



616.331.8585 | [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising) | C-1-140 MAK

## Osteopathic (DO) Medical School Application Process

Check your email regularly and make sure your spam filters are not putting communications into your spam box

**Osteopathic Medical College Information Book (view individual school pages online):**

<http://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/us-coms>

**Admissions Test: MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) ([mcats@aacmc.org](mailto:mcats@aacmc.org), 202-828-0600)**

**MCAT 2015 Essentials:** <https://www.aamc.org/mcat> -> click on MCAT Essentials on the right.

**Registration Timeline:** The MCAT will be administered between January and September 2017. *Registration for 2017 dates began in October, 2016.* 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):** Reduces the MCAT fee to \$120 if eligible. See <https://www.aamc.org/fap> for details. Can reapply up to five times and it's valid for 2 years. If an application is approved **Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2016**, benefits expire **Dec. 31, 2017**. FAP application processing takes up to 15 business days and **benefits are NOT retroactive**.

-FAP also waives all AMCAS fees for 1 submission with up to 15 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.

**Fee:** The cost of the exam is **\$310**. Payment by credit card only; registration cannot be reversed once payment is made.

**Release Scores:** *You will need to forward your MCAT scores to AACOMAS* (they are NOT automatically forwarded) using the MCAT [Score Reporting System](#) after your test date. It takes at least 3 days to process. Also, prior to signing up for the test, you have the option of releasing your scores to a pre-health advisor. If you miss this step, please print an official score report & send to the pre-professional advisor at GVSU. Scores are viewable online 30-35 days after the test date.

**Testing Limit:** Up to 3 tests per calendar year, 4 every 2 years, 7 lifetime max. A voided exam or no-show DOES count as an attempt.

Test Section	# of Questions	Time
Examinee Agreement, Optional Tutorial	--	8 min, 10 min (total 18)
<b>Chemical &amp; Physical Foundations of Biological Sciences**</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>95 minutes</b>
<b>Critical Analysis &amp; Reasoning Skills</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>90 minutes</b>
Mid-exam Break (optional—cannot leave the testing center)	--	30 minutes
<b>Biological &amp; Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems**</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>95 minutes</b>
<b>Psychological, Social, &amp; Biological Foundations of Behavior</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>95 minutes</b>
Void Question (not optional) & Satisfaction Survey (optional)	--	5 min, 5 min (total 10)
<b>Total content time:</b> 6 hours 15 minutes		<b>Total "Seat" Time:</b> 7 hours, 33 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 (50<sup>th</sup> 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 two full length scored Practice Exams available that simulate the exam. There are many other prep resources, which can be found by visiting this link: <https://www.aamc.org/mcat>. You can also order many of the MCAT prep resources at a discounted rate through [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/payment](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/payment)

### **CLAS Advising File for Committee Letter (Committee Letter deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>!)**

**File and Application Waivers\*:** Complete and submit to CLAS Advising to open your application file

**Photo:** Stop in at C-1-140 MAK to have your photo added to your file (for CLAS Academic Advising Center use only)

**veCollect\*:** Open a veCollect account and create profiles for letter-writers; pay \$5 activation fee and \$10 letter posting fee (online payments: [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/payment](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/payment))

Complete and upload the **Student Information Sheet\*** to veCollect along with a **Copy of Submitted Application**

**\*These documents and veCollect instructions can be found here:** <http://gvsu.edu/clasadvising/ready-to-apply-233.htm>

*A complete file (due the first day of August) in veCollect initiates your GVSU Committee Letter (completed file includes a minimum of three letters of evaluation, signed file/application waivers, student information sheet, and copy of submitted application)*

**PLEASE NOTE:** 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. However, if a student has gone on to another program, a committee letter and letters of evaluation should be sought from the current program.

**Application Service: AACOMAS – Follow them on Facebook and Twitter @AACOMASPreMed for updates! You can also download their app for notifications and to check the status of your application!**

**AACOMAS \*New!\*** URL: <http://aacomas.liaisoncas.com> Instructions can be found here: <http://gvsu.edu/s/00t>.  
Use your FULL legal name, know your MCAT ID. Print a copy of your completed app for your reference; upload a copy to veCollect

**Fee:** \$195 for one school; \$35 for each additional school (**fee waivers** are available but must be approved PRIOR to application submission, see instructions for details). Fee is non-refundable, can only be paid by Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards.

**Re-applicants:** Information will NOT be carried over from 2015 to 2016 due to the new application server, but after 2016 it will be carried over again. Be sure to check for accuracy. Only Biology, Chemistry, and Physics are included in the science GPA (based on course content, not prefix), not Math.

**Transcripts:** Transcript Request Form (MUST accompany official transcripts by application deadline)  
\*You need a separate form for EACH school you have attended; each form is unique so PAY ATTENTION!  
\*For an additional fee, you can ask AACOMAS to input your coursework for you.

**Repeat Grades:** Enter ALL attempts of courses, regardless of repeats or grades of W. AACOMAS now counts all attempts of a repeated course in the GPA calculations (**this is new starting in May 2017 for students applying for 2018 admission**)

**Personal Statement:** Write a statement expressing your motivation or desire to become an OSTEOPATHIC doctor (be sure to address “why DO?”). 4500 characters, including spaces; do NOT simply repeat your application information or your work and activities.

**Related Work and Activities:** Includes work experience, and extracurricular, volunteer, and community service activities. Each experience has 600 characters allotted for a description of the experience.

**Letters of Evaluation (LOEs):** Letters will be submitted electronically through VirtualEvals. In AACOMAS, enter “Committee Letter” for type of letter and **list JoAnn Litton as the Letter Writer.**

\*Included as part of secondary/supplemental application

\*AACOMAS application can be submitted prior to receipt of all letters so verification process can begin

\*Look at individual schools for specific requirements of number and type of letters (rule of thumb is 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—some schools require a letter from a DO)

\*GVSU uses a Committee Letter format. Your individual LOEs, application, and student information sheet will be used to compose a committee letter that summarizes your application and all LOEs. Individual letters are then ranked in order of strength and wrapped up into one file to be submitted to schools through AMCAS (JoAnn Litton submits). The Committee Letter will not be started until your veCollect file is complete (see reverse)

**Verification:** Process of verification of grades through AACOMAS takes up to 4 weeks once ALL required materials are received; letters and supplemental applications are NOT required for verification.

**Supplemental Applications:** Supplemental secondary applications require additional fees and essays that vary by school; make sure you are meeting deadlines set by schools. Some supplemental apps require you to submit a photo of yourself; therefore it’s a good idea to have a nice/professional photo taken of yourself wearing business-style clothing.

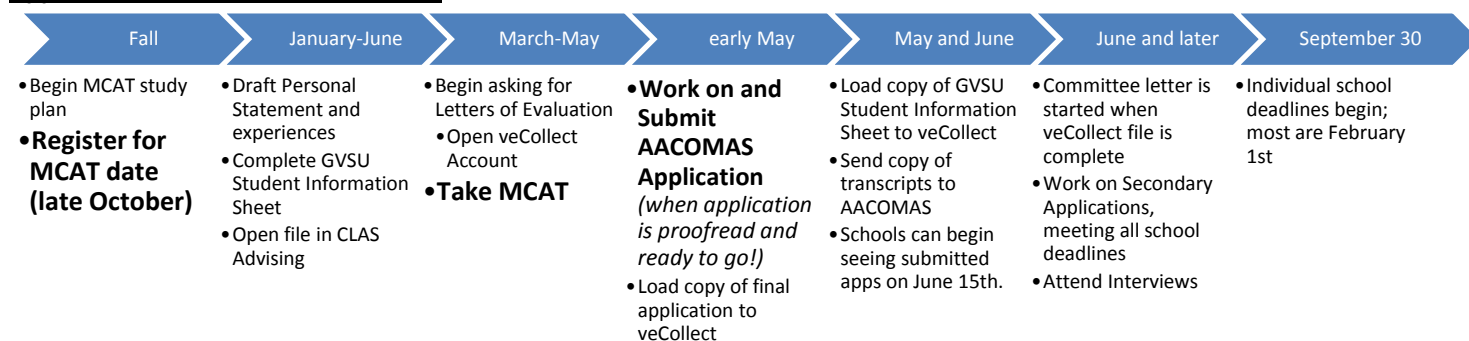
**Acceptances:** Make sure you are meeting any deadlines regarding decisions and deposits, and withdraw applications from all schools following a final decision on attendance. Admissions offers can be made according to the following schedule:

- Through November 15, candidates must respond to offers of admission by December 14
- November 15-January 14, candidates have 30 days to respond to offers of admission
- January 15-May 14, candidates have 14 days to respond to offers of admission
- On or after May 15 candidates may be asked for an immediate deposit

Many osteopathic schools have rolling admissions cycles, check with individual schools for their schedule.

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

#### Application Process General Timeline



This form serves only as a guideline to the application process, it is up to you as the applicant to make sure you are meeting any deadlines or requirements outlined by the application and testing services, as well as individual school requirements.