The Pathway to Medical School

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http://som.umc.edu
Medical School Education

USMLE:

Step 1

Basic Sciences
- Anatomy
- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Pharmacology/Toxicology
- Pathology
- Physiology/Biophysics
- Psychiatry/Human Behavior

Clinical Training
- Anesthesiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Obstetrics/Gynecology

Step 2

MD

BA
BS
M1 M2 M3 M4

The University of Mississippi Medical Center
Academic Preparation

- Bachelor’s degree preferred
- Any major/accredited college acceptable
- Required college-level courses (1 year each; AP credit not acceptable)
  - Biology
  - Inorganic Chemistry
  - Organic Chemistry
  - Physics
  - Mathematics
  - English
  - Advanced science (senior college)
  
  8 hours each including laboratory
MCAT Preparation

1. Acquire Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) review book with
   - practice exams
   - answers to questions
   - explanations for all answers

2. Review subject matter

3. Simulate timed practice exams on computer

4. Analyze performance
   - read every explanation to every answer to every question and
   - chart reasons for incorrect answers
     - I don’t have a clue! (go to #2)
     - I knew that! (go to #3)
Personal Preparation

• Exposure to medicine
  – the sights, sounds, feel and smell
  – awareness of time and financial commitment required for training

• Extracurricular activities indicative of
  – effective interaction with diverse people
  – service to individuals, family, community groups
  – responsibility, integrity, leadership
  – academic interests beyond the classroom
  – cultural interests
  – time management
UMC School of Medicine
http://som.umc.edu; “admissions” tab

- Details about UMC
  - Academic and residency requirements
  - Program deadlines
  - Curriculum

- Links to Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
  - American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS)
  - Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)
    - Computer-based test at few sites with limited seating
    - ~22 dates; ~half day test
    - January scores used for alternates only
  - Fee Assistance Program (FAP)
You are ready to apply if you...

• are a Mississippi resident (or can meet the 1 year residency requirement before matriculation)

• will complete all academic requirements within the current academic year

• prepared to matriculate next August (deferments discouraged)
Application Timeline

Junior year

- **September**: Begin MCAT preparation
- **Spring**: Take 1\textsuperscript{st} MCAT
- **May**: Request transcripts & letters
- **June**: Complete AMCAS application
- **Summer**: Repeat MCAT
- **September**: Interviews begin

Avoid deadlines; verify receipt of each item
Early Decision Program
(apply to one school)

- **AAMC by 8/1**
  - AMCAS Application
  - Transcripts from all schools attended

- **UMC by 9/15**
  - Secondary Application & $50 Fee
  - Transcripts from all schools attended
  - Three faculty evaluation letters

- $\geq 3.6 \text{ BCPM GPA and 27 MCAT sum}$
Regular Decision Program (apply to multiple schools)

- AAMC by 10/15
  - AMCAS Application
  - Transcripts from all schools attended

- UMC by 12/1
  - Secondary Application & $50 Fee
  - Transcripts from all schools attended
  - Three faculty evaluation letters
Combined M.D./Ph.D. Program (dual degree)

- 7 year program, 3 blocks
  - M1, M2, Step 1 / G1, G2, G3 / M3, M4, Step 2
- Highly competitive applicants
  - Stipend
  - Tuition scholarship
- Select this program on AMCAS application
  - Regular Decision Program deadlines
  - Sequential acceptance to MD, PhD programs
UMC Selection Process……

- All decisions rendered by Medical School Admissions Committee (MSAC)

- MSAC is independent of internal/external political/financial influence; all applicants assured equal and unbiased consideration regardless of academic major, school attended, age, gender, gender preference, religion, race, or ethnicity.
UMC Selection Process

• **Initial Screen**
  – uBCPM GPA
  – MCAT

• **Interview**
  – Three admissions committee members including Associate Dean or Director of Admissions
  – Lunch & campus tour with M4

\( (3.8 + 21) \text{ versus } (2.8 + 31) \)
UMC Selection Process

• MSAC deliberations consider
  – Exposure to medicine
  – Extracurricular activities
  – Communication skills
  – Academic record, MCAT scores
  – Faculty evaluation letters
  – Professionalism
  – Special circumstances

• Decisions rendered by email
  – Accepted (rolling 10/15 – 3/15)
  – Not accepted (rolling 10/15 – 3/15)
  – Alternate (by 3/15)
Class Entering in 2008

• 277 applications
  – 59 colleges and universities
  – 130 attended community college, 17 earned associate degrees
    – Mean MCAT 24.4
    – Mean uBCPM 3.41
    – Mean oGPA 3.53

• 193 interviewed
Class Entering in 2008

• 122 accepted to fill a class of 110
  – Mean MCAT   28.0
  – Mean uBCPM 3.65
  – Mean oGPA   3.72
  – 11 schools in-state, 24 out-of state
  – 30 different majors, 40 % biology
  – 50 % female, 18% minorities,
    9% African American
Class Entering in 2008

- Two offers of acceptance were rescinded after review of Criminal Background Checks (CBCs)
- CBC review includes
  - Severity/violence of crime
  - Patterns of behavior
  - Failure to self report in AMCAS
- Speeding ticket in MS is a misdemeanor
Class Entering in 2009

- Interviews completed 12/18/2008
- Class selection completed 1/7/ 2009
- All applicants who met deadlines had a chance; but those who completed files during summer had an advantage!
- Follow suggested application timeline!!
Reasons to Attend UMC

- Student Support
- State-of-the-art facilities
- Hands-on clinical training
- Low Cost (2008 tuition/fees $11,649)
- High Quality Education
  - UMC pass rate for USMLE Step 1 usually national average; pass rate for Step 2 usually above national average
UMC School of Medicine @ MSU

- 1/22/2009: Pathway to Medical School
- 4/2/2009: Application Workshop
- 8/27/2009: Interview Workshop
For additional information:

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