So you want to go to Medical School...
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Member of Committee on Admissions:
University of Rochester, 1986 – 2009
Cornell University Medical College, 2005 - present
Background

What’s the competition?
Number of First-Time Medical School Applicants Reaches New High. First-time applicants to medical school reached an all-time high in 2011, increasing by 2.6 percent over last year to 32,654 students, according to new data released Oct. 24, 2011 by the AAMC.
U.S Medical School Matriculants, by Gender

U.S. Medical School Applicants and Matriculants 1982-83 to 2010-11

- All Applicants
- All Matriculants
- Men
- Women

- 16,567 (1982-83)
- 18,665 (2010-11)
- 9,909
- 8,756
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<th>GPA total</th>
<th>Acceptance rate</th>
<th>Acceptance rate %</th>
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Source: AAMC Data Warehouse: Applicant Matriculant File, as of 10/19/2010.

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“ANY OTHER NAGGING PAINS?”
Approximately eight percent of applicants with UGPAs ranging from 3.80 to 4.00 and MCAT total scores ranging from 39 to 45 were rejected by all of the medical schools to which they applied. In contrast, about 18 percent of applicants with UGPAs ranging from 3.20 to 3.39 and MCAT scores ranging from 24 to 26 were accepted by at least one school.
Conclusion

• There’s about a 50% chance you’ll be accepted to Medical School.
• On the other hand, there’s about a 50% chance you WON’T be accepted.
• What can you do to make sure you’re in the right half?
Freshman Year

- Get Good Grades
- Develop good study habits
- Time Management!
- Seek extra help: Professor, TA, Tutor, etc.
- Get to know your professors personally
- Join clubs
- Seek research opportunities for the summer
Sophomore Year

- Get Good Grades
- Get to know your professors personally
- Seek leadership positions in clubs
- Volunteer for the disadvantaged
- Shadow physicians
- Research
Junior Year

- Get Good Grades
- MCAT Prep
- Think about Letters of Recommendation
- Leadership positions
- Volunteering, shadowing, research, TA ...
- Work on your application EARLY
Application

• EARLY work on essay and activities list
• Proof read, edit, proof read and edit!
• Keep it humble and honest
• Avoid formulas
• Don’t list High School activities
• Photo
• Address problems head on
I struggled at first to connect with the patients, who seemed to me vacant shells of their former selves. Bodies and minds were ravaged by disease or chemotherapy. Most patients required significant care - I cleaned mouths and genitals, washed and combed hair, and changed disposable undergarments. The first months were difficult for me. I left each shift horrified at the physicality of death and disease, and often considered quitting. I don't regret my initial aversion though, because it served as a reminder of growth and a hard-earned change in perspective.

I learned how to preserve someone's humanity through small acts: by calling him by his name and not his bed number; by speaking to her while performing her care even when it seemed unlikely that she'd hear or understand; and by touching his hands briefly when I finished. Can the whole of patient care be captured in the hand touch, that brief moment of human contact? When I reach for a patient's hand, I promise dependability; I promise to be accountable for all the information and compassion I can possibly provide.
"Your pulse is very, very weak!"
Interview

- Don’t have vomit on your breath
- Dress professionally and conservatively
- Practice, but don’t have a canned answer
- Take time to think before speaking
- NO BAD ATTITUDE
- Know about your research
- Know about the school
Interview (cont’d)

• Be ready to discuss why you want to go to that school
• Take note of your interviewers and subjects discussed
• You are being evaluated until you are ten miles away
• Don’t assume you have any idea about what your interviewer knows
Post Interview

• Thank you note to each interviewer, referring to subjects discussed
• Make each note unique
• Send updates for new accomplishments
• Let them know you love them
• Wait List
Importance of Application Data to Admission Officers at 113 Medical Schools in Their Decisions to Invite Interviewees and Offer Acceptances

• Interviewees: GPA: Cumulative science and math (3.7) GPA: Cumulative (3.6) MCAT Total scores (3.5) Letters of recommendation (3.4) Community service: medical (3.3) Personal statements (3.2) Medical/clinical work experience (3.2) Community service: non-medical (3.1) Leadership experience (3.0) Completion of premedical requirements (3.0) Experience with underserved populations (2.7)

• Acceptances: Interview recommendation (4.5) Letters of recommendation (3.8) GPA: Cumulative science and math (3.7) Community service: medical (3.6) GPA: Cumulative (3.6) MCAT Total scores (3.4) Personal statements (3.4) Medical/clinical work experience (3.4) Community service: non-medical (3.3) Leadership experience (3.2) Completion of premedical requirements (3.1) Experience with underserved populations (3.0)
Recommendation:  

Considering all aspects of the application and the interview, how does the applicant compare with present Weill Cornell students?  

1 – 5  

"3" = comparable to present students.  "1" = much worse.  "5" = much better.

Estimation of character  

("genuineness", insight, candor, motivation, "depth")

Interpersonal Skills  

(Rapport; communication skills in interview, cogent reasoner, well-formed opinions)

Breadth of Interests, Extracurriculars  

(Depth, length of commitments; genuine vs. perfunctory; well-rounded)

Community & Clinical Service  

(Level of involvement; knowledge gained)

Leadership & Initiative  

(Led or started programs; overcame hardship; shows spark & creativity)

Research  

(Role in thought & design, level of involvement, publications, explains well)

Additional Comments (can continue on back)  

Please note any academic weaknesses/inconsistencies/gaps. Does anything need to be explained? Disciplinary action? Gaps in c-v? Did anything make you uncomfortable?

Also consider: How is the applicant's "fit" with WCMC? How will he/she relate to classmates/faculty/patients? Contribute to the college community? Will we be proud of him/her as an alumnus/a? What is most special about him/her?

*** HAVE APPLICANT ADDRESS FOLLOWING ISSUE(S):***
“Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the ‘Are you totally lost?’ icon.”