

# The Pathway to Medical School



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<http://som.umc.edu>

# Medical School Education



## 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  
Ophthalmology  
Orthopedic Surgery  
Pediatric Medicine  
Preventive Medicine  
Surgery



# 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<sup>st</sup> 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
- $\geq 3.6$  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

{ (3.8 + 21) versus (2.8 + 31)

- MCAT

- Interview

- Three admissions committee members including Associate Dean or Director of Admissions

- Lunch & campus tour with M4



# 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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