

TIMELINE AND WHAT WE'RE COVERING TODAY

MAY-JUNE

Primary Apps

AMCAS | AACOMAS |
TMDSAS

ADEA-AADSAS

OptomCAS



JUNE-AUGUST

Secondary Apps

*MD Programs: Separate
All others: "Program
Materials" Section of
Primary Application*

Other Assessments



AUGUST-APRIL

App Review and Decisions

*Reject Pre-Interview
Interview
Waitlist
Reject After Interview*

PICKING SCHOOLS-FINISH THIS SOON!

By the Numbers

- Info in MSAR, DO Explorer, Dental School Explorer
- URI Applicant date

State vs. Private

- Many state schools give strong preference to state residents

Location

- Private university programs largely concentrated in the Northeast

Mission and Values

- Look closely at what schools say about themselves. Take note of focus on populations served

Have your preliminary list ready when you meet with me—use the shared Google Sheet

MAY- JUNE 2024

Application Services, AKA Primary Applications

MEDICAL:

- AMCAS--MD programs. Opens **May 1**, first submission **May 28**, first day of application transmission to med schools **June 30**.
- AACOMAS--DO programs. Opens **Early May**.
- TMDSAS (TX med and dental schools). Opens **May 1**, first submission **May 15**.
- ***You can apply to more than one of these***

DENTAL: ADEA-AADSAS, TMDSAS. Opens on **May 14**; first submission is **June 4**.

OPTOMETRY: OptomCAS. TBA (probably late-June/early-July).

PODIATRY: AACPMAS. TBA.

PRIMARY APPLICATION FLOW

1: FILL IT OUT

Initiate your account
Send in transcripts
Input coursework, essays,
work/activities
LORs
Designate schools
AACOMAS, AADSAS,
OptomCAS, and AACPMAS
include “program
materials”



2: SUBMIT FOR VERIFICATION

NOT done yet!
Goes into a queue for
verification based on
official transcripts
AMCAS: 4 weeks
Others: a few days (not
more than 2 weeks)



3: VARIFIED/ PROCESSED

Includes GPAs
Transmitted to your
designated schools
MD Programs and some
DO: they'll send
secondaries
Send PDF Copy to Dr.
Simmons

APPLICATION SERVICES

What you'll need & what goes in them

- **Official transcripts**
 - for yourself and for them—order as soon applications open.
- **All post-secondary coursework—you type it all in**
 - *IMPORTANT: application services create your GPAs.* All grades count regardless of URI second grade option or other grade replacement/removal policies at URI or elsewhere.
- **Letters of Recommendation:**
 - *Committee letter OR letter packet—you will input your LOR request(s) which should go to Andrew Simmons, Director of Pre-Health Professions Advising and Chair, Health Professions Advisory Committee (ansimmons@uri.edu).*
 - *in the application, designate committee letter if you have completed the HPAC process. Otherwise, you designate either letter packet or individual letters.*
 - *individual letters—your letter requests to individual letter-writers.*
- **Personal statement (and, if applicable, “Other Impactful Experiences,” MD/PhD)**
- **Work and activities list**
- **List of schools**
- **Institutional Action**

MORE ABOUT APPLICATION SERVICES

Submit as early as possible, though be sure it's done well and done right even if it takes a bit longer than you thought it would.

Submission is followed by verification period (4 weeks for AMCAS, less for others). *Your application is not complete until it is verified/processed.*

Applications will be accepted, processed, and sent to schools with or without your test scores or letters of recommendation.

- *If you have MCAT or DAT scores: designate your full list of schools.*
- *If not: designate a small number, then add the rest of your schools after getting your scores.*

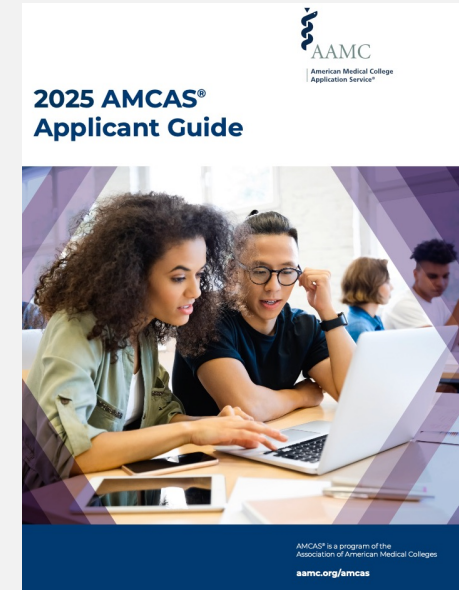
Fees and fee assistance: usually an initial amount and then a fee per designated school. For example: AMCAS will be \$175 for the first school and then \$46 for each additional school.

- *AMCAS, AACOMAS, and AADSAS have fee assistance programs—often first-com/first-served.*
- *Each school will also charge its own application fee.*

GETTING HELP

AMCAS: Applicant Guide (PDF)

On AAMC website; ALSO, call or email AMCAS as needed.



CHOOSE DO
AACOM

How can we help you?

AACOMAS Applicant Help Center

AACOMAS Applicant Help Center

Just getting started? Review the AACOMAS [Quick Start Guide](#).

Any questions? [Contact us for support](#).

Got feedback? [Send your ideas to help us improve your experience](#).

Starting Your AACOMAS Application

Get started with an overview of the process, important dates and fees, and contact information.

- Getting Started with Your AACOMAS Application
- Creating and Managing Your AACOMAS Account
- Adding or Deleting AACOMAS Programs

Filling Out Your AACOMAS Application

Complete the application's four core sections: Personal Information, Academic History, Supporting Information, and Program Materials.

- AACOMAS Personal Information
- AACOMAS Academic History
- AACOMAS Supporting Information
- AACOMAS Program Materials

AACOMAS, AADSAS, OptomCAS, AACPMAS: Online Applicant Help Center
Call or email as needed.

[Linked to URI Applicant Resource page](#)

MORE ABOUT GETTING HELP

- Consult on-line instructions

OR

- Contact application services directly (phone or email)
- Contact URI Pre-Health if you cannot get an answer from application services or when your question pertains to URI (e.g., letters, transcripts, URI-specific policies)

JUNE – JULY 2024

Letters

- We start writing committee letters soon
- IMPORTANT: Committee letter packet = **committee letter + individual letters.**
- **We need the following from you:**
 - *your letter request form from application services (paper, PDF, or email).*
 - *Submit letter requests to us no later than May 30.*
- We submit committee letter packet and non-committee letter packets as early as possible
- On primary application:
 - *Select committee letter if you're getting one*
 - *Select letter packet if we're sending one for you—not the same as committee letter*

ADDITIONAL ONLINE ASSESSMENTS

AAMC PREview

“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. [Assesses] examinees’ understanding of effective pre-professional behavior most relevant for entering medical students.”

- *Text-Based.*
- *Required or recommended by 25 med schools (MD & DO).*
- *Included on AMCAS automatically*
- ***When to take them: by the end of June***
- ***Yes, there are fees for both!***

Casper

“An online, open-response situational judgment test (SJT). It asks what you would do in a tough situation, and more importantly, why. This helps determine behavioral tendencies of applicants pursuing people-centered professions.”

- *Text and video based*
- *Required by 29 MD programs. Check individual DO schools to see if CASPER is required*

SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

Schools will have their own applications, often called “secondary applications.”

- **MD programs:** secondary applications come directly from schools.
- **DO, dental, optometry, podiatry:** will have supplemental school-specific questions in the “Program Materials” section on the primary application instead of separate secondaries (in most cases).

Additional essays are often required. Common themes:

- *Fit (why this school?)*
- *Challenges*
- *Diversity*
- *Strengths/weaknesses*
- *Teamwork, leadership, conflict*
- *Open-ended “optional”*
- *COVID-19 (maybe?)*

You will get some upon submission of your primary application; others come after verification of primary.

Submit secondaries within 1-2 weeks of receiving them

As you plan your summer, **set aside the time you’ll need for secondaries.**

AUGUST 2024-APRIL 2025

Application Review, Interviews, and Decisions

Most schools practice rolling admission—which means they vary in their practices and timing for reviewing applications. Most will start reviewing and inviting for interviews by late August-early September.

In a typical year, most interviews happen late August through January. Some schools continue into February, March, or April.

Interviews: prior to 2020-2021, all were in person. Now, many are virtual.

Post-application review decisions:

- *Reject (sometimes without notification until the end of the process)*
- *Interview*
- *Hold*

MORE ABOUT APPLICATION REVIEW, INTERVIEWS, & DECISIONS

Post-Interview decisions:

- *Accept*
- *Reject*
- *Waitlist*

Many schools may require a background check for accepted and/or waitlisted applicants.

Be sure to follow all protocols and policies for applicants, acceptances, etc.

COST OF APPLYING – TYPICAL EXPENSES

- MCAT or DAT Fee as well as test prep

- Application service services:

AMCAS \$175 for first school + \$46 per additional school

AACOMAS (2022) \$197 for first school + \$48 per additional school

AADSAS \$264 for first school + \$115 per additional school

OptomCAS (2022) \$180 for first school + \$70 per additional school

- Individual school application fees: \$100 or more
- Casper and/or PREview
- If necessary, in-person interview travel (cars, planes, trains, hotels, meals, etc.)
 - *Budget for at least one interview and/or post-acceptance open house*
- Deposits
- Can't afford all this? Apply as early as possible for fee assistance!

COVID-19

You may have the opportunity to write about the ways the pandemic affected your education

Committee letter packets include information about URI's spring 2020 semester grading policy

ONGOING SUPPORT FROM URI PRE-HEALTH

Contact me any time.

Email updates—read these carefully and save them.

School list review (use the shared spreadsheet).

Essay review for personal statements (turnaround can take up to a week)—help with secondary essays *if necessary*.

Interview prep (individual and group sessions).

Application strategy, planning for next steps, advice about waitlists and decisions, etc.

Problems/trouble-shooting with applications or interviews at individual schools

FINAL THOUGHTS

It's a long process—get used to delayed gratification and “hurry up and wait.” It can be psychologically difficult.

You will want to take control of your destiny—BUT...the reality is that there isn't much you can do proactively (despite what you may read and hear).

Don't put much stock into what you read online or hear from others—everyone's application is different.

2024 APPLICANT PANEL

Avery McNamara, '20, MD/PhD Applicant

Keyline Moreno, '22, Medical School Applicant

Sarah Fassino, '23, Dental School Applicant