



Secondary Applications

2024 Application Workshops

Agenda:

- Purpose of Secondary Applications
- What's Included in Secondary Applications
- Pre-Writing Secondaries
- Using Secondaries to your Advantage!
- Receiving your Secondaries
- Timeline to Submit



Purpose of Secondary Applications

- To learn more about a candidate
- To ask questions of interest to their institution
- To assess core competencies
- To determine who to invite for an interview
- To assess how an applicant may connect with the school's mission/core values



MEDICAL EDUCATION | WORKFORCE

Core Competencies for Entering Medical Students

The 15 Core Competencies for Entering Medical Students (defined below) have been endorsed by the AAMC Group on Student Affairs (GSA) Committee on Admissions (COA). The competencies fall into four categories: Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Thinking and Reasoning, and Science.

What's Included in Secondaries

1. School Specific Questions of Interest

- Secondaries are sent directly to you by each school (MD and DO) or may be included within your primary application under “Program Materials” (DO only).
- The number of questions and response length will vary (typically a few short-essay questions).
- Some secondaries will ask you to re-enter information included in your Primary Application. This is to ensure you've met the school's specific eligibility requirements.

What's Included in Secondaries

2. Secondary Fees

- These vary (\$30-\$250) by each school, but usually are about \$100.
- Fee assistance programs may help offset the cost of primary and secondary applications for eligible applicants.
 - [AAMC Fee Assistance Program \(FAP\)](#)
 - [AACOMAS Application Fee Waiver](#)

What's Included in Secondaries

3. The Committee Letter**

- The Committee Letter is typically submitted *along* a similar timeline as secondary applications
- Students MAY submit their secondaries ahead of the Committee Letter. This is common and not disadvantageous. (This is particularly relevant for DO programs who may have Secondaries included within the Primary Application!)
- Your secondary application will not be marked 'Complete' until the Committee Letter is submitted. That's OK!
- Admissions committees work in partnership with pre-health programs and they understand the time/energy required to write Committee Letters.
- Schools MAY invite you for an interview after reviewing your Secondary Application but BEFORE your Committee Letter is in – be timely in your submissions!

What's Included in Secondaries

4. CASPer Situational Judgement Test

- **What is CASPer?** An online test where you are presented with a series of realistic, hypothetical scenarios and asked what you would do in each situation.
- **Why do schools use CASPer?** To complement other evaluative tools for a more holistic assessment of candidates.
- **How do I study for CASPer?** You DO NOT need to study for the test! CASPer is not a pass/fail test, nor are there right or wrong answers to the questions. But you should familiarize yourself with what to expect!
- **What does the test assess?** Your interpersonal skills and how you would respond to an ethical dilemma.
- **How do I register to take CASPer?** Visit <https://takecasper.com/> for registration, format familiarization and additional test information.
- **When should I take CASPer?** Take the test early! You may register for CASPer as soon as you know which schools you're applying to and if they require the test. Visit <https://takecasper.com/test-deadlines-ids/#americanmed> for a list of participating programs and testing deadlines.
- **I've taken CASPer, now what?** Your score will automatically be sent to the schools you've selected at the time of registration.

What's Included in Secondaries

- 5. [AAMC PREview](#)
 - Formally known as the SJT
 - Plan to register for your chosen test date
 - Required/recommended by a small number of [medical schools](#)
 - Check with the programs you are applying to!

What is measured on the AAMC PREview exam?

The AAMC PREview is a standardized exam that presents a series of hypothetical scenarios students may encounter in medical school and asks examinees to evaluate the effectiveness of a series of behavioral responses to each scenario. The AAMC has collaborated with subject matter experts in the medical school community, including faculty, admissions officers, and student and diversity affairs officers to tailor the PREview exam for medical schools.

Examinees' responses provide insight into their knowledge of effective and ineffective behaviors across [eight core pre-professional competencies for entering medical students](#):



Pre-Writing Secondaries

- After you've submitted your Primary Application, it takes several weeks for your application to be verified and the data transmitted to medical schools.
 - First data transmit date AMCAS = June 30
 - First data transmit date AACOMAS = May 4
- This is the PERFECT time to pre-write secondaries!

Pre-Writing Secondaries

- Stay organized! Create a spreadsheet for pre-writing secondaries.
- Draft responses to the school's essay prompts from past years.
 - Prospectivedoctor.com (MD)
 - Secondaryapps.com (MD and DO)
 - Check the school's website for past essay prompts (if none are listed, become familiar with the school's mission/values/vision and other relevant information about the program).

Pre-Writing Secondaries

- Fine-tune Responses to Common Questions:
 - Why are you interested in our school?
 - How would you add to the diversity of our school?
 - Describe an obstacle you have overcome.
 - Have you taken any time off from your undergraduate studies?
 - Co-op is PART of your undergraduate education, **it's not time off**.
 - Is there anything else we should know?
 - This is OPTIONAL. If there's something that you haven't talked about in your application that answers the question "why this school?" you can talk about it here. Leave this blank if you do not have anything NEW to add – medical schools appreciate brevity!
 - COVID-19 related questions
 - Answer only if you have something significant you would like to share / explain regarding disruptions to your academic/experiential preparation, or a personal challenge, you've faced during the pandemic. You do not need to explain or justify circumstances that effected all applicants, such as MCAT testing being cancelled.

Using Secondaries to your Advantage

- Secondary Applications provide an opportunity for you to highlight school fit by integrating information about a specific school or program into your personal responses.
- In developing your responses, review the school's website to identify curricular and experiential philosophies that align with who you are as an applicant. Consider the following:
 - School mission/vision
 - Dean's letter/Overview page
 - Curriculum information
 - Special programs and elective opportunities
 - Research opportunities

Receiving Secondaries

- Review your pre-written responses for that school.
 - Are they asking the same questions?
- Edit your responses (EVEN PRE-WRITTEN ONES!)
 - Make sure you are answering the question being asked!
 - Proofread your responses.
 - Make sure you're using your character count wisely.
- Before you Submit your Secondary Application...
 - Ask someone to proofread your responses.
 - Did you include the correct response for the correct question/school?
 - Did you answer **ALL** the required questions?

Timeline to Submit

- Set Deadlines: Aim to have **ALL** secondaries submitted within two weeks of receipt, regardless of due date.
- Prioritize: Submit your secondaries based on the priority you give each of your prospective schools and/or the anticipated time it will take you to complete (e.g. if a school has few questions or a fee and no questions).
- Maintain Quality: REVIEW before submitting!
- Submit Promptly: Without a completed secondary, you're unlikely to get an interview invitation.
- Payment: Don't forget to pay your Secondary Fee if one is required.

Questions?



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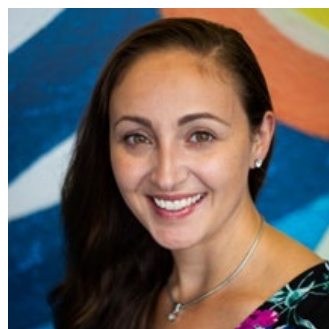
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