

MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS AT UCA

Admission to medical school is very competitive, and admissions committees are looking for well-rounded applicants who possess specific core competencies (see link at the end of the document), a strong academic record and MCAT score, a history of medically related volunteer / work experience, and a commitment to the practice of medicine as a service profession. As an applicant, you should have a realistic expectation of your chances for success. If you are not competitive (low GPA, low MCAT score, lack of medically related volunteer, work, or shadowing experience), you should seriously consider deferring your application until you become more competitive.

While the medical school application process is long, involved, and expensive, it is also quite manageable if you are prepared, organized, patient, and attentive to detail. Below are steps involved in the application process at UCA.

Take the MCAT exam: This is a difficult exam and serious preparation is essential for success. **The average composite MCAT score and GPA for those accepted to UAMS for the Fall 2020 class is 509 (77th percentile) and 3.79, respectively.** Remember, however, that these are averages, and applicants are admitted with numbers less than these. Typically, MCAT scores > 500 and GPAs > 3.6 are competitive for UAMS. MCAT scores between 495-500 are less competitive, and MCAT scores < 495 fail to meet the competitive standard for admission at UAMS. Historically, the lowest MCAT score of any UCA applicant admitted to UAMS is 495 (30th percentile), and this student was exceptional in every other category. **If you apply to out of state medical schools, your MCAT score should be substantially higher than the average MCAT score for those schools in order for you to be competitive.** (see Average GPA & MCAT Score link at the end of the document).

Submit the AMCAS / TMDAS / AACOMAS application. (YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE YOU TAKE THE MCAT). If you are applying to allopathic medical schools (MD degree), you will apply through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). Go to www.aamc.org and click on the Students & Residents link. You can apply to as many medical schools as you choose (and can afford) through AMCAS, **but if you are an Arkansas resident, your chances of acceptance are best at UAMS, a fine medical school.** If you are applying to Texas medical schools (*except Baylor, which uses AMCAS*), you will apply through the Texas Medical and Dental School Application Service (TMDAS). If you are applying to osteopathic medical schools (DO degree), you will use the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS). **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW AND MEET ALL DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR APPLICATION MATERIALS!!** (*Understand that the UCA Premedical Advisory Committee deadline to submit the committee evaluation is later than the deadline for submission of your application materials – Our timeline is different than yours*).

After you have submitted your AMCAS application, contact UAMS to request a supplemental application and schedule an interview date with them. (*All UAMS College of Medicine interviews for 2021 applicants will be virtual interviews – dates to be determined later*). **Applicants who are Arkansas residents are interviewed by UAMS.** Non-Arkansas residents are interviewed by invitation only.

Arrange to get an official UCA committee evaluation (letter) from the UCA Premedical Advisory Committee and sign up for your UCA committee interview. Almost all medical schools require an official university committee evaluation. The UCA committee evaluation is a composite evaluation taken from 3-5 UCA faculty evaluators that you select plus the premedical advisory committee's impressions of you from your interview with us.

(You should ask 3-5 UCA faculty members who know you well to complete electronic evaluations for you. Contact them no later than Tuesday, August 25th and give them at least 2 weeks to complete your evaluations. The deadline for faculty to submit evaluations to the committee is Friday, September 25th).

In order for you to obtain a UCA committee evaluation **you must interview** with the UCA Premedical Advisory Committee. **This applies to all first-time applicants or applicants who have not interviewed with us. THE COMMITTEE INTERVIEW IS NOT A MOCK INTERVIEW. IT CARRIES WEIGHT, SO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY!** Interviews will be **in-person and will be conducted simultaneously in 3 separate rooms on Monday, September 14th from 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Each interview will last 15 minutes, so be on time. Dress professionally (like you would for your actual medical school interview) and wear a mask. We will practice social distancing.**

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH. IF YOU MISS THIS DEADLINE, YOU WILL NOT INTERVIEW WITH US, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A COMMITTEE EVALUATION, AND YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE INCOMPLETE!! THIS MEANS YOU WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSION DURING THIS APPLICATION CYCLE!! *If you have interviewed with us in the past, you are not required to interview with us again. If you graduated from UCA more than 2 years ago, UAMS does not require a UCA committee letter. Instead, you must have academic letters submitted from faculty members who know you well. Contact UAMS about specifics regarding the academic letters.*

Arrange for individual recommendation letters (personal letters) from others outside the academic setting such as physicians, pastors, work supervisors, etc. *(You should not ask UCA faculty to write individual letters, unless they are your work supervisor).* UAMS allows up to **three individual letters**, and while not required, **these are strongly recommended** because they allow the admissions committee to learn more about you from sources outside the classroom.

A FEW MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW:

- **You should waive your right to view your file. This is customary and appropriate.**
- **Your personal statement should be sincere, well written, and concise (1-2 pages). You should clearly and convincingly articulate your motivation for pursuing a career as a physician. Don't use flowery language, and make sure there are no spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors.**
- **It's not necessary to use names in your personal statement (my aunt Ella, Dr. Jane Doe, a local surgeon, Mr. John Doe, a nursing home resident). You can say "my aunt" or "a local surgeon" or "a nursing home resident" and still make your point.**
- **If you are applying through AMCAS, you must provide me with an AMCAS Committee Letter request form for me to upload your committee evaluation. Send it by email as a PDF attachment. If you are applying through AACOMAS, you must send me a link for me to upload your committee evaluation.**
- **Please let me know if you are applying to Texas medical schools, since their application deadline is earlier than the UAMS application deadline.**
- **UCA committee letters are submitted in early – mid October. We have never missed a deadline!**

2020 UCA Medical School Applicant Status

There were **55 applicants** from UCA with an average MCAT score of **503** (range 485-518).

- **29 were accepted (53%)**
 - **25 allopathic (MD degree)**
 - **average MCAT = 508** (range 501 - 518); **average GPA = 3.82** (range 3.23 – 4.0)
 - **4 osteopathic (DO degree)**
 - **average MCAT = 498** (range 495 – 502); **average GPA = 3.80** (range 3.64 - 4.0)
- **26 were rejected (47%)**
 - **average MCAT = 498** (range 485 - 512); **average GPA = 3.61** (range 2.91 – 4.0)
- **36 first-time applicants (19 accepted / 17 rejected)**
- **19 reapplicants (10 accepted / 9 rejected)**

Core Competencies link:

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/core-competencies/>

Average GPA & MCAT Score link:

<https://www.shemmassianconsulting.com/blog/average-gpa-and-mcat-score-for-every-medical-school>

UAMS College of Medicine Admissions Guide link:

https://medicine.uams.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2020/04/2002375-COM-admissions-guide-2021_WEB.pdf