

University of Washington School of Medicine Admissions Process



What are we looking for?

- UWSOM Mission
- Academic Ability
- Clear and Logical Thinking
- Motivation
- Personal characteristics
- Knowledge of field of medicine
- Knowledge of society

UWSOM Mission statement

- Meeting the health care needs of our region- recognizing the importance of primary care and providing service to underserved populations
- Advancing knowledge and assuming leadership in the biomedical sciences and in academic medicine
- Special responsibility to WWAMI states
- Commitment to building and sustaining a diverse academic community
- Assuring access to education and training for learners from all segments of society

Pre-requisites

	Semesters	Quarters
Chemistry and Biology	6	9
Physics	2	3
OR Physics PLUS Calculus or Linear Algebra	1 each	2 each
Social Sciences & Humanities	4	6



The content of the chemistry and biology courses must include:

General chemistry

General biology

Biochemistry

Molecular genetics

Cell biology/physiology

Recommended but not required

- Ethics
- Anatomy or comparative anatomy
- Human or mammalian physiology
- Embryology

Through AAMC

- Letters of Recommendation
- Criminal Background Check

Academic Ability

Mean/ range	E-05	E-06	E-07	E-08	E-09
WGPA	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7
MCAT	10.35	10.43	10.50	10.44	10.34
writing sample	P-Q	P-Q	P-Q	Q	P-Q
verbal reason- ing	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.1

GPA- considerations

- Mean GPA 3.67
- time to adjust to college
- inadequate high school preparation
- a bump in the road for personal or family reasons
- We are looking for an **upward trajectory** or some compelling reason for lower than average grades.
- Although we value a broad based education, ability to succeed in science courses is important.

MCAT considerations

- Mean MCAT 10.34
- We use verbal reasoning as a measure of the applicant's ability to solve problems, an important attribute for a physician.
- The writing sample gives us some insight into the applicant's ability to communicate his or her ideas clearly.
- When biology or physics scores are low we look for timing of the MCAT vs course work.

Personal characteristics

- Knowledge of self
- Maturity
- Intellectual curiosity
- Integrity
- Ability to relate to others
- Clear and logical thinking

Knowledge of self

- Does the applicant know his or her personality, strengths and weaknesses, biases?
- Can s/he self-assess?
- Is s/he aware of personal learning style?
- How does s/he deal with a crisis? What is the applicant's support system ?

Maturity

- Has s/he shown the ability to deal with stressful situation?
- Has applicant demonstrated responsibility?
- Is the applicant self-reliant and independent?
- Is s/he confident, secure?
- Has s/he thought about long term as well as short term goals?

Intellectual curiosity

- Does the applicant demonstrate intellectual curiosity?
- Can s/he grow?
- Can s/he call a question?
- Does s/he demonstrate interest in being a life-long learner?

Integrity

- Is the applicant consistent?
- Are his/her experiences consistent with expressed goals?

Ability to relate to others

- Is the applicant empathetic, able to communicate, able to listen, broad minded, respectful of others?
- Does the applicant show a genuine interest in people? Does s/he have experience working with people?
- Has there been community involvement?
- Are there demonstrated humanitarian qualities?
- Is there recognition of needs of individuals?
- Does the applicant allow for differing values? Is s/he non-judgmental?

Motivation for medicine

- What drives the applicant toward medicine?
- What experiences/people have had a positive influence?

Clear and Logical Thinking

- Recognize problems
- What is known about the problem?
- What data are missing?
- How to find what's missing
- Analyze data
- Suggest solutions

Knowledge of medicine

- Has the applicant spent some time in a patient care setting?
- Does s/he understand the rewards, demands, and frustrations of the practice of medicine?
- Does s/he have any concept of lifestyles of various types of practices of medicine?
- Does s/he value patient autonomy? Does the applicant realize there are patients who don't cooperate with treatment plans, or who may engage in unhealthy lifestyle behaviors?

Knowledge of society

- Does the applicant know about delivery of health care in the U.S. and abroad?
- Does s/he have any understanding of the cost of health care and/or the breadth of those who are uninsured in the U.S.?
- Is there an understanding of the different types of medical insurance systems?

Experiences

- Service
- Medical
- Research
- Leadership
- Humanitarian

Personal Statements

- Show Motivation
- Demonstrate Knowledge of Medical Career
- Demonstrate why being a physician is the right choice
- Use examples from experiences

How the process works

- Screening- in region
- Screening- out of region
- Interviewing
- What happens at EXCOM

Who gets screened?

- Everyone is screened
- No automatic interviews
- Executive Committee does screening
- Need 2 positive screens for interview



Who gets screened?

- Applicants from **Washington** who have a combined score < 5 are sent a rejection letter.
 - Combined score: $WGPA + \text{average MCAT score (converted to a 4.0 scale)}$. The highest possible combined score = 8.
- **WGPA** = (Freshman GPA) $\times 1 = A$
(Sophomore GPA) $\times 2 = B$
(Junior GPA) $\times 3 = C$
 $(A+B+C) / 6 = WGPA$

Screening in region-WWAMI

- Screening by 2 members of the executive committee
- 2 positive screens \longrightarrow interview.
- 2 negative screens \longrightarrow rejected (WA) or reviewed by the EXCOM member of the pertinent WAMI state (WAMI)
- 1 positive and 1 negative screen \longrightarrow third review

Screening out-of-region

- Applicants who have not applied for the MD/PhD (MSTP) program are screened
 - Out-of-Region MSTP applicants are only considered for MSTP
- Looking for very strong record of service to the underserved and/or disadvantaged background
- Same voting and review process

Interviews

- The Interview will include questions about motivation and health care issues.
- Usually a problem is presented either for discussion or as a patient/doctor role play
- 3 interviewers simultaneously; one is a member of the executive committee
- Only EXCOM member will have applicant's grades and MCAT scores. They may be shared after interviewers have entered their impressions.
- Interviews will last 30 minutes.

Interviews

- Applicants are considered in the following areas:
 - Knowledge of Health Care Field
 - Motivation for Medical Career
- Personal Characteristics
- Problem Solving

“Not ready”:

- The applicant may be acceptable in future years but something is missing.
 - Exposure to the field of medicine
 - Maturity/ more life experience
 - Better science preparation
 - Retake the MCAT
- This is a rejection with advice.

“Not ready”

Previously after interview

Now also after screening

Executive Committee Meetings

- Applications will be discussed in sequence based on interview scores starting with the highest score.
- Discussion is also dependent on the presence of the EXCOM member who interviewed the applicant.
- WAMI applicants will be discussed in order of the preference list developed by each state's admissions committee.

Notification of Applicants

- Applicants who are accepted, rejected or considered "not ready" are notified within a few days of the EXCOM's decision.
- Applicants who have been discussed but on whom no decision has been rendered are notified that they are acceptable and are still under consideration. These applicants are discussed again at the end of the interview season.

Final Decisions

- Applicants are notified by mid-April, and will have until May 15th to respond to acceptances.
- As accepted applicants withdraw their applications, applicants from the alternate list will be selected.

Re-Applying

- No more than 3 completed applications
- Make sure your applicant is ready



Deferrals

Discouraged and rarely granted

- Medical
- Exceptional Educational Experience
 - Once in a lifetime
 - Grant or Fellowship