
University of Washington School of Medicine MD Program Policy and Handbook

2021-2022



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Introduction

Disclaimer

The MD Program Handbook provides general information for medical students, faculty, and staff on a wide variety of topics and issues that are germane to the MD program. This information is intended to provide a framework on which to build throughout the students' tenures at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

The handbook is not a comprehensive statement of all policies, procedures, requirements and guidelines nor is it intended to preclude the implementation of changes in the MD program or policies for students. Policies, procedures, requirements, guidelines and other student information resources are updated regularly. The School of Medicine reserves the right to revise or modify the curriculum, system of evaluation, or graduation requirements as deemed appropriate by the faculty. Changes to the MD program's policies, procedures, requirements and guidelines are announced at meetings, in emails, on web pages, and/or information memos. It is the responsibility of each student to understand, stay continuously informed of, and abide by the regulations and policies governing the MD program.

Questions about policies, procedures, requirements, guidelines and other student information resources may be directed to the appropriate dean or office identified on the MD program policy website.

Admissions

Admissions Values Statement

The University of Washington School of Medicine admits to its MD program individuals who have achieved a high level of academic performance and who possess the maturity, motivation, and aptitude to become excellent practitioners and scholars of medicine. Applicants admitted must demonstrate humanitarian concerns and high ethical/moral standards.

Diverse backgrounds are sought among applicants admitted to each class of the MD program, with the intention of providing access to medical education for those who are underrepresented in the medical profession in the WWAMI region.

The people of the WWAMI region are best served when graduates from diverse backgrounds choose a variety of careers that will meet the healthcare needs of the WWAMI region. Therefore, the University of Washington School of Medicine's MD program seeks applicants interested in exploring a variety of careers, recognizing the importance of primary care as well as clinical specialties, and demonstrating promise for advancing knowledge and assuming leadership in the biomedical sciences and academic medicine.

WWAMI Applicant Profile Policy

It is the policy of the University of Washington School of Medicine's MD program to seek applicants who will pursue careers in primary care as well as clinical specialties, and demonstrate promise for advancing knowledge and assuming leadership in the biomedical sciences and academic medicine.

Admissions Requirements and Selection Factors Policy

Premedical course admissions requirements for the MD program must be completed before matriculation, and preferably before the time of application. Undergraduate or post-baccalaureate required courses must be completed at a college or university accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting body.

Requirements, Procedures and Guidelines

The minimum premedical course requirements include the following:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Semesters</u>	or	<u>Quarters</u>
Social Sciences or humanities:	4		6
Chemistry and biology:	6		9
Physics, or	2		3
Physics plus Calculus or Linear Algebra	1 each		2 each

The content of chemistry and biology courses must include:

- o General Chemistry
- o General Biology
- o Biochemistry
- o Molecular Genetics
- o Cell Biology/Cell Physiology

The following courses are recommended, but not required:

- Ethics
- Anatomy or Comparative Anatomy
- Human or Mammalian Physiology
- Embryology

Other requirements and selection factors:

All applicants must demonstrate substantial academic ability in their major field as well as in the required science courses. Applicants should be proficient in the use of the English language and basic mathematics. Applicants are expected to be able to meet the essential requirements of the MD program with or without accommodations. It is also expected that applicants have demonstrated appropriate behavior and conduct in their educational and community environments.

Whereas no specific major is advised, a broad background in the humanities and liberal arts is encouraged.

Applicants are expected to have a basic understanding of personal computing and information technology prior to entry.

Applicants must complete and submit the Medical Colleges Admissions Test (MCAT) in a timely manner related to their application to medical school. The MCAT must have been taken no more than three years prior to the date of matriculation.

Completion of a degree from a college or university accredited by the appropriate regional accreditation body is required before matriculation.

All accepted applicants must complete the criminal background check required by the University of Washington School of Medicine in the timeframe specified within the admissions process.

Residents of the states of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, or Idaho are eligible to apply.

Applicants from outside this five-state region who come from disadvantaged backgrounds or who have demonstrated a commitment to serving underserved populations will be considered. Foreign applicants, in addition to the above requirements, must also have a permanent resident visa.

Individuals with a demonstrated interest in research may apply for the MD/PhD program (Medical Science Training Program, or MSTP) regardless of residency.

Applicants with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status who reside in a WWAMI state and who are legally authorized and recognized by their respective state's residency office as a state resident for WWAMI educational purposes will be considered.

As part of the application process for the Entering Class of 2012 and subsequent classes, applicants are informed about the University of Washington School of Medicine Honor Code and asked to sign a statement demonstrating their understanding of this policy and their agreement to abide by it. Applicants who are unwilling to sign the code will not be considered for admission.

As part of the application process for the Entering Class of 2016 and subsequent classes, applicants are made aware of the policy that all students are expected to complete clerkships both inside and outside of the Puget Sound area and are asked to sign a statement demonstrating their understanding of this policy. Students will be advised concerning their clinical training which will include different locations throughout the WWAMI region. All students will complete eight weeks in Seattle at one of the following hospitals: UWMC, Harborview, Seattle Children's, or Puget Sound VA.

As part of the application process, applicants interested in working in rural or underserved areas may apply to the Targeted Rural and Underserved Track (TRUST). Applicants who are accepted to TRUST, but who then decide prior to matriculation not to participate in TRUST will have their offer of acceptance to the University of Washington School of Medicine rescinded.

for that application year. Should the University of Washington School of Medicine's Deferral Policy apply, the deferred applicant may enter the program in the following year as stipulated in the deferral policy. Applicants who have applied to TRUST but who are accepted into the regular class while holding a position on the TRUST alternate list will not be obligated to participate in TRUST should a position in the TRUST cohort become available. Applicants who applied to TRUST but are not accepted will be considered for admission into the regular medical school class for the same entering year. Applicants are made aware of this policy at the time of application to TRUST and asked to sign a statement demonstrating their understanding of this policy.

Disqualifying factors:

Applications from persons who have failed to meet minimum standards at this or another medical (MD or DO) or dental school will not be considered. Applications from individuals who have been rejected by the University of Washington School of Medicine on three prior occasions will not be considered.

Matriculation Deferral Policy

The School of Medicine expects prospective students to commence their medical education in the matriculation year for which they applied and were accepted into the medical education program. Matriculation deferrals are considered only for unexpected and extraordinary circumstances and must, at minimum, meet one of the following criteria to be considered:

- A serious medical condition experienced by the accepted applicant.
- A personal circumstance that may interrupt or greatly interfere with an accepted applicant's medical training.

Procedures and Guidelines

1. **Deferral Authority:** The Associate Dean for Admissions determines if the deferral request will be granted. The Associate Dean for Admissions seeks guidance from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and the appropriate regional deans in making deferral decisions. Deferral decisions are communicated to the accepted applicant through the Admissions Office.
2. **Deferral Deadlines:** All requests for deferral must be submitted in writing to the Admissions Office no later than June 1 of the matriculation year. An exception to this deadline may be made for medically related deferral requests.
3. **Deferral Period:** If a deferral is granted, matriculation is deferred for one year. An exception of one additional deferral may be made only for extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the Associate Dean for Admissions.
4. **Deferral Obligations:** Accepted applicants who are granted a deferral are obligated to commence their medical education at the School of Medicine the following academic year. Accepted applicants who are granted a deferral are prohibited from applying to other medical schools for the duration of the deferral period and a Deferral Contract is signed by the applicant indicating understanding of and agreement to this restriction.

Transfer Policy

The University of Washington School of Medicine does not accept applications from students who request to transfer from other medical schools unless the students are residents of Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, or Idaho and there is a funded position open in the respective state's contract due to student attrition. Consideration of a transfer application must also take cognizance of Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) standards on availability of space and adequate educational sites.

Transfer Requirements, Procedures and Guidelines

Transfer applicants from Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho will be considered based on the size of the equivalent entering class for each state and whether an opening is available in the cohort. If there is an opening in the cohort, a decision on whether to fill the position(s) will be made in consultation with the Assistant Deans in the state involved. A decision to accept a student in transfer will be made by the Executive Committee on Admissions, the appropriate state's Assistant Deans, and the Associate Dean for Curriculum in consultation with the appropriate course directors.

Transfer applicants from these states will be accepted for entry only into the start of the University of Washington School of Medicine's Patient Care Phase and only if they are in good academic standing at an LCME-accredited medical school. Offers of acceptance into the clinical curriculum are also contingent on passing USMLE Step 1. Students from Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho who are accepted for transfer are required to satisfy all University of Washington School of Medicine requirements including completion of the Independent Investigative Inquiry and demonstration of equivalent clinical skills as assessed by the School's Foundations Phase Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE).

Because of potential curricular differences between the University of Washington School of Medicine and the school from which the student is transferring, the accepted student may be required to successfully complete additional course work at the University of Washington School of Medicine prior to entering the clinical curriculum.

Applicants to the University of Washington School of Medicine and to the University of Washington School of Dentistry integrated MD degree and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) residency certificate program (hereafter known as the MD/OMS program), who have graduated from a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental school and successfully completed the National Board of Medical Examiners Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (NBME CBSE) or similar exam will be considered for entry with advanced standing into the Consolidation and Transition block of the University of Washington School of Medicine's MD program. Applicants to the UWSOM MD/OMS program will be reviewed by the School of Medicine's Executive Committee on Admissions and approved for acceptance to the University of Washington School of Medicine with advanced standing prior to the University of Washington School of Dentistry submitting the match list for OMS programs.

Applicants who match to the integrated MD/OMS certificate program are accepted to the School of Medicine and OMS certificate program simultaneously. Entry into the MD required

core clinical rotations is contingent on satisfactory completion of the OMS internship rotations, demonstration of clinical skills as assessed by the School of Medicine's second-year OSCE examination, and taking USMLE Step 1.

Foundations Phase Site Assignment Policy

The University of Washington School of Medicine does not accept applications from students who request to transfer from other medical schools unless the students are residents of Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, or Idaho and there is a funded position open in the respective state's contract due to student attrition. Consideration of a transfer application must also take cognizance of Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) standards on availability of space and adequate educational sites.

MD Program Curriculum

Foundations Phase Curriculum

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For more information on related policies:

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