



UMMS Office of Admissions Process for the Evaluation of M.D. Applicants

Preliminary Screening

All applicants who complete a primary application to the University of Michigan Medical School through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) will automatically receive a secondary application if they have an MCAT score at or above the 35th percentile. Those applicants with a score below this percentile are screened for excellence within our competencies and may be sent a secondary application after review. Applicants must meet the admission [requirements](#) as listed on the school's website.

Selection for an Interview

Applicant files will be reviewed individually and holistically to assess the applicant's suitability for a career in medicine. Materials reviewed will include the application, all secondary materials and any additional information requested by the Office of Admissions.

Each applicant will be considered in the pool of the entire group of applicants and will be individually assessed on both essential attributes and on their unique potential to contribute to the educational experience at the Medical School and to the profession of medicine. Essential attributes (listed below) are those attributes considered essential to the practice of medicine, and therefore are required of all students admitted to the University of Michigan Medical School. Unique potential (discussed further below) relates to the unique and valued, but not required, characteristics that an applicant may possess, which would enhance their potential to contribute to the educational experience and diversity, broadly defined, of the Medical School, and to the profession of medicine.

The Office of Admissions holistically screens files for the following essential attributes: Academic Excellence, Exposure to Medicine, Service to Others, Teamwork/Leadership, Inquisitiveness/Research, Cultural Humility, and Life Experience/Resilience.

Based on these criteria and an initial consideration of the candidate's unique potential, a select group of applicants will be considered for the possibility of an interview and will receive an additional review by the Assistant Dean for Admissions or Director of Admissions. In the Michigan Interview Confirmation (MIC), applicants will be asked to explain how they have fulfilled the core competencies (if not by traditional premedical school coursework). The Office of Admissions will verify completed premedical core competencies.

The Interview Process

Invited applicants will participate virtually in two traditional one-on-one (Long-Form) interviews and six standardized mini (Short-Form) interviews with members of the Admissions Committee who are a broadly diverse group of alumni, faculty, staff, and medical students. Interviewers will complete a standardized evaluation form for each interviewee that provides a clear definition of qualities to be evaluated. Interviewees will be provided with an opportunity to anonymously evaluate the interview process and provide feedback to the Office of Admissions about the quality of their interview experience.

The Admission Decision

The Admissions Executive Committee (AEC) will verify applicants for completed premedical core competencies and holistically review the complete files of each of the interviewed applicants, including the assessment by the interviewers, and up to four letters of recommendation of the candidate's choosing, on their individual essential attributes and their unique potential to contribute to the educational experience and broad diversity of the Medical School and the profession of medicine.

Based on this holistic review, the AEC will then provide a "mission-aligned score," which is a global assessment of the future potential of the interviewee as a physician, member of a medical school class, as well as their ability to fulfill the aims and goals of our medical school.

How the Office of Admissions Builds a Class

Each year, there are many more applicants who possess essential attributes to become competent and effective physicians than there are available seats in the class. Many of these applicants will also possess unique characteristics that could contribute both to the educational experience of their classmates and eventually to the field of medicine. Our admissions process, following the holistic evaluation of each individual applicant, seeks to build a diverse class. Everyone's experience and perspective fold into our collective learning, enhancing the educational environment while enriching a more [diverse](#), equitable and inclusive legacy to provide future patient care of the highest quality. The UMMS, in its admissions process and otherwise, follows the guidelines and policies regarding [nondiscrimination](#) as put forth by the University of Michigan.

The factors we consider when building a class include:

- a. Interest in underserved patient populations: Assessment of future potential to impact underserved populations, which include but are not limited to geographic, financially disadvantaged, underrepresented populations, or under or uninsured people. Applicants who provide evidence, stated or apparent from their application materials, that they are inclined to serve in one of these areas may be considered highly desirable for admission to UMMS. Assessment would include, but is not limited to, past experiences, and demonstrated interest in practicing in an underserved area or with underserved populations.
- b. Interest in underserved medical specialties: This assessment can include particular underserved specialties such as primary care, but will also include medical areas such as bioethics, the understanding and teaching of cultural humility, medical education, and so on. These underserved medical specialties will change from time to time and will be updated accordingly. Assessment would include, but is not limited to, past experiences, and demonstrated interest in practicing in underserved medical specialties.
- c. Leadership: The physician must be able to effectively direct the diagnosis and treatment course of patients. Previous team leadership experience (for example, advancement in the military, captain of an athletic team, selection for a leadership position in an organized environment), or leadership training experiences will be considered in assessing leadership.
- d. Multicultural life experiences: Each physician must care for patients with a wide variety of racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Multicultural life experiences with other ethnicities, races, and cultures are deemed valuable and will be considered in assessment.

- e. Scientific or social research experience: Advancement of medical knowledge has the potential to benefit large populations of patients. Assessment would include, but is not limited to, demonstrated skill and prior experience in research.
- f. Educational background: Although the practice of medicine is heavily grounded in the sciences, the art of medicine requires an understanding of and appreciation for psychosocial issues such as economics, history, and philosophy, among others. Students who have studied these areas will be assessed for their potential to contribute to the educational experience of the class. Applicants who present with a graduate degree (e.g., MPH, master's in education, PhD) bring a unique set of skills that will be valuable to classmates, patient care, and future cohorts of physicians.
- g. Socioeconomic status (SES): To train future physicians with the potential to serve our communities in need, it is important to educate students from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds.

Possible Outcomes

The final decision regarding applicants resides with the AEC. Every effort will be made to select a class of individuals who, in the aggregate, have the potential to contribute positively to the educational environment and address the varied needs of future patients. No quotas will be set up for any quality or characteristic sought in the candidates or for the Medical School incoming class, and all decisions will be based on an individualized, holistic review of each applicant.

Interviewees will be notified of their status (Offered Admission, Deferred Decision, Waitlist or File Closed). Students offered admission are not required to pay a deposit and all are considered for Admissions scholarships. They are asked to adhere to [UMMS Admission Protocols](#) for Admitted Students. If Deferred Decision candidates are not admitted by the spring, they will be moved to the waitlist. We do not rank candidates on the waitlist.