

University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and Public Health
MD Degree Program

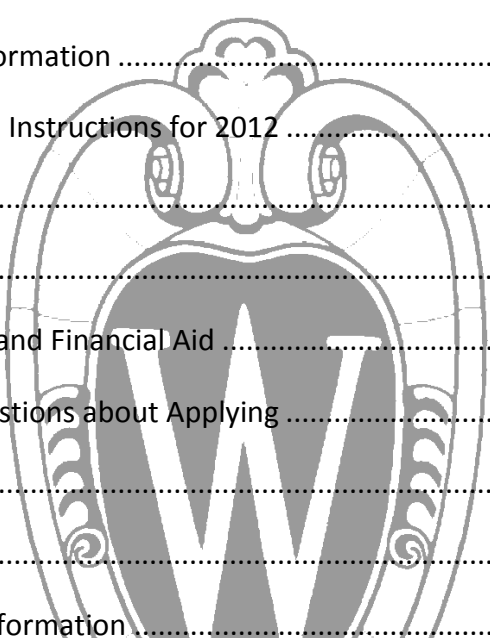


Admissions Guide
for the entering class of 2012

Please visit our website at: <http://www.med.wisc.edu/admissions/>

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More information available at our website: <http://www.med.wisc.edu/admissions/>

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. As you review the Admissions Guide and our website, you will obtain a clear sense of the richness of this great institution and understand why the UW School of Medicine and Public Health is nationally recognized for research, education and patient care.

As our students will tell you, the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) is a leader in curriculum innovation. We provide future doctors a broad foundation in both the science and art of medicine. We regularly assess and revise our four-year MD degree curriculum to fully integrate fundamental science and clinical experiences and public health. From the first month of medical school, students are paired with community physicians to learn core patient care skills.

Our internationally renowned research activities are conducted by an outstanding community of scientists; most are also involved in teaching. Their work advances the understanding of diseases affecting millions of people. Studies range from basic investigations of cellular abnormalities triggering cancer to clinical trials for new asthma treatment and population analyses of eye diseases such as macular degeneration. Medical students are encouraged to participate in research and have an extensive array of opportunities to participate in projects with world-class research teams.

Medical students benefit from an extensive network of clinical teaching sites throughout the state of Wisconsin with our academic partners: Aurora Health Care, Gundersen Lutheran and the Marshfield Clinic. Here in Madison, UW Hospital and Clinics is widely recognized for its transplantation, ophthalmology and allergy programs as well as the new American Family Children's Hospital and affiliation with the Paul P. Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center. The curriculum carefully balances outpatient and community based clinical experiences with inpatient, specialty and intensive care training.

UW SMPH supports students in their professional development, and in striving to keep a healthy, balanced lifestyle. We encourage volunteer and community service learning, international health experiences, fine art and music activities. Our students report a very supportive learning environment, with a faculty and administration willing to listen and problem solve collaboratively with students.

I wish you success as you pursue your goal of becoming a physician. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the UW SMPH.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Byron J. Crouse', written in a cursive style.

Byron J. Crouse, MD
Interim Senior Associate Dean
Academic Affairs

Medical Education Programs

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) embodies the Wisconsin Idea, a partnership between the University and the State in which new knowledge created by the academic community enriches the lives of the citizens of the state and beyond. This collaboration of the university and state government extends back to the beginning of the 20th century and has been a uniquely Wisconsin concept. As a state-wide medical school, the UW SMPH has clinical campuses in Milwaukee, La Crosse, and Marshfield, plus additional preceptor sites throughout the state. The service mission of the medical school is evident in student participation in free clinics in Madison, the annual Dean's Cup competition with the UW Law School to raise money for charity, as well as the numerous volunteer activities that make students at the UW SMPH known for their concern for the public good.

The UW SMPH is not just a state-wide medical school, but a resource to the nation and the world. Researchers at the UW SMPH have changed our lives and improved our health, from the discovery of vitamin D to pioneering techniques to improve the longevity of organs used for transplants. The UW SMPH is internationally known for its advances in health care and for the quality of the care provided by the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics.

Besides pioneering medical research, the medical school has been a leader in medical education. It established the first primary care clinical preceptorship in 1926. More recently it was at the forefront of primary care education, establishing a multidisciplinary clerkship which requires students to experience six core clerkships in internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, primary care, and psychiatry by the end of the third year of medical school. The goal of the UW SMPH is to produce outstanding physicians who are well prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century.

The school year starts with a White Coat Ceremony, reminding all incoming students that they are entering a profession dedicated to the highest standards of ethics, professionalism and quality patient care. The white coat is bestowed at the beginning of the first year because students begin seeing patients under the direction of a community faculty physician during the first month of classes and will continue working in that practice for their first two years of training.

In the first two years of medical school, students learn fundamental science from world-class teachers and researchers. In addition, a four-semester course on basic doctoring skills, Patient, Doctor and Society, introduces students to clinical care, ethics, health care delivery systems, population health and epidemiology, and culture and gender diversity in health. Students spend less than half of their class time in lectures. The remaining time is used for applied learning, such as problem solving, case-based small groups, and web-based course materials or laboratory sessions.

UW SMPH offers three MD programs. As part of our commitment to train physicians to provide care in underserved rural areas and to develop the future physician-scientists needed to conduct research, UW SMPH has developed a Rural MD program and an MD/PhD program. All medical students learn together for the first two years, and it is only in the third year that students separate from the Regular MD students to do their clinical training at rural sites or to

start their research for their PhD. Applicants are encouraged to investigate these programs now as you indicate your desire to apply for them in your AMCAS application.

Regular MD

Clinical training for UW SMPH medical students is provided in Madison, the Western Clinical Campus in La Crosse, the Milwaukee Clinical Campus, the Marshfield Clinic System, and the Appleton, Eau Claire and Wausau Family Medicine Centers. Students can choose from a wide variety of patient care experiences – in rural areas and urban city centers, and with diverse patient populations – Hispanic, Hmong, school clinics, and geriatric centers. The clinical years schedule has been designed to provide flexibility in the third and fourth years to assist students with career selection across all specialty disciplines.

UW SMPH medical students perform well on the US Medical Licensure Exams, have many opportunities to practice clinical skills with standardized patients, select a diverse range of careers - with about 50% choosing primary care specialties, have abundant research opportunities, staff seven underserved clinics in the Madison area and provide dozens of presentations to middle and high school students on health topics. When surveyed after graduation, students give high ratings for UW SMPH medical education, and residency program directors consistently rate their residents from the UW SMPH as performing higher than expected when compared to peers.

Rural MD offered through Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM)

The Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM), a program within the UW SMPH MD degree curriculum, is dedicated to improving the supply of physicians in rural Wisconsin and improving the health of rural Wisconsin communities. Admission into the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine is competitive, and students must have a strong commitment to practice medicine in rural Wisconsin. Admission is limited to Wisconsin residents who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents (residency must be finalized; not pending). See <http://www.med.wisc.edu/education/md/warm/main/187> for details.

MD/PhD - Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP)

Our MSTP (MD/PhD) joint degree program is sponsored by the UW SMPH and the Graduate School of UW-Madison. Our goal is to combine high quality medical training with a rigorous PhD thesis in a departmentally-based or cross-campus graduate program. We are uniquely positioned to do this. Our medical school is an integral part of a world-class research university that is strongly oriented towards graduate education. Faculty members in and outside of the medical school recognize the importance of the MD/PhD degree and welcome students of our program for rotations, for thesis work, and/or for special advice and help with thesis projects. Our students have gained recognition for tackling risky and difficult projects and advancing understanding to a level that could not have been anticipated at the inception of the project. Medical training is done in a friendly environment alongside very talented and highly motivated members of our medical school classes. We have a strong commitment to bring diversity to both the UW SMPH and the Graduate School and are increasingly successful in doing so.

Admission to the Medical Scientist Training Program at UW-Madison is competitive. Admission is limited to U.S. citizens and permanent residents (residency must be finalized; not pending), and is made without regard to an applicant's in-state or out-of-state standing. Candidates should demonstrate notable academic credentials and strong research interests, experience, and potential.

The general curriculum configuration of the MSTP is:

UW SMPH Didactic	UW-Madison Graduate School	UW SMPH Clinical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 4 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Research Rotations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Mentoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Rotations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of Research Lab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required Coursework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residency Applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boards Step I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departmental Requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residency Interviews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Rotations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertator Status • Thesis Defense • Transition to Clinical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boards Step II • Graduation

Additional information about the MSTP is available at <http://mstp.med.wisc.edu/>.

Pre-medicine Requirements

Applicants to the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) need to have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university before starting the MD program. The degree may be earned in any discipline. Only outstanding undergraduate applicants will be considered without earning a bachelor's degree.

The applicant is expected to take coursework that demonstrates the intellectual discipline and problem-solving skills necessary to be a successful medical student. In addition, specific courses are required before starting at UW SMPH so that students possess the appropriate knowledge base that allows them to learn at the fast pace they will encounter in medical school classes. These course requirements need not be completed prior to submitting your application but must be fulfilled by the time of matriculation.

The UW SMPH Admissions Committee values intellectual diversity among its applicants and does not necessarily value science courses (beyond those listed below) more than upper level courses in humanities, social sciences and other fields. Courses that improve communication skills or prepare students for the social, psychological and economic aspects of medical practice are all important. Applicants may choose to use their undergraduate time to explore and study areas not necessarily directly related to their future career in medicine without feeling that they will be penalized in the admissions process as long as they perform well.

Requirements	Semesters
General biology (with lab)	1
Advanced biology (with lab)	1
Inorganic/general chemistry (with lab)	2
Organic chemistry	1
Biochemistry	1
Physics (with lab)	2
Statistics	1
Mathematics (calculus recommended)	1

See additional notes, next page.

Notes

- 1) Courses that meet the biology and chemistry prerequisites must include didactic and laboratory components required of science majors and total the equivalent of one academic year.
- 2) Physics courses must include didactic and laboratory components required of science majors and be based upon mathematics of at least the level of college algebra and trigonometry, and total the equivalent of one academic year.
- 3) A basic course in statistics or the equivalent is required. The requirement may be met in a wide variety of courses that include statistics topics and/or experiences that include implementation of statistics by the applicant. Such courses and experiences must be documented and submitted to the MD Admissions Office for approval.
- 4) Skill in verbal and written communication is an important requisite in medicine and a course in English that stresses composition is considered favorably in our medical school admissions process.
- 5) AP/CLEP exams may satisfy pre-medicine course requirements for the following areas: general biology, general chemistry, general physics, mathematics, and/or statistics. College or university transcripts must clearly state the AP subject and credit granted.
- 6) It is recommended that course requirements be taken for a letter grade rather than on a pass/fail basis.
- 7) These requirements are only for the MD Program at UW SMPH. Other medical schools may have different requirements. Access to the Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) is important for all applicants.
([https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar/***\)](https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar/***)))

Wisconsin Residency

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) accepts applications from both Wisconsin residents and non-residents. Highly qualified applicants from throughout the United States are encouraged to apply. All applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

All Wisconsin resident and non-resident applicants are evaluated by the same criteria but in different applicant pools. At least 75% of positions for new students go to Wisconsin residents except for the MD/PhD program where residency is not considered. It is to your advantage to be a resident of Wisconsin when applying to UW SMPH.

Wisconsin residency has been defined by the state legislature for the purposes of applying to UW SMPH and paying tuition. A summary can be found on the UW Office of the Registrar website. (http://registrar.wisc.edu/residence.htm***)

For determination of Wisconsin residency, we only use the information that you submit as part of your secondary application. The state of legal residence that you reported on your AMCAS application is not considered. Laws and rules used by other states and universities do not apply. It is possible that you could be considered a resident of more than one state. This does not disqualify you from being a Wisconsin resident.

For the purposes of acceptance to UW SMPH your Wisconsin residency is based on the day that you submit this secondary application. It is possible that if you are living and working in Wisconsin that your residency could change by the time that your residency is determined for the purposes of paying tuition.

If you claim to be a Wisconsin resident on your application, then we will confirm your residency status with the Office of the Registrar before further processing. If you claim to be a non-resident, then we only confirm your non-residency status if you are accepted to UW SMPH. Although making false statements on this application can have serious consequences, it will not be held against you if we determine that you are not a resident as long as you had a reasonable belief that you were and answered supporting questions truthfully. Appeal of non-resident status is through the Office of the Registrar.

Citizenship

In order to be considered for our medical school program, applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents (possessing an I-797C, Notice of Action form) verifying that permanent residence has been approved at the time the AMCAS application has been submitted.

American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS)

The American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) (https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas/**) is a centralized application service sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The AMCAS application is available in electronic format only, and is the initial application required of all University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health MD Program applicants.

The application must be completed and submitted to the American Medical College Application Service by November 1. Please note that this deadline varies from school to school. For UW SMPH, early applications are encouraged.

Once AMCAS has received your application and transcript(s), it takes approximately four to six weeks to complete the processing cycle. After we receive and review your AMCAS application, qualified applicants will be asked to submit an electronic secondary application.

The Association of American Medical Colleges provides a helpful reference each year: Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR).

https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar/**) It includes information about each U.S. and Canadian medical school. It also lists the requirements for entrance at each school, the selection factors, and information on deadline dates, oldest Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) considered and tuition and fees.

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

The Medical College Admission Test is required by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) and most medical schools in the United States. The test assesses mastery of basic concepts in biology, chemistry and physics as well as problem solving, logical reasoning and written communication skills. Complete information is available from the Association of American Medical Colleges. (<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/>)

Most applicants take the MCAT in the spring 16 months before they wish to enroll in medical school after completing most of their prerequisite courses. Applicants to UW SMPH who have been out of school must have taken the MCAT within the past four years, no earlier than January 1, 2008, for those applying to the Entering Class of 2012.

At UW SMPH the minimum numerical scores required for consideration are 7 in verbal reasoning, 7 in physical sciences, and 8 in biological sciences. Those not meeting the minimum scores have their applications reviewed for evidence of other significant achievements, and may still be invited to submit our secondary application.

The essays in the MCAT are given alphabetical scores to emphasize the statistical dissimilarity between the essay and the other exams, and to discourage averaging the writing score with the scores of the other tests. The essay is scored on a scale of J to T, with T being the highest. The average composite score for our most recent entering class was a 31, with a median writing score of P.

MCAT scores are not considered in a formula to determine acceptance. Rather they are used as part of a holistic review of each applicant by members of the Admissions Committee. There is no specific policy on how multiple MCAT scores are considered. Admission Committee members have the discretion to look at the most recent score, look at the best score, or consider the highest sub-scores from multiple test administrations.

Secondary Application Instructions for 2012

These instructions are for the secondary application to the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH). The American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) application provides part of the information needed by our Admissions Committee. (<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas/>) The secondary application requests supplemental information in order to complete your application.

After we receive your AMCAS application, our admissions staff will verify that you have met minimum MCAT scores of 7 in verbal reasoning, 7 in physical sciences, and 8 in biological sciences and attained an undergraduate grade point average of 2.8/4.0 have been met. Those meeting minimum scores are invited to submit our secondary application. The invitation will come via email accompanied by instructions on how to proceed. (Those not meeting minimum scores are further reviewed for evidence of additional achievements. Some may be invited to submit our secondary application.)

The deadline for receipt of the required items is December 1 of each year although early completion of the entire application is advised.

Throughout the application cycle, we will continue to communicate with you using the e-mail address listed in the preferred contact section of your AMCAS application. Please screen your e-mail carefully and keep your preferred contact information up to date.

The forms in the secondary application will correspond to the items listed below.

1. Data sheet and record of residence
2. Life activities
3. The optional essay
4. Reapplicant essay
5. Letters of recommendation
6. Disciplinary/legal action
7. Attestation statement
8. Application processing fee

Specific instructions for the items are:

1. Data Sheet and Record of Residence

Proceed through each page and provide the requested information.

2. Life activities

Provide a chronological history of your life activities from the time you completed high school to the present, for example, undergraduate studies, jobs, service and volunteer work, research, participation in music, sports, clubs, etc., graduate study, family responsibilities, et al.

3. The Optional Essay

This is an opportunity to share additional information as directed on the form, if you choose to do so.

4. Reapplicant Essay

Individuals who are reapplying are required to submit a statement indicating what has changed since the previous application (e.g., additional academic work, new letters of recommendation, work or volunteer experience, etc.). Reapplicants may also complete the optional essay.

5. Letters of Recommendation

The UW SMPH will only receive letters via the American Medical College Application Service.

Letters needed for the UW SMPH MD Program Application:

- One committee letter and one individual letter from a nonacademic source (someone other than a faculty or family member or personal friend), or
- One letter packet: This packet should include letters from three faculty members and a letter from a nonacademic source (someone other than a faculty or family member or personal friend), or
- Four individual letters: three academic letters of recommendation from faculty members and a fourth nonacademic letter from someone other than a faculty or family member or personal friend.

NOTE: Academic letters may be from science and/or non-science faculty members in any combination.

Types of letters (as defined by AMCAS and adopted by the UW SMPH):

- Committee letter: A committee letter is a letter authored by a pre-health committee or pre-health advisor and intended to represent your institution's evaluation of you. A committee letter may or may not include additional letters written in support of your application.
- Letter packet: A packet or set of letters assembled and distributed by your institution, often by the institution's career center.
- Individual letter: An individual letter refers only to a letter authored by, and representing, a single letter writer. If you have already included an individual letter within either a committee letter or letter packet, you do not need to add a separate (AMCAS letter request) entry for the individual letter.

Content of letters:

- The letters should address one or more of the following: character, integrity, motivation for medicine, ability to relate and communicate with others, personality, emotional stability, intellectual abilities.
- Instructions to Letter Writer forms are within the secondary application and may further assist letter writers regarding the desired content of the letters. See our Secondary Application Instructions for more information.

Designating letter writers:

- The Admissions Committee gives serious consideration to letters of recommendation submitted by individuals who know the applicant well. Applicants should solicit letters from individuals who are in a position to provide informed and objective information regarding the applicant's activities, employment, service and/or health related experiences.

Means of submitting letters:

- All letters must be submitted to AMCAS by December 1.
- Letters must be submitted directly to AMCAS per AMCAS instructions. You must create an entry for each letter of evaluation being sent to AMCAS. Up to 6 letter entries may be created for UW SMPH.
- You may also use letter services such as Interfolio and Virtual Evals that in turn make your letters available to AMCAS Letters.

Waiver forms:

- Applicants must complete a waiver form relating to their right to review the letter of recommendation. Waiver forms provided by letter services may be used. A waiver form is available within our secondary application for use as needed and is a part of the Instructions for Writers of Recommendation Letters. See our Secondary Application Instructions for more information.

Reapplicants:

- If you are reapplying to the UW SMPH MD degree program, all letters must be submitted via AMCAS. It is recommended that two new letters of recommendation be submitted (one academic and one nonacademic). Other letters may be resubmitted and/or updated and resubmitted. If you wish you may submit all new letters. The Admissions Committee requests a total of four letters per applicant. No letters from previous applications will be accessible for the 2012 application.

6. Disciplinary/Legal Action

Follow the directions on the form.

7. Attestation Statement

The next step in submitting your secondary application is to attest to the fact that the information you have provided is true, correct and complete. Submission of the application is attesting to the statement.

8. Application Fee

Electronic payment of the \$56 application fee is available within the secondary application. Please see the instructions about paying electronically or by check within the secondary application.

Note: The secondary application should be submitted between August 20, 2011 and December 1, 2011. Letters of recommendation may be received after the secondary application has been submitted.

Once the secondary application is submitted by the applicant, changes cannot be made by the applicant. You are advised to print a copy of your secondary application for your records at the point of submission.

Application Timeline – 2012 Entering Class

May 2011	AMCAS application available
June 2011	Earliest date to submit AMCAS application
September 10, 2011	Last MCAT test date for 2012 application consideration
Late September 2011	MD Interviews begin and continue into March; Admissions Committee begins review of applications and continues through April
November 1, 2011	Last date to submit AMCAS application
December 1, 2011	Secondary Application deadline
April 2012	All candidates are notified of Committee's decision by the end of April. An alternate list is created and those selected as alternates will be notified as places become available until school begins (mid-August).
May 15, 2012	Last day to make a final decision on which medical school you will be attending

Selection Criteria

Consistent with the missions of the University of Wisconsin and specifically the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) it is the mission of the UW SMPH Admissions Committee to select a diverse class of medical students who have demonstrated essential academic, personal and professional attributes that will allow them to succeed as clinicians, scientists, educators and leaders to meet the healthcare needs of Wisconsin and beyond.

All decisions concerning who is accepted to UW SMPH are made solely by the Admissions Committee. Committee members are appointed by the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and include faculty, students, and community members. All decisions by the committee are final. Admissions Office staff serve only in non-voting roles. Our admissions policy does not allow the Dean or anyone else to select an applicant for acceptance.

The Admissions Committee strives to select a class in which all members have:

1. an understanding of the responsibilities of a physician and the demonstrated motivation and commitment to spend their lives in that career;
2. the personal characteristics that will allow them to be caring and compassionate physicians;
3. the intelligence and past academic performance which predicts success in medical school so that they can learn the knowledge necessary to be effective doctors;
4. the life experiences and maturity to provide empathetic care while maintaining their own emotional well-being.

The Admissions Committee performs a holistic review of all applicants by which balanced consideration is given to the multiple ways in which applicants may prepare for and demonstrate suitability as medical students and future physicians. Applicants are evaluated in the entirety of their background, personal qualities, academic preparation, and life experiences.

For example, your GPA is not considered in a formula to determine acceptance. Rather it is viewed from many perspectives. Did you come from an educationally disadvantaged background that did not allow you to be as prepared for college as other students? How competitive was your undergraduate school? Did you take more difficult classes? Does your GPA correlate with your MCAT score? Is there an increasing grade trend as you matured and took more difficult courses? Did you take post-baccalaureate or graduate classes? Did you have to work to support yourself while going to school? How well did you balance academic performance with your other activities? If you have an episode of lower grades do you tell us why, and how you matured from the experience? Your MCAT, activities, life experiences, and medical exposure are viewed in the same manner.

There are many personal characteristics of successful physicians that the Committee views positively, and they actively seek examples of these in your essay, interview, activities, and letters of recommendation. The list includes integrity, self-discipline, altruism, communication skills, motivation, reliability, leadership, and so on. Among these qualities the Committee pays close attention to maturity and evidence of effective coping strategies when challenging situations have occurred. Medical school by itself is demanding, and it is important to the

Committee to know that you can balance other life events while maintaining focus on your education.

The Committee favors applications that are more than simply a list of what you have achieved. They want to know what you have learned and who you have become because of your accomplishments.

The Admissions Committee seeks a diverse student body. It is in the interests of both enriching the educational environment for all students and in better meeting the future medical, social and scientific needs of society, that the Committee makes a special effort to select a class whose members represent a broad range of life experiences, backgrounds and interests. Diversity may include, but is not limited to:

1. educational background;
2. socio-economic background;
3. ethnic and racial background;
4. regional and geographic background;
5. interests and/or aptitudes for different medical careers;
6. other cultural experiences.

Finally, the Admissions Committee recognizes that each applicant is unique. Providing a well-polished and professional application that still lets the Committee know what is distinctive about you may be to your benefit. Frequently the applicant who can effectively communicate what makes them special is the applicant who is accepted.

Tuition, Scholarships, and Financial Aid

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) provides an education that is equal or superior to any school in the United States and does so with tuition that is average for public universities and far less than most private schools. We recognize, however, the financial burden that attending medical school imposes on students. **All students accepted to UW SMPH will find that they are able to pay for their education and living expenses through scholarships and loans** (as long as you are eligible for federal financial aid).

Each year members of the new entering class receive about **\$1,000,000 in scholarships** renewable for 4 years. Despite this amount of support our current students report that they must still borrow about 2/3 of the cost of attending medical school. The Office of Student Financial Aid (<http://www.finaid.wisc.edu/>) assists medical students whose personal and family resources are not adequate to cover the expenses involved in attending UW SMPH. There is a fulltime financial aid specialist who ensures that every medical student is provided with a financial aid package adequate to meet their needs.

All financial aid applicants must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>). This application becomes available after January 1 each year and should be filed by March 1, even if your medical school application has not been reviewed by that time.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) offers a wide variety of resources, including information about financial aid, debt management and financial planning. (https://www.aamc.org/services/first/first_for_students/)

External Scholarships

Students accepted to UW SMPH can seek external scholarships to support themselves. The Wisconsin Medical Society offers scholarships from donations that they have received. The U.S. military and the National Health Service Corps offer scholarships to those willing to serve in the military or provide care in Health Professional Shortage Areas respectively. These scholarships require you to provide several years of service after your training is completed. Each year a few students also find other scholarships unique to their situation from their home community, parent's employer, or other special circumstances.

Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation Scholarships

(http://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation/support_for_students)

National Health Service Corps

(<http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/scholarship/>)

U.S. Army Health Professions Scholarship Program

(<http://www.goarmy.com/amedd/education/hpsp.html>)

U.S. Navy Health Professions Scholarship Program

(http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/navmedmpte/accessions/pages/healthprofessionsscholarshipprogram_prospective.aspx)

U.S. Air Force Health Professions Scholarship Program

(http://www.airforce.com/pdf/hpsp_scholarship.pdf)

Research Scholarships

Students accepted to the MD/PhD Program are provided with a full tuition scholarship as well as a stipend for living expenses. Students must have a strong research background and should be committed to a career in academic medicine. This program is competitive on a national basis and Wisconsin residents are not given priority. Funding is provided by the NIH, UW SMPH, and the UW Graduate School. On occasion students earning a graduate degree in addition to their MD will obtain funding for their graduate degree and medical education outside of this program as well.

UW SMPH Scholarships

All applicants accepted to UW SMPH are considered for scholarships. No additional application is required. Funds are awarded based on merit and financial need as part of our efforts to recruit students. The Scholarship Committee meets regularly during the year. For the Entering Class of 2011 funds were awarded as the class was filled from October through June.

The Scholarship committee also awards funds from the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA). The WMAA and the University of Wisconsin are engaged in a major fundraising effort at this time to expand the amount of scholarships available to medical students.

Loans

All student loans are administered through the Office of Student Financial Aid. (<http://www.finaid.wisc.edu/>) Terms and details are available through that office.

Debt Repayment Programs

Students may consider loan repayment programs that will pay all or part of the loans that they take out during medical school. Typically you do not apply for these until you are ready to start your practice after your residency. These programs require you to provide care in an area underserved by health professionals.

Health Professions Loan Assistance Program (http://www.worh.org/hplap_info)

National Health Service Corps (<http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/>)

See next page for costs for 2011-2012.

Costs for 2011-2012

Educational Costs	
Resident tuition	\$24,270
Books and supplies	\$1,355
Instruments	\$660
Total Educational Costs	\$26,285
Monthly Costs	
Rent, utilities and phone	\$710
Food and household	\$360
Transportation	\$160
Miscellaneous	\$325
Health care/insurance	\$215
Total monthly costs	\$1,770
(X 10.5 months)	\$18,585
Total Wisconsin resident budget	\$44,870
Total non-resident tuition add-on	\$10,520
Total non-resident budget	\$55,390

Frequently Asked Questions about Applying

Pre-medicine Course Requirements

1. **Do we accept AP or CLEP credit?** Yes, these credits may satisfy our pre-medicine course requirements for basic sciences, mathematics, and statistics. (See page 6) However, it may be in your best interest to also enroll in some of these courses in your college or university in order to be better prepared for the rigors of medical school. Your transcript must list the specific subject areas in which you received AP or CLEP credit.
2. **Can I apply if I have not yet completed all of my pre-medicine course requirements?** (See page 6) These course requirements need not be completed prior to submitting your application, but it is expected that if you are admitted, all requirements be met by the time of matriculation.
3. **Do I need a Bachelor's degree in order to attend your medical school?** Applicants to the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) must have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university before starting the MD program. The degree may be earned in any discipline. Only outstanding undergraduate applicants will be considered without earning a bachelor's degree.

MCATs and GPA

4. **What MCAT score and grade point average is required for admission?** At UW SMPH the minimum MCAT scores required for consideration are 7 in verbal reasoning, 7 in physical sciences, and 8 in biological sciences, and an undergraduate grade point average of 2.8/4.0. Those not meeting these requirements have their applications reviewed for evidence of other significant achievements, and may still be invited to submit our secondary application.
5. **When is the best time to take the MCAT?** The best time to take the MCAT is when you are well-prepared to do so. It is best to have allowed yourself plenty of time to study and prepare for the MCAT. Further, your scores on the MCAT reflect not only intelligence, but also knowledge. If you have not taken most of your required pre-medicine course requirements, you will need to study certain subject areas independently so that you will be adequately prepared. For applicants applying for admission in 2012, the MCAT must have been taken no earlier than 2008 and not later than September 10, 2011.
6. **What about multiple MCAT scores?** Which score is considered? We have numerous members on our admissions committee. Some members consider the most recent score only. Others will consider the strongest sub-scores from multiple tests. In any case, committee members will be able to see scores from all of the MCAT tests you have taken recently.
7. **Are my MCAT scores and grade point average competitive for UW SMPH?** The average MCAT score for our most recent entering class was 31. The average science grade point average was a 3.67 for science courses, and 3.71 overall. Please note that the committee also looks at many factors other than the MCAT and grade point averages. For further information, please refer to our Selection Criteria. (See page 15) The numbers cited above are for general reference only.

8. **How long are my MCAT scores valid?** MCAT scores are valid for four years. For applicants applying for admission in 2012, the MCAT must have been taken no earlier than 2008.

Letters of Recommendation

9. **How do I submit letters of recommendation?** All letters must be submitted via the AMCAS letter service. During the AMCAS application process, there will be a section asking for your letter of recommendation information. Please consult AMCAS instructions for additional details. We will not accept any letters of recommendation sent directly to our office.
10. **What if I have more than four letters of recommendation?** Our admissions committee members will read a minimum of four letters. We cannot guarantee whether additional letters will be read.
11. **Can a TA/graduate student instructor write an academic letter for me?** Yes, but our admissions committee prefers letters written by experienced faculty members at the level of associate professor or professor. If you must have a TA/graduate student instructor write a letter for you, it is advisable to have this letter cosigned by the supervising faculty member.
12. **If I work in a lab under a doctor or professor, would a letter written by this individual be considered an academic or non-academic letter?** This is your choice, depending on many factors – whether you did the research for a grade, whether you were employed, or both. Typically this type of letter could be considered either academic or non-academic. In any case, the letter writer should be able to comment on your personality, your work ethic, and your research skills.
13. **What if I cannot get three academic letters because I am not currently a student, or if I have been out of school for a while?** If you are able to submit one or two academic letters, this would be helpful. Other letters should be more recent and can be from supervisors, volunteer coordinators, etc. The letter writer should know you well and comment on your personal qualities and characteristics.

Facts and Figures

14. **How many applications do you receive?** We receive approximately 4,000 applications per year.
15. **How many applicants get invited to interview?** Between 500-600 applicants receive an interview.
16. **How many spaces are reserved for non-resident applicants?** Approximately 20-25% of our entering class will be made up of non-residents. As a state institution, we give preference to Wisconsin residents.

Residency and Citizenship

17. **How do I acquire Wisconsin state residency if I was not born in Wisconsin, or did not attend a high school in Wisconsin?** There are several requirements that you will need to meet in order to establish Wisconsin residency for tuition purposes. The Office of the Registrar will make your final residency determination. (<http://registrar.wisc.edu/residence.htm>) For further details, please see Wisconsin Residency Information for MD Admission (page 7).

18. **Do you consider international applicants?** We consider U.S. citizens or permanent residents only. Permanent residents must have evidence that final legal approval for permanent residence has been granted at the time that the AMCAS has been submitted.

Reapplying

Each year the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of positions available in our medical school class. If you applied to the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UW SMPH) and were not accepted, you are not alone. Many successful physicians at one time received the news that their application was rejected, including some who are now on faculty at UW SMPH. They re-evaluated their application, they worked to improve it, and they subsequently were admitted to medical school.

First, before anything else, you need to ask yourself some questions: Is a career in medicine really right for you? Do you know and understand the demands of both medical school and the career of a physician, and is it what you want to do for the rest of your life? If you answered yes to these questions, and you are willing to work hard and persevere to do what is needed to be successful, then keep reading.

The second step is to objectively evaluate your strengths and weaknesses as an applicant and how you presented yourself in your application and interview. You cannot do this by yourself. You must seek help from trusted family or friends as well as professional advisors. Use the pre-medical advising services on your home campus. Our admissions staff is also available to provide insight to you and give you feedback from the Admissions Committee.

Two thirds of applicants accepted by UW SMPH are also accepted by other medical schools. Your goal should be to have your choice of medical schools, not to just get accepted somewhere. How far you progressed through the admissions process this past year may determine the amount of work and type of preparation that you need to do before your next application. If you did not receive any invitations to interview, then you have a long way to go to improve your qualifications, and you may need to examine your life experiences, medical exposure, or academics. If you had multiple interviews and were placed on a Wait List then you are much closer to your goal and need to think about what will get you over the top. Make sure that you visit our website and read the section titled Before You Apply.

What have successful applicants done differently than you? Are they better prepared and more qualified than you, or did they simply present themselves better in their application and interview? You need self-awareness as well as honest feedback from others to answer this question so that you can improve your next application. For example, admissions offices often find it difficult to tell an applicant that they were denied due to a poor interview, but it won't do you any good to raise your MCAT score if the problem is your communication skills.

The UW SMPH Admissions Committee, like committees at most other schools, does a holistic review where an applicant is considered based on the entirety of their application. Applicants who simply list their accomplishments in a checkbox fashion are less likely to be accepted than applicants who are able to tell about the life journey that brought them to the point where they are now ready to start their medical education and become a physician.

Successful applicants are often those who are able to show admissions committees that they are special in some way. They are able to effectively communicate about the academic and life experiences that have shaped them as a person who is going to be a great doctor. What makes you special? What characteristics make you stand out from the thousands of bright, high achieving, altruistic applicants who want to be doctors?

Nationally, over 40% of applicants are accepted to least one medical school. The average applicant applies to 12 schools. Well prepared applicants who put together a strong application are usually accepted to more than one medical school. It takes time and research to choose the schools to which you are going to apply. Applying to too many schools or the wrong ones will be a waste of your time whereas applying to just one or two may decrease your chances of acceptance. At UW SMPH residents of Wisconsin have a 1 in 4 chance of acceptance and non-residents have a 1 in 25 chance.

Be realistic with your plans. What will you do if you are not accepted again? Most interviewers will ask you this question and you should be prepared with an honest answer because you have given serious consideration to the issue. How will the classes that you are taking or experiences that you are gaining apply to a different career? Will it be in healthcare or another field?

Be patient and allow enough time before you reapply. You will need to act on the advice that you are given and develop a plan. Then do it. Following your plan can be the difference between achieving your goal or continuing to dream. Understandably, you may feel that you must reapply in the next admissions cycle, but submitting an application which is essentially the same will produce the same result. There should be significant improvements in your application before reapplying. This might mean not reapplying the very next year. **The most common error made by reapplicants is that they submit their next application too soon.**

Remember that going to medical school is the start of a lifetime career. Many successful reapplicants comment on how much better prepared they were to make that commitment, in part by having had to cope with the rejection from their first attempt. The time you spend preparing yourself is short compared to the rest of your life and will go a long way in helping you reach your goals.

Technical Standards: Assessing and Facilitating the Fitness of Applicants and Matriculated Students to Meet the Requirement of the MD Program Curriculum

Introduction

Conferral of a medical degree certifies that the recipient has demonstrated all the requisite abilities to become a practicing generalist physician. This demonstration encompasses a variety of attributes critical to the provision of quality medical care, including the physical, cognitive and emotional strengths necessary to complete the rigorous requirements of the medical school curriculum, and the social and behavioral skills expected of a competent care-giver.

Admission to the UW SMPH MD Program reflects the judgment of the Admissions Committee that the admitted applicant possesses these attributes. The Committee's judgment is based primarily on each applicant's previous academic and personal experience. In some cases, where the presence or function of a critical attribute is affected by an applicant's disability, additional consideration is given to whether, through reasonable accommodation, adequate and reliable function can be secured. In the exceptional case, where either reasonable accommodation cannot be provided or adequate assurance of function obtained, admission may be denied or rescinded.

Accommodation decisions are the responsibility of the Technical Standards Committee. Regarding applicants and admitted students who have not yet matriculated, but who have disclosed a disability and/or requested accommodation, the Technical Standards Committee independently evaluates the necessity for and practicality of any accommodation; the committee then advises the student and the Admissions Committee of its findings. The Admissions Committee makes the final decision regarding the applicant's admission status whenever the Technical Standards Committee advises that reasonable accommodation cannot be provided.

Issues of accommodation arise not only at the point of admission and/or matriculation. A need for reasonable accommodation may arise during a student's enrollment in the UW SMPH. The Technical Standards Committee is also responsible for evaluating the necessity for and practicality of any accommodation for an enrolled student; the committee then advises the student and the Student Promotion Committee of its findings. The Student Promotion Committee makes the final decision regarding the student's enrollment status.

The UW SMPH MD Program has constituted the Technical Standards Committee to assist applicants and students in a responsible way to respond to conditions that can impact adversely on their ability to participate fully in the medical education curriculum, and, ultimately, to train for a career as a medical doctor. Applicants and students are urged to contact the Access and Accommodation Resource Coordinator for advice or assistance. The Coordinator is Brent Nelson (phone: 608-265-5030, email: bnelson@wisc.edu).

Standards

In order to perform adequately in medical education courses, students must, at a minimum, possess functional use of the somatic senses and adequate motor capabilities to manage situations in which these senses would be employed, and must be able to integrate data acquired via these senses. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable performance at the required level.

The following entries are intended to provide applicants and students with a framework for understanding the personal attributes critical to satisfactory performance in medical education and, ultimately, to the practice of medicine, since decisions on admission and student promotion are made in reference to these attributes:

Observational skills

The functional ability to observe in the lecture hall, instructional and clinical laboratories, the clinic, and the patient's bedside is required.

Communication skills

Students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients, their families and all members of the health care team. Candidates must show evidence of effective written and verbal communication skills.

Motor function

The ability to participate in basic diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers and procedures (e.g., palpation, auscultation) is expected. However, the candidate who cannot perform these activities independently should be able to understand and direct the methodology involved in such activities.

Intellectual, conceptual, integrative, quantitative abilities

Candidates must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize. Problem-solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In order to complete the requirements for the MD degree, students must be able to demonstrate mastery of these skills and the ability to use them together in a timely fashion in medical problem-solving and patient care.

Behavioral and social attributes

The Technical Standards Committee must examine all available information regarding a candidate's behavioral and social attributes including compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, ethics, responsibility, emotional stability, and tolerance, and decide whether the candidate is suitable.

Implementation

Implementation of these standards is within the purview of the Technical Standards Committee of the UW SMPH. It is the responsibility of the Committee to determine the appropriate interpretation and application of the standards in individual cases. When a request for accommodation is received, the Committee is charged with making decisions regarding each applicant's or student's ability to meet the standards.

Contacts & Other Information

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
2130 Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC)
750 Highland Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

Phone Numbers

Office of MD Admissions.....	(608) 263-4925
Student Financial Services	(608) 262-3060
MD Student Services	(608) 263-4920
Multicultural Affairs.....	(608) 265-4867
Medical Scientist Training Program	(608) 262-6321
Medical School Administration.....	(608) 263-8668
Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine.....	(608) 263-7082
Visitor and Information Programs	(608) 263-2400

University Websites

UW School of Medicine and Public Health MD Program Admissions	http://www.med.wisc.edu/admissions/
University of Wisconsin.....	www.wisc.edu
School of Medicine and Public Health	www.med.wisc.edu
Health Sciences Learning Center.....	www.hslc.wisc.edu
Hospital & Clinics	www.uwhealth.org
Ebling Library	http://ebling.library.wisc.edu
Office of Student Financial Aid.....	www.finaid.wisc.edu
Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)	www.uhs.wisc.edu/ship

Websites for Other Resources

Association of American Medical Colleges	www.aamc.org
American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS)	https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas
Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)	www.aamc.org/mcat
Student Health Insurance Plans	www.uhcsr.com
City of Madison	www.cityofmadison.com
UW-Madison Campus Safety Guide	http://www.students.wisc.edu/docs/clery_2010_final.pdf