

The background is a solid teal color. In the lower half, there is a faint, semi-transparent image of two hands shaking, symbolizing agreement or partnership. The hands are rendered in a lighter shade of teal, blending into the background.

Being a Doctor

Making the right decision

THE APPLICATION

- Experiences
- Personal Statement
- Academics
- Letters of Recommendation

THE APPLICATION

- Make it easy for screeners to find information
- Anything on the application is fair game for interviewers

EXPERIENCES

- Broad interests and life experiences help you relate to other people
- Never choose an experience “to get in”
 - Choose an experience because it appeals to you or is important to you
- Record what you learned from each experience
- Reflect rather than describe

PERSONAL STATEMENT

- Motivation
- Why are you interested?
- In what ways are you suited for medicine?
- Show us how you know that this is the right career for you.

ACADEMICS

MCAT	2-3		4-5		6-7		8-9		10-11		12-13		14-15	
GPA RANGE	acc	tot	acc	tot	acc	tot	acc	tot	acc	tot	acc	tot	acc	tot
>3.75	0	0	0	0	3	12	23	102	60	215	35	112	3	7
3.5-3.74	0	0	0	1	0	12	29	152	42	209	14	48	0	2
3.25-3.49	0	0	0	0	0	21	23	121	18	107	2	16	0	0
3.00-3.24	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	55	2	31	3	4	0	0
2.75-2.99	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	19	3	8	0	1	0	0
2.50-2.74	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0
0.10-2.48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	1	3	54	80	451	125	574	54	181	3	9

MEAN SCORES

- GPA 3.65
- MCAT 10.45
- Verbal score on MCAT 10
- Writing sample Q

GPA < 3.5

- Inadequate high school preparation
- Time to adjust to college
- A bump in the road for personal or family reasons
- An **upward trajectory** or some compelling reason for lower than average grades

Compensating for low GPA

- Graduate level science courses
 - Also if you've been out of school > 5 years
- Post-baccalaureate program

MCAT

- Verbal reasoning is critical- a measure of problem solving ability
- $VR < 7$ is associated with problems on USMLE
- Writing sample-ability to communicate ideas clearly

MCAT < 9

- Was the MCAT taken before completion of pertinent course work?
- Out of school > 5 years before taking MCAT
- Prep course taken?
- Problems with standardized tests
- Test anxiety

Compensating for low MCAT

- More school course work and repeat
- MCAT practice tests on line
- MCAT commercial preparation course
- Learning specialist
 - SAT problems?

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- Ask the right person
- Obtain and file letters
- Direct the letter writer

RECOMMENDER SHOULD KNOW YOU WELL

- Academic ability
- Interpersonal skills
- Work ethic
- Leadership qualities
- Ability to function on a team
- Independent learner & intellectually curious

FUTURE TOWN HALL SESSIONS

- 5-13-09 Experiences (shadowing) and personal statement
- 5-18-09 The Interview

QUESTIONS

