities section of your application.

Please describe your significant research experiences. In your statement, please specify your research supervisor's name and affiliation, the duration of the experience, the nature of the problem studied, and your contributions to the project.

Your response will only be forwarded to your designated MD/PhD program(s).
Essay: Things to think about

• By the end of reading your statement, the reader should understand why you want to be a physician.

• Admissions officers want to learn something about you that they can’t find in any other part of your application.

• When you consider what to write, think about the series of events in your life that have led up to the point where you are applying to medical school.
Essay Quick Tips

- Proofread your essay
- Check for spelling errors
- Read it BACKWARDS
- Read it “Out Loud”
- Have mentors and loved ones review it
- Make sure that it’s your statement – though others might have suggestions, the final document is yours and must reflect your reason(s) for pursuing medicine
Essay Do’s and Don’ts

DO

• Make sure your statement addresses your reason(s) for wanting to pursue medicine
• Have a lot of people review it – friends, colleagues, mentors, letter writers
• Be mindful that “all” medical schools will receive the same AMCAS application
• Check and re-check for grammatical and spelling issues – your application is your first impression

DON’T

• Speak in generalities
• Be informal
• Include/restate everything in your activities section in your personal statement
• Make your statement “too personal” – you should be able to talk about the personal statement contents in an interview
Will the upcoming Supreme Court decisions on race-conscious admissions impact what I can share about myself in the medical school application essays?

The Harvard and UNC cases both involve challenges to what *colleges and universities* may consider in making admissions decisions; neither case challenges what an *applicant* may share about themselves.

Each individual *medical school is the authoritative source* on what that school is looking for in its applicants.

Medical schools seek to understand who you are as an individual, including your *identities, communities, and experiences*, and how these relate to your motivation for pursuing a career in medicine and your career goals.

Admissions officers tend to look for candidates with experiences, attributes, and metrics, and personal statements that *align with the school’s mission*.

Take the time to *reflect on your personal journey* and motivations for pursuing medicine.
Standardized Tests

MCAT scores are automatically released to your application.

Applicants should indicate any future MCAT testing dates.

aamc.org/mcat
Score breakdowns and confidence bands will appear in the application.
Standardized Tests

AAMC PREview™ Scores

Note: Your PREview Scores have not been loaded yet

PREview™ Exam Date (Optional)

Please remember to keep this information current, especially after initial submission, as it alerts medical schools when to expect your PREview exam scores.

Medical schools need to know if they should expect future PREview scores in support of your application. Do you have an upcoming or recently taken PREview exam date where official PREview scores have yet to be released?

- Yes
- No
AAMC PREview™ Exam

• The AAMC PREview™ professional readiness exam is formerly the AAMC Situational Judgment Test
• Several U.S. medical schools will accept AAMC PREview™ professional readiness exam scores for the AMCAS 2024 cycle
• Registration is OPEN!
aamc.org/preview
Certification Statements

Last step of application: certify data is accurate, submit, and pay processing fee.
AMCAS Verification Process

Transcripts
- All required official transcripts must be received before an application can join the verification queue
  - AMCAS accepts PDF eTranscripts from approved senders

Processing
- From date of “Ready to Review” application status, about 6 weeks
- Find processing on the AMCAS application sign in page
AMCAS Verification

Average number of business days to complete verification

- 2023AY
- 2022AY
- 2021AY
- 2020AY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2023AY</th>
<th>2022AY</th>
<th>2021AY</th>
<th>2020AY</th>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Application Reminders

- Criminal Background Checks
- Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants
Criminal Background Checks

- Participating schools have checks run on accepted or waitlisted applicants.
- Certiphi Screening, Inc. will notify applicants when the CBC has been initiated.
- Applicants have 10 calendar days to review their report.
- No additional charge to the applicant for this service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Status</th>
<th>CBC Procured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accepted, Early Decision Program</td>
<td>Upon Acceptance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted, Regular</td>
<td>After January 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate List</td>
<td>After May 15, by school’s request only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants

Recommendations to help ensure that all MD and MD-PhD applicants receive timely notification about the outcome of their AMCAS® application. These guidelines are not intended to supersede the policies, timelines, or discretion of individual schools or programs. Each applicant is expected to become familiar with the procedures and requirements of each school to which they apply.

The following steps are recommended to help ensure that all MD and MD-PhD applicants receive timely notification about the outcome of their applications, and to protect schools and programs from having unfilled positions in their entering classes. These protocols are often referred to as "Traffic Rules" by admissions officers and prehealth advisors. Prospective applicants, their advisors, and admission staff at medical schools and programs should all be aware of these Application and Acceptance Protocols for applicants. An applicant's actions during the admissions process should be conducted in the spirit of professionalism and ethics expected of a future physician.
AMCAS Tools

- AMCAS Applicant Guide
- AMCAS Application Workbook
- Application and Acceptance Protocols
- Video Tutorials
- Twitter
  - @AMCASinfo

aamc.org/amcas
Agenda

• AMCAS Application
  • AMCAS Process
  • 2024 Dates and Participation
  • 2024 Application

• Verification

• After Submission

• AMCAS Letter Service
  • The Letter Writer Application
  • Letter Guidelines

• Resources
Letters of Evaluation

Submission Methods:

• AMCAS Letter Writer Application
• Interfolio

Medical schools receive letters electronically, on a rolling basis after an application is verified

aamc.org/amcasletters
AMCAS Letter Writer Application

Welcome to the AMCAS Letter Writer Application

Login
If you have an AAMC account, please click the "Login" button below.
Login  Forget Password?

-OR-

Register For a New Account
If you do not have an account, click the "Register" button below to proceed.

About the AMCAS Letter Writer Application
The Letter Writer Application enables letter writers to upload PDF documents to AMCAS rather than send letters via the mail. Once the PDF document is uploaded to the Letter Writer Application and after the processing of the AMCAS application the documents are made available to the medical schools designated by the applicant. Please click "Help" after logging into the Letter Writer Application for instructions on uploading letters, or click HERE for a link to our public site which also contains detailed instructions.

The AAMC has established a centralized set of guidelines for letter writers. Please be sure to review these guidelines at www.aamc.org/amcasletters when writing letters of recommendation for applicants to medical schools.

Need Help?
Watch the Letter Writer Application video tutorial to get started. Send us an E-mail using our online form.

About AAMC User Accounts
All major AAMC applications, such as AAS, AMCAS, MCAT Tho, and the Fee Assistance Program use the same usernames and passwords. If you have used one of these systems please enter that username and password in the boxes to the left. Each user needs a separate AAMC account and you will need to register if you are uploading for an AMCAS applicant as you cannot use your applicant's/student's AAMC ID and password to upload documents.

Note: Medical schools may require your letters to be on official letterhead and include your signature.

services.aamc.org/letterwriter/
Letter Writer Guidelines

Ask your letter writer to visit aamc.org/advisors to access the Guidelines for Writing a Letter of Evaluation for a Medical School Applicant
AAMC Fee Assistance Program
AAMC Fee Assistance Program

• MCAT Benefit
  • Reduced registration fees
  • Access to all 15 online AAMC MCAT Official Prep Products
  • Stipend for updated evaluation for accommodations

• AMCAS Benefit
  • AMCAS application submission fee waiver for up to 20 schools

• MSAR Benefit
  • Complimentary access to the Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) website

• AAMC PREview™ Benefit
  • Waiver for AAMC PREview™ professional readiness exam registration fees

Benefits are NOT Retroactive
Program Eligibility

• U.S.-based home address
• Tied to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' poverty level guidelines
• Requires parental financial information and supporting tax documentation for applicants under 26
## Income Eligibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>Contiguous States, District of Columbia &amp; U.S. Territories</th>
<th>Alaska</th>
<th>Hawaii</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$54,360</td>
<td>$64,360</td>
<td>$62,520</td>
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<td>$73,240</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>$186,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>8+</td>
<td>$4,720 for each additional person.</td>
<td>$5,900 for each additional person.</td>
<td>$5,430 for each additional person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How the Fee Assistance Program Helped

- Waived secondary fees
- Scholarships
- Interview expenses
2023 Fee Assistance Program

aamc.org/fap
AAMC Fee Assistance Program

• What You Need to Apply
• 2023 Fee Assistance Program Essentials
• Fee Assistance Program FAQ’s

202-828-0600
fap@aamc.org
@AMCASinfo
AAMC Premed Navigator

Monthly e-newsletter for applicants and helpful web content.

students-residents.aamc.org/navigator
Anatomy of an Applicant

• Core Competencies
• Student Profiles

aamc.org/competencies
Contact Us

The AAMC is here to help you navigate the 2024 AMCAS® application cycle.

- 202-828-0600
- AMCAS Contact us
- @AMCASinfo
Good luck!

Please fill out the survey and tell us what you thought about this webinar!