

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, free access to the MSAR, up to \$1,000 for accommodations evaluation, & 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 **\$355** (\$145 with FAP) See the *MCAT Essentials* for canceling/rescheduling fees

Testing with Accommodations: If you receive accommodations in classes at GVSU through Student Accessibility Resources, you may qualify to take the MCAT with accommodations. Medical schools are not notified if a student tests with accommodations. For more information, visit the [MCAT Accommodations](#) website.

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 section is scored within a 118-132 range, with a midpoint of 125. Scores for the 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 a MCAT Sample Test, and 4 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. Visit www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/testprep for other resources.

MD: American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) – Follow them on Twitter/X [@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 “AMCAS Applicant Guide” very carefully

Fee: \$180 for one school; \$48 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/X [@AACOMASPreMed](#) or download their app for updates.

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

[AACOMAS Instructions](#)

Fee: \$198 for one school; \$60 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 four 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 700 characters.

Letters of Evaluation: 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 is 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.

Academic Update: AMCAS does not allow, but AACOMAS does allow [academic updates](#) in August and December

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 do not miss anything, clean up your SOCIAL MEDIA, and stay ORGANIZED.

Letters of Evaluation (LOEs) and the GVSU Letter Packet:

GVSU no longer offers a committee letter; instead, a letter packet is available. The letter packet will include a cover sheet with the applicant's name and some helpful information about GVSU (i.e., institutional information, SWS, honors, etc.). Individual letters are then ranked in order of strength, attached to the cover sheet in one PDF, then submitted to AMCAS and/or AACOMAS for schools to download (Elizabeth Clark submits). Students must request a letter packet through the below application.

In AMCAS, enter "Letter Packet" for type of letter and **list *Elizabeth as the Letter Writer***. In AACOMAS, check "Yes" for Committee Letter.

Complete the Letter Packet Application between

March 1st - July 31st at:

www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/apply

A complete Letter Packet Application involves:

1. Waiving your rights to view your letters of evaluation
2. Completing the Self-Assessment and meeting with a premed advisor to determine your readiness to apply
3. Requesting a minimum of three letters of evaluation (all letters must be received prior to submission of the letter packet)
4. Complete a short questionnaire
5. Upload a photo/headshot of yourself (optional)
6. Submit a copy of your AMCAS Letter Request Form (if applying through AMCAS)
7. Upload a copy of your submitted AMCAS/AACOMAS application (optional) → your application can be submitted without your letter packet

Benefits of getting a GVSU Letter Packet

1. Ability to request individual letters before faculty leave for the summer.
 - a. The letter packet allows you to request (and faculty to submit) letters starting March 1st; the earliest this can take place in AMCAS and AACOMAS is May 1st
2. Expedite the completion of your medical school application
 - a. When applications open in May, you can have all your letters in and the letter packet can be ready to submit, rather than waiting until after May 1st for your individual letters to be submitted.
3. Letter Packets will include helpful information about GVSU
 - a. GVSU-specific policies and classes like SWS and Honors are explained along with a synopsis of GVSU as an institution, which is helpful for out-of-state schools
4. Strongest letters will be highlighted by being placed at the top of the letter packet
 - a. Your letters will be ranked in order of strength and placed in that order in the letter packet
5. Connects you to advisors for a high level of support through the process

Application Process Timeline

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

