



# MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICATION CHECKLIST



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The medical school application process is not only stressful and competitive, but very long. With pre-reqs, tests, and extracurriculars that you need to complete to get one step closer to that dream career, the preparation alone takes years! When it comes time to apply, the entire application cycle lasts almost a full year.

If you're applying to medical school soon, take a deep breath. You've got a long year ahead of you. This application checklist will help you get a clearer picture of what the tasklist looks like.

	Understand the <a href="#">medical school application timeline</a> and mark the important months in your calendar.
	Before you begin applying, acquire good <a href="#">extracurricular experience</a> . Volunteer at hospitals, shadow doctors, submit to have your research published, and more!
	Make sure you've racked up on all of the <a href="#">prerequisites</a> for medical school.
	Choose a date for the MCAT that is ideally no later than May or June of the cycle you are applying for, and register. The last day to <a href="#">register</a> without a charge is usually two weeks before the given test date.
	Make an AMCAS account.
	Narrow down your medical school list. You should pick at least 25-30 programs.
	Check the requirements for different medical schools.
	Choose and consult your recommenders (up to ten), and ask them to check the <a href="#">guidelines</a> for letters of evaluation. This should give them plenty of time to write strong letters.
	Look at the <a href="#">deadlines</a> and requirements for specific medical schools on the AMCAS, the <a href="#">deadlines and requirements for Texas schools</a> .
	Don't just look at MD schools - consider <a href="#">DO</a> and Caribbean schools as well, and look through their requirements and deadlines.
	Start brainstorming your <a href="#">personal statement</a> - what makes you unique from the tens of thousands of qualified applicants?
	Take the plunge and draft your personal statement. Be wary of <a href="#">topics to avoid</a> .

	Write down your activities section and carefully select your “three most meaningful activities.”
	Order official transcripts from each of the schools and colleges that you have attended.
	Finalize your school list (if you haven’t already).
	Proofread everything. Make sure all of the information has been entered correctly and that you’re sticking to the deadlines.
	The AMCAS opens in May—you should be submitting the primary <a href="#">as soon as the AMCAS opens</a> or the entire process is slowed down!
	As you wait for your application to be verified, continue to work on your extracurriculars.
	Start drafting your secondaries before they come out. There are often <a href="#">prompts</a> that are repeated, so it’s best to prepare beforehand.
	Once your application has been verified, you will receive the secondaries for your schools. The first secondaries are released around late June and early July. You should ideally take about two weeks to turn in the secondaries, as the time you take reflects your interest in the school.
	Depending on the school, the first interviews start as early as August. A big cut happens between the secondaries and interviews, so if you receive an interview, congratulations!
	Attend the interviews!

Typically, interviews wrap up around March. Students continue to be notified of whether they have been accepted, rejected, or waitlisted . Hopefully, you’ve prepared a strong enough application that stands out. However, the medical school application process is extremely cutthroat so you may have to reapply. Do your best and hopefully things will work out—good luck!