



The Ultimate Free Guide To Finding a Medical School

The official [MedicalSchoolsinUSA.com](https://www.MedicalSchoolsinUSA.com) guidebook!

Getting into a good medical school is competitive and the top schools pick only a small handful of the brightest students every year. Yet it's important to remember that those lucky few make up only a small percentage of medical students.

The truth is while many students set their sites high, aiming for the most prestigious institutions, savvy hopefuls are setting their sites on less notable medical schools with a stellar record.

If you're thinking about sending off that application, there are a few considerations you'll want to keep in mind.

1.) Your MCAT Score and GPA

When you're looking into schools, it helps to find out what other institutions accept students with a similar academic background to yours. What's the average MCAT score of students in a desired school and is your MCAT score in the range? If you haven't taken the exam, researching average scores will give you an idea of what you need to score on the MCAT exam to get into a desired school.

Your GPA also plays a role, but don't let that little fact bring you down. If the average GPA is in the high threes, that means the school accepts students with a GPA both above and below that average.

2.) List of Schools

While most medical school hopefuls have come to the realization that their education is going to cost an arm and a leg, plenty of people forget to factor in the cost of applying. Every school charges an application fee to cover the administrative processing and verification of information.

The price can vary and it's important to have a good nest egg saved up to cover the cost of applying for numerous schools. Today, that means more than just your top-

three choices. USNews.com recommends applying for 13-15 schools, but not more than 20.

When applying, don't just stick to one tier; you'll want to aim high and low. That means applying to a couple dream schools, even if the average student profile shows better numbers than yours. Sometimes, other personal and life experience factors play a role in admissions.

Save most of your applications for the tier that most closely reflects your MCAT scores and GPA. If you fall in the middle range, pick a couple safety schools below your tier, just to play it safe.

3.) Location

Where is your ideal school located? It's crucial to ask yourself how far you are willing to go to attend the school of your choice. Moving expenses as well as the cost of living in your desired area should be taken into consideration. Sometimes, it's a better idea to attend school close to home and focus more on academics than paying the bills.



Part 2: The MCAT

If you haven't yet taken the MCAT, you'll want to read this section. MCAT stands for Medical College Admission Test and is a requirement for most medical schools. The

exam lasts more than five hours and covers science, verbal reasoning and writing skills.

Schools use this test to predict whether a prospective student has the skills needed to succeed in medical school. All the areas tested are skills that will be put to use regularly during medical school.

1.) Scoring the MCAT

The test is scored on a numerical basis and spans the areas of physical sciences, biological sciences and verbal reasoning. Each of those sections are scored between 1 and 15, with 1 being the lowest score.

The lowest possible MCAT score is 3 while the highest is 45. According to the Princeton Review, most competitive medical schools want to see a combined score of 30 or above.

2.) Registering for the MCAT

Registering for the exam is done through the Association of American Medical Colleges. The organization works with hundreds of sites all over the country to set up testing center locations.

Registering early is the best way to secure a seat in your area. Registration costs \$270, but the AAMC offers a fee assistance program for those who may have financial hardships.

The exam is administered every year from late January through early September at testing site in the US and throughout the world.

3.) Preparing for the MCAT

The AAMC recommends taking the MCAT exam the same year you apply to medical school. For instance, if you are applying in 2013 for the fall 2014 semester, then you'll want to take the MCAT in 2013.

Set aside plenty of time to study for the exam. The AAMC offers updated outlines of all the major test sections to use as a study guide. These outlines are available free on the AAMC website.

There are also free practice tests available through the organization. These tests are updated versions of retired exams that will provide a very good idea of what types of questions students will find on their exam.



Part 3: Finding the Right Match

You'll want to have a clear idea of the academic focus of the schools you apply for. For instance, if your goal is to become a primary care physician, you'll want to pick a school that focuses more on patient care experience rather than a research focused program.

1.) Classroom Culture and Student Life

If you enjoy closer, more personal contact with instructors, apply to schools with a lower student-to-teacher ratio. If you learn well at a distance or in a big lecture hall, this won't be quite so much of a factor.

Student life is also an important factor to take into consideration. If you're attending medical school away from your home state, you'll want to have a good supportive network of like-minded students.

The Princeton Review recommends talking to other students who attend your potential school to find out if they are happy with the student life, campus atmosphere and support availability.

2.) Cost

If you're like a lot of medical school students, you'll need to take out some student loans to help fund your education. When researching a school, it helps to look far deeper than the cost of tuition. Books, laboratory use and other facilities often come with fees that must be paid by the student.

Read the fine print to discover how much you'll be expected to pay on top of tuition. You'll also want to compare the cost difference between living on or off campus if there's an option to do either. Sometimes, the fees associated with living on-campus can cost more than off-campus housing.

Part 4: Start Applying!

Once you've covered all your bases, it's time to start applying for medical schools. At MedicalSchoolsinUSA.com, you'll find information about more than 100 medical schools of all tiers.

We offer admissions statistics, application fee information and application deadlines, average MCAT scores, tuition, fees and so much more. Narrow the schools down and find all the information you need in one place!

Get information on hundreds of medical schools. Just visit the official site, enter your zip code and fill out the form!