



Medical School Application Process (MD and DO)

Choosing Medical Schools:

Medical (MD) School Admission Requirements (MSAR): www.aamc.org/msar (discounts on the yearly subscription fee available at www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/payment, fee waived by FAP (see below))

Choose DO Explorer (free!): www.choosedo.org/explorer

Admissions Test: MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) (mcat@aamc.org, 202-828-0600)

MCAT Essentials: www.aamc.org/mcat → read the [MCAT Essentials](#) document thoroughly.

Registration Timeline: The MCAT is administered between January and September each year. Registration begins in October of the previous year. It is recommended to register at least 60 days prior to your desired test date.

Before Registration: You will need an AAMC ID and an associated username and password to register for the MCAT.

Fee Assistance Program (FAP): See www.aamc.org/fap for details and eligibility requirements. FAP application processing takes up to 10 business days. **Benefits are NOT retroactive.** FAP benefits are good for 2 calendar years.

-FAP reduces the MCAT fee, waives all AMCAS fees for 1 submission with up to 20 medical school designations, provides complimentary access to the MSAR, up to \$500 for a psycho-educational or medical evaluation needed for accommodations, & free test prep materials.

-A limited number of [fee waivers](#) available for AACOMAS, worth the cost of applying to one school.

Fee: The cost of the exam is **\$325**. See the *MCAT Essentials* for Scheduling Zones and Fees (for canceling/rescheduling).

Release Scores: When signing up for the test, you have the option of releasing your scores to your pre-health advisor. If you miss this step, please send an official score report to a preprofessional advisor at GVSU.

Scores will automatically be sent to AMCAS participating schools, but applicants must send their scores to AACOMAS via the MCAT Score Reporting System. Scores are viewable online 30-35 days after your test date

Testing Limit: Up to 3 tests per calendar year, 4 times across 2 years, 7 lifetime max. A voided exam or no-show DOES count as an attempt but is not reported to medical schools.

Test Section	# of Questions	Time
Examinee Agreement & Optional Tutorial	--	4 min, 10 min (total 14)
Chemical & Physical Foundations of Biological Sciences**	59	95 minutes
Critical Analysis & Reasoning Skills	53	90 minutes
Mid-exam Break (optional—cannot leave the testing center)	--	30 minutes
Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems**	59	95 minutes
Psychological, Social, & Biological Foundations of Behavior	59	95 minutes
Void Question (not optional) & Satisfaction Survey (optional)	--	3 min, 5 min (total 8)
Total content time: 6 hours 15 minutes		Total "Seat" Time: 7 hours, 30 minutes
**an optional 10-minute break is available after these sections (we recommend you take these breaks)		

Scoring: Each of the four sections is scored from a low of 118 to a high of 132, with a midpoint of 125. Scores for the four sections are combined to create a total score. **The total score ranges from 472 to 528. The midpoint (50th percentile) is 500.** Percentile ranks will be reported for the total & section scores. There is no penalty for guessing.

How to Prepare: There is an MCAT Sample Test and three full length scored Practice Exams available that simulate the exam. There are many other prep resources, which can be found at www.aamc.org/mcatprep. You can also order many of the MCAT prep resources at a discounted rate through www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/payment.



616.331.8585 | www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising | C-1-120 MAK

MD: American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) – Follow them on Twitter [@AMCASinfo](https://twitter.com/AMCASinfo) and YouTube for updates and tutorials.

Call 202-828-0600 or Email amcas@aamc.org with any questions.

AMCAS Instructions: www.aamc.org/amcas → read the “2022 AMCAS Applicant Guide” very carefully!

Fee: \$170 for one school; \$43 for each additional school (fee waivers are available if you qualify for the FAP)

DO: American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS) – Follow them on Twitter [@AACOMASPreMed](https://twitter.com/AACOMASPreMed) or download their app for updates.

Call 617-612-2889 or Email aacominfo@liaisoncas.com with any questions.

AACOMAS Instructions: <https://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/applying/aacomas-application-instructions>

Fee: \$197 for one school; \$48 for each additional school (fee waivers are available if you qualify)

AMCAS and AACOMAS: More Details

Re-applicants: You must submit a new application each year that you apply; you must indicate that you are a re-applicant. Some information will be rolled-over from the prior year so that you may edit.

Transcripts: Transcripts must be sent from EACH school you have attended. GVSU transcripts can be sent electronically (see [Registrar’s Office](#) for info). If sending through mail, a Transcript Request Form (download from AMCAS and/or AACOMAS) MUST accompany official transcripts by application deadline—can be submitted in May.

Repeat Grades: Enter ALL attempts at courses, regardless of repeats or grades of W. All attempts of repeated courses are counted in the GPA calculations. Use the [GPA Calculator](#) to estimate your GPA.

Personal Statement: Write a statement expressing your motivation or desire to become a doctor; 5300 characters, including spaces. To avoid formatting issues in your personal statement and experiences, ONLY copy/paste from plain text software, such as Microsoft Notepad or Mac TextEdit. For best results, type it directly into the application(s).

Related Work and Activities: Both applications have space for relevant work experience, extracurricular activities, awards, honors, or publications. Requires dates/hours, contact name and phone/email for each experience.

-**AMCAS:** Allows for up to **15** experience/activities and has 700 characters allotted for a description of the experience. Up to **three** may be chosen as Most Meaningful experiences, which allows an additional 1325 characters for further explanation. Up to three date ranges may be entered for repeated activities, including a date range for anticipated (future) hours.

-**AACOMAS:** Allows for unlimited experiences/activities (no most meaningful); each allows for 600 characters.

Letters of Evaluation/Committee Letter: See the next page

Verification: Verification of grades and GPA calculations takes up to 6 weeks once ALL required materials are received. Peak processing times are July and August. **Letters and supplemental apps are NOT required for verification.**

Supplemental/Secondary Applications: These require additional fees and essays, with deadlines that vary by school. Some supplemental apps require you to submit a photo of yourself; it’s a good idea to have a nice, professional photo taken of yourself wearing business-style clothing.

-Some schools are requiring **CASPer exam** or **AAMC’s PREview Test** as part of their secondary application. For more info, visit www.takecasper.com and <https://students-residents.aamc.org/aamc-preview/aamc-preview-professional-readiness-exam>

Acceptances: Make sure you are meeting any deadlines regarding decisions and deposits, and withdraw all other applications following your final decision on attendance. In AMCAS, use the [Choose Your Medical School Tool](#).

Schools also conduct a criminal background check and undergraduate disciplinary checks prior to final matriculation.

Apply EARLY (in June!), check your SPAM folder in your email so you don’t miss anything, clean up your SOCIAL MEDIA, and stay ORGANIZED.

Letters of Evaluation (LOEs) and Committee Letter:

GVSU uses a Committee Letter format. The applicant's individual LOEs, application, and student questionnaire will be used to compose a committee letter that summarizes their application and all LOEs. The committee letter also includes a rubric based on the AAMC Core Competencies. Individual letters are then ranked in order of strength, attached to the committee letter in one PDF, then submitted to AMCAS and/or AACOMAS for schools to download (Julie Mattox submits). The Committee Letter will not be started until your Committee Letter Application is complete (see below)

In AMCAS and/or AACOMAS, enter "Committee Letter" for type of letter and **list Julie Mattox as the Letter Writer**. Email Julie (amonju@gvsu.edu) the Letter Request Form from AMCAS (AACOMAS automatically sends Julie a notification after you input her information)

**Complete the Committee Letter Application between
March 1st - August 1st at:
www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/apply**

A complete Committee Letter Application (**due August 1st**) initiates your GVSU Committee Letter and includes:

1. Complete the [Committee Letter Self-Assessment](#) and meet with a premed advisor to determine your readiness to apply
2. Waive your rights to view your letters of evaluation and committee letter
3. Request a minimum of three letters of evaluation
4. Complete a questionnaire
5. Upload a photo/headshot of yourself (optional)
6. Submit a copy of your completed application(s) (AMCAS and/or AACOMAS)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I need my committee letter to be done before I submit AMCAS/AACOMAS?

Answer: No, the committee letter/LOEs are included as part of secondary/supplemental applications. The AMCAS/AACOMAS application(s) should be submitted prior to receipt of all letters so the verification process can begin.

How many LOEs should I request, and who should write them?

Answer: Look at individual schools for specific requirements of number and type of letters. It's recommended to ask 3 faculty who have taught you in class (two science, one non-science) and one practicing clinician (preferably one who has observed you in a clinical setting).

If I'm reapplying, can I use letters from last year?

Answer: Ideally, reapplicants should update all of their letters. A new Committee Letter Application is required each year and a new committee letter is written each year.

If I graduated from GVSU, am I still eligible for a committee letter?

Answer: Students who have graduated from GVSU may still be eligible for a committee letter if they are not currently attending another institution for a post-baccalaureate or graduate program. If a student is attending another school, a committee letter and letters of evaluation should be sought from the current program.

Application Process Timeline

This process begins 2 years before you plan to start medical school!

