Some Medical School Admissions Facts

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## Medical Schools Attended by Penn Graduates 2005-2009

### 2005 (65 schools)

- Albert Einstein (6)
- Baylor University
- Boston University (2)
- Brown University (2)
- Case Western Reserve University
- Columbia University (6)
- Cornell University (2)
- Dartmouth (2)
- Drexel University (10)
- Eastern Virginia University
- Emory University (5)
- George Washington University (3)
- Georgetown University (2)
- Harvard (9)
- Howard University (2)
- Jefferson Medical College (15)
- Johns Hopkins University (2)
- LSU-New Orleans (2)
- Mount Sinai (9)
- New York Medical College (5)
- New York University (7)
- Northwestern University (3)
- Pennsylvania State University (2)
- Rush Medical College (2)
- Stanford University (2)
- Stony Brook University (3)
- SUNY at Buffalo (3)
- SUNY Downstate (5)
- SUNY Upstate
- Temple University (3)
- Tufts University (5)
- Tulane University (4)
- UCLA (2)
- UMDNJ- Robert Wood Johnson (8)
- UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School (6)
- Universidad Central Del Caribe
- University of California, San Francisco
- University of California, Davis (2)
- University of Chicago (3)
- University of Colorado (2)
- University of Connecticut (2)
- University of Florida
- University of Hawaii
- University of Illinois-Chicago (2)
- University Of Maryland (6)
- University of Massachusetts
- University of Miami (2)
- University of Michigan (4)
- University of Nebraska
- University of Nevada (2)
- University of North Carolina (2)
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Pennsylvania (13)
- University of Pittsburgh (3)
- University of Rochester
- University of South Dakota
- University of South Florida
- University of Vermont
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- Vanderbilt University (2)
- Wake Forest University
- Washington University
- Wayne State University
- Yale University (4)
2006 (69 schools)

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<thead>
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<td>Wake Forest University (2)</td>
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<td>Washington University (3)</td>
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<td>Yale University</td>
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Albany Medical College
Albert Einstein (7)
Boston University (3)
Brown University
Case Western Reserve University (2)
Chicago Medical College
Columbia University (8)
Cornell University
Dartmouth (2)
Drexel University (7)
Duke University (5)
Eastern Virginia University
Emory University (4)
George Washington University (4)
Georgetown University
Harvard (5)
Howard University
Jefferson Medical College (10)
Johns Hopkins University (2)
Loma Linda University
Loyola University Chicago
Medical College of Georgia
Medical University of South Carolina (2)
Morehouse University
Mount Sinai (5)
New York Medical College (4)
New York University (14)
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University (2)
Ponce School of Medicine
Stony Brook University (2)
SUNY at Buffalo (3)
SUNY Downstate
SUNY Upstate (2)
Temple University (7)
Tufts University (5)

Tulane University (3)
UCLA (4)
UMDNJ- Robert Wood Johnson (12)
UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School (2)
University of Alabama (2)
University of California San Francisco (2)
University of California, San Diego
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Connecticut
University of Illinois-Chicago (5)
University of Iowa (2)
University of Louisville (3)
University of Maryland (4)
University of Massachusetts (3)
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of Nebraska (2)
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania (21)
University of Pittsburgh (5)
University of Rochester
University of South Alabama
University of Vermont
University of Virginia (3)
University of Washington (2)
University of Wisconsin
USC (3)
UT-San Antonio (3)
Vanderbilt University
Washington University (3)
Wright State University
Yale University (3)

Career Services: Pre-Professional/Pre-Grad Advising, 9/27/10
### 2008 (78 schools)

Albert Einstein (12)  
AT Still Osteopathic SOM  
Baylor University  
Baylor University (3)  
Case Western Reserve University (8)  
Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Chicago Medical College  
Columbia University (3)  
Cornell University (6)  
Dartmouth  
Drexel University (4)  
East Carolina University  
Emory University (6)  
George Washington University (2)  
Georgetown University  
Harvard (3)  
Howard University  
Jefferson Medical College (20)  
Johns Hopkins University (2)  
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Loma Linda University  
Meharry Medical College  
Mercer University  
Mount Sinai (6)  
New York Medical College (6)  
New York University (10)  
Northwestern University (3)  
Nova SE College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Ohio State University  
Pennsylvania State University (4)  
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (2)  
Stanford University  
Stony Brook University (3)  
SUNY at Buffalo  
SUNY Downstate (5)  
Temple University (8)  
Texas A&M  
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (2)  
Tufts University (8)  
Tulane University (2)  
UCLA  
UMDNJ College of Osteopathic Medicine  
UMDNJ- Robert Wood Johnson (5)  
UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School (3)  
University of Alabama (2)  
University of Arizona  
University of Arkansas  
University of California San Francisco (4)  
University of California, Irvine (2)  
University of California, San Diego (3)  
University of Chicago (2)  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Colorado  
University of Connecticut  
University of Hawaii  
University of Illinois-Chicago (5)  
University of Iowa  
University of Kentucky  
University of Louisville  
University of Maryland (3)  
University of Massachusetts  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota (2)  
University of Mississippi  
University of Missouri-Columbia  
University of Pennsylvania (21)  
University of Pittsburgh (3)  
University of Rochester (2)  
University of Utah  
USC  
UT-Houston (2)  
UT-San Antonio (3)  
UT-Southwestern  
Vanderbilt University (3)  
Virginia Commonwealth  
Washington University (5)  
Yale University (3)
2009 (81 schools)

Albany Medical College (2)
Albert Einstein (5)
Baylor University (3)
Boston University (5)
Case Western Reserve University (3)
Columbia University (5)
Commonwealth Medical College (5)
Cornell University
Dartmouth (3)
Drexel University (4)
Duke University (2)
Emory University (6)
Florida State University
George Washington University (4)
Georgetown University (5)
Harvard (4)
Howard University (2)
Indiana University (2)
Jefferson Medical College (14)
Johns Hopkins University
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Loma Linda University
Loyola University Chicago
LSU-New Orleans
Medical College of Georgia
Medical University of Ohio
Mount Sinai (8)
New York Medical College (4)
New York University (4)
Northwestern University (4)
Nova SE College of Osteopathic Medicine
Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University (2)
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (5)
Rosalind Franklin
Stanford University
Stony Brook University (2)
SUNY at Buffalo
SUNY Downstate (6)
SUNY Upstate
Temple University (4)
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine-CA
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine-NY
Tufts University
Tulane University (4)
UCLA (4)
UMDNJ College of Osteopathic Medicine (3)
UMDNJ- Robert Wood Johnson (13)
UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School (4)
University of Alabama (4)
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California San Francisco (3)
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati (2)
University of Colorado (4)
University of Connecticut (2)
University of Florida
University of Hawaii (2)
University of Illinois-Chicago (3)
University of Maryland (3)
University of Massachusetts
University of Miami (5)
University of Michigan (3)
University of Nebraska (2)
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania (14)
University of Pittsburgh (4)
University of Rochester
University of Tennessee
University of Vermont
University of Washington (2)
University of Wisconsin
USC (2)
Vanderbilt University (3)
Virginia Commonwealth
Wake Forest University
Washington University (3)
Wayne State University
Western University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Yale University
• This information was compiled from Penn-specific data available at the end of each admissions cycle from the American Medical Colleges Application Service, a subsidiary of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

• In 2006, schools in the Texas system, which has its own application process and service, began to make their admissions data available via the AAMC and are therefore included in our statistics from that point forward.

• In 2008, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, in response to requests for a reporting system comparable to that of the AAMC, began to provide data on applicants, admitted students and matriculants. The number of Penn students applying to and attending osteopathic medical schools is quite small, comprising some 37 students for the fall of 2009, compared with 319 students applying to allopathic medical schools.
II. Academic disciplines of students admitted to medical school

- This data was compiled using a combination of AAMC self-reported information on majors and information available through the Penn-In-Touch advising system.
- The majors which comprise the different disciplines in the College are as follows:
  - Biological Sciences: BBB, Biochemistry, Biology, Cognitive Science, Molecular Biology
  - Physical Sciences: Biophysics, Chemistry, Geology
  - Social Sciences: Anthropology, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Economics, Environmental Studies, Health and Societies, Hispanic Studies, History and Sociology of Science, International Relations, Jewish Studies, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Political Science, PPE, Psychology, Sociology, South Asian Studies, Urban Studies, Women’s Studies
  - Mathematics: Mathematics, Statistics

III. Graduation year/age of students admitted to medical school

This data was compiled using information from annual AAMC admissions reports.

Chart 10-M
Age Distribution, Year 2009 Applicants

Source: AAMC Data Warehouse: Applicant Matriculant File

Chapter 5: Choosing the School That’s Right for You

No doubt you have many questions about the medical school application process. What forms will I need to complete? What are the logistics involved? What type of supporting documentation must I get? What’s the timing of it all? How much will it cost me?

We address all that in the next chapter. For now, though, you’ve got an even bigger question to consider, and that’s because the initial stage of the application process isn’t really a “how” at all. It’s a “where.” You first need to figure out to which school (or schools) you should apply. It’s a question that is answered by looking not only at various medical schools, but at yourself, as well.

Because you’re not searching merely for a school you can “get into.” You’re searching for a match.

The Overall Mission of the School

If you’ve seen one medical school . . . you’ve seen one medical school.

That’s a cute way of saying that medical schools differ from one another. And many of these differences are pretty obvious. Some schools are located in the East; some in the West. Some are private; others, public. Some have a large entering class; others, small. And, as we explained in Chapter 3, medical schools vary in the content of their courses, in the way they teach, and even in the way they grade students.

These are all factors you’ll want to consider as you narrow your selection, and we touch upon them in the pages that follow. But the differences go even deeper, and at a very core level: Medical schools have diverse missions and priorities. Because of those distinctions, what’s significant to one school may be of only moderate importance to another, and these goals naturally carry into the selection process.

To figure out where to apply, then, requires that you become aware not only of the differences among schools, but that you also analyze yourself—your skills, experiences, career goals, and so forth—to identify the most appropriate matches. Take, for instance, an institution that places a strong emphasis on primary care. Is that the career path you intend to follow? If so, and especially if you can demonstrate your interest through extensive experience related to that area, you become a more attractive candidate on that basis alone.
Kicking Off Your Research

There are a number of ways in which you can research schools to identify the ones that best match your own strengths, interests, and goals.

- MSAR School Entries: Start with the school pages in this very guide. Here, each institution includes a clear mission statement and a description of its selection factors.
- Web Sites and Literature: You'll also want to review information provided by schools themselves. Although the specific content varies by school, each includes detailed material for prospective students.
- Advisors: Your pre-health advisor or career counselor can provide you with insights and often will be able to recommend specific schools likely to be a good "fit." Make sure you don't overlook this resource.

That's one example. Other schools may be actively seeking students from specific geographic or rural areas. Others may be looking for students with a high potential for a research career. Still others may want to increase the number of doctors who plan to practice in their states (this last goal is often found among public institutions). The differing missions among schools will be reflected in their admissions policies and standards.

If you need help with this self-analysis, think back to the various experiences you've had over the years. The ones you found especially rewarding or inspirational are likely to correlate to a specific area of interest, and, by extension, a career goal.

- Did you volunteer two summers for a clinic in a rural, underserved area? Perhaps that's the direction you'd like your career to take, and, if so, you'll want to seek out medical schools that place a high priority on that area.

- Were the part-time jobs you held with a research firm particularly gratifying? If you'd like to pursue a research career, look for schools that have a strong reputation in that area or are known for graduating a large percentage of medical students going into research careers.

- There are also other ways that speak to your interests and career goals. Did you spend your junior year tutoring freshmen and sophomores in entry-level biology or chemistry? Perhaps you'd like to join a medical school faculty and educate the next generation of physicians. If so, look for a medical school with a relatively large percentage of their graduates in teaching positions.

Once again, keep in mind that this is a two-way street. While you're looking for a match, so are the schools. Your experiences will provide good insights for the admissions officers and help them determine if your interests and their missions are congruent.

The Educational Program

As you weigh your decision, you'll also want to consider the differences among the educational programs themselves. We touch on a few of these below.

- There's very likely going to be a relationship between a school's mission and its curriculum. You'll therefore be able to further gauge whether a particular institution's objectives and your interests align by analyzing course requirements and electives programs. A medical school with a mission to graduate more primary care doctors may, for example, have a track that provides for additional training in that area. A school that emphasizes research might have their students devote an extended period of time to scholarly pursuits.

- As you do your research, also consider what teaching methods you find most effective. Do you tend to do well with self-directed or participatory learning exercises, or do you do better with the more traditional, lecture-based style of learning? While most medical schools use an educational model that combines various methods, there will be a difference as to precisely how this mix has been adapted. You'll want to explore the degree to which you're likely to find small group discussions and problem-based learning exercises (as examples) versus a traditional teaching approach. A good starting point for your exploration is a school's Web site, as well as the AAMC's curriculum directory.

- There are key differences as to grading intervals (or systems), also. Some institutions use a pass/fail system; others an honors/pass/fail system; and still others use letter grades. Some students have definite preferences, and if you're one of them, you may wish to consider a school's grading system as you narrow your selection.

About the Medical School Interview

Remember that the medical school interview is a two-way evaluation. You are judging whether the school is the best "fit" for you while the admissions officers are judging whether you are a good fit for the school. Look upon your interview, then, as an opportunity to answer some remaining questions you may have about the school. Read about medical school interviews in Chapter 7.