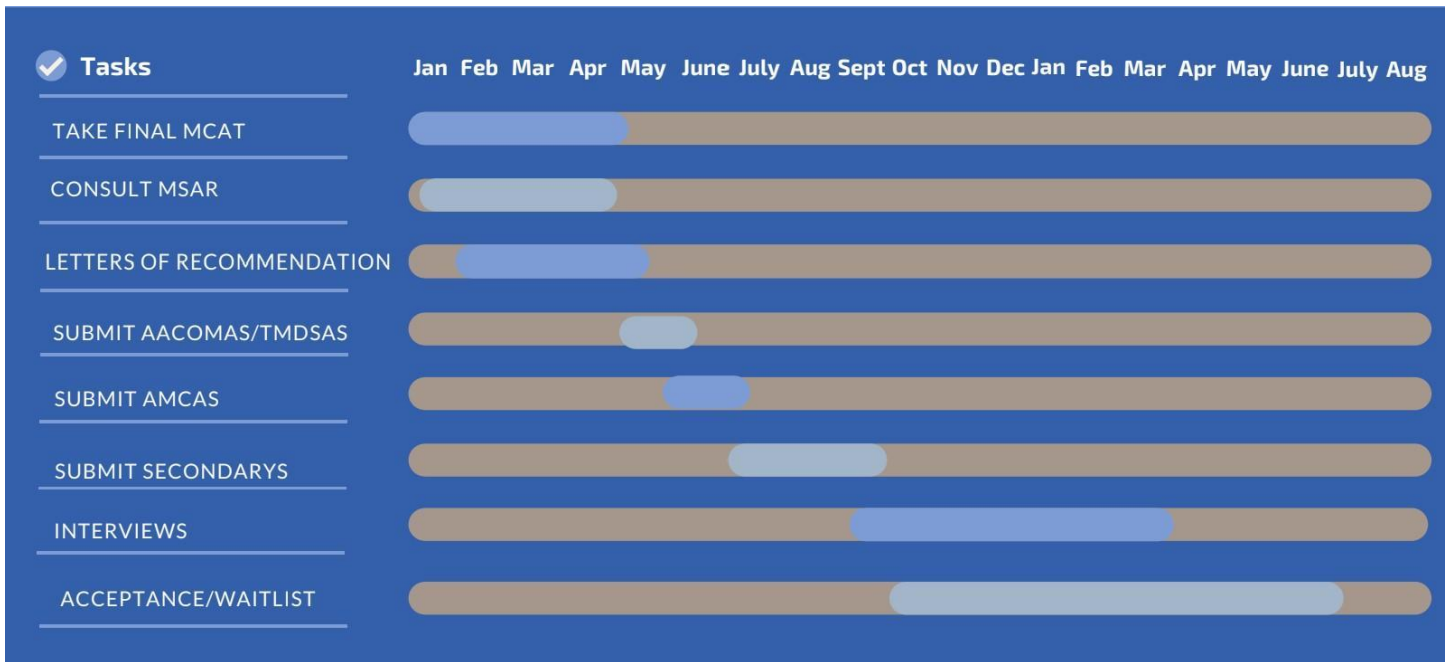




## MEDICAL SCHOOL PREP GUIDE

### Application Timeline



### Letters of Recommendation Checklist

- ✓ Schedule a meeting with each writer a month or two before you will need the recommendation.
- ✓ Email the recommender explaining that you are hoping they might be willing to write you a recommendation letter, and request to meet in person, by phone, or through a virtual platform such as Zoom, WebEx, Google Meeting, etc.
- ✓ Use this meeting (or call) to remind them of your interests, goals, and experiences, as well as your reasons for a career in medicine. You should also bring or email a resume and a personal statement or other reflections on why you plan to pursue medicine as a career.
- ✓ At the conclusion of the meeting provide or send the recommendation writer a letter thanking them for the meeting and providing instructions on when you need the recommendation letter to be submitted by, where to send it, and to whom it should be addressed.
- ✓ Follow up with your recommender a few weeks before the recommendation is due to confirm that they do not need additional information.
- ✓ After your recommender sends in the letter, write another thank you note or email (ideally, a handwritten note) thanking them for taking the time to write you a recommendation letter.

- ✓ Contact your recommenders to let them know that you were successful and where you will be attending medical school and thank them again for their support.

## Personal Statement Tips

1. Allow up to 6 months of writing and revision to get your essays prepared to submit.
2. Your personal statement provides you with an opportunity to share interesting aspects of your life. Select a topic, remain concise by providing relative examples.
3. Start with a “catch” and then be personal and specific about your experiences using your own voice and perspective.
4. Show the admissions committee what you are passionate about through the stories you tell about yourself.
5. Use a 5-point essay format:  
1st paragraph: These four or five sentences should "catch" the reader's attention.  
3-4 body paragraphs: Be sure to reflect clinical understanding, experiences, and service.  
Final paragraph: Reflect the beginning of your essay, provide a summary about your goals, aspirations, and end with a challenge for the future.
6. Writing with clear and precise language is very important for your essay and your future medical career. Be sure that your essays are easy for the admissions committee to understand. In addition, make sure your paragraphs connect to flow into each other.
7. Word counts are to be followed: 5,300 characters (including spaces) for AMCAS applications, 5,000 characters for TMSAS, and 4,500 characters for AACOMAS.
8. Schedule an appointment with GWSPH Graduate Career Services to have your personal statements reviewed before submitting them. You can schedule at appointment at [gwu.joinhandshake.com](http://gwu.joinhandshake.com)

## Medical School Interview Prep Questions

### Education

1. Why did you choose to obtain a Public Health degree and how has your experience in your program, better prepared you for a medical career?
2. How have other professional, academic and community service experiences prepared you for the responsibilities of becoming a physician?
3. What are your career aspirations for your medical education?

### Character and Personality

6. What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
7. Discuss experiences that provided you the opportunity to be exposed to other cultures.
8. Share an example from your past that you used empathy and compassion.
9. Discuss how you manage your time and relieve stress.
10. If you could be granted three wishes for making the world/society/ your community a better place, what would they be and why
11. What do you do for fun?
12. After 20 years as a physician, what would you hope to have achieved?
13. What qualities do you look for in a physician?
14. Do you have any family members or role models who are physicians?

15. What family members, friends, or other individuals have been influential in your decision to pursue a medical career?
16. If you could invite four people from the past to dinner, who would they be, and why would you invite them? What would you talk about?
17. Does your academic record reflect any major challenges? If so, what are they and why did they occur?

#### Medicine

19. What excites you about medicine in general?
20. What do you believe to be some of the most pressing health issues today? Why?
21. What do you feel are the negative or restrictive aspects of medicine from a professional standpoint?
22. If you had to choose between clinical and academic medicine as a profession, which would you pick?

#### Society

24. What do you feel are the social responsibilities of a physician?
25. What do you consider an important/the most important social problem facing the United States today and why?
26. How do you think national health insurance affects physicians, patients, and society?
27. In what manner and to what degree do you stay in touch with current events?
28. What books, films, or other media come to mind as having been particularly important to your sciences/non-sciences education?
29. Can you think of any examples in our society when healthcare is a right? When is it a privilege? When is it not clear?

#### Ethics

30. Are you aware of any current controversies in the area of medical ethics? List and discuss some of these.
31. Have you personally encountered any moral dilemmas to date?
32. How do you feel about euthanasia or medically assisted suicide?
33. What different feelings and issues might you experience with a terminally ill patient, as opposed to other patients?
34. How would you feel about treating a patient who has tested positive for HIV?
35. What are some of the ethical issues that our society considers in regard to teenage pregnancy?
36. Assume there are limited resources available, and you must make decisions in a major emergency with a wide assortment of patients from all ages, backgrounds, and degree of injury. Assume also that there is no "right answer" to this question, only considered and unconsidered responses. Who would you direct to receive the treatment first and why?

#### Diversity

37. If you are a minority candidate, how do you feel your background uniquely prepares you to be, and will influence your role as, a physician?
38. If you are a woman, how has your gender impacted your decision to pursue a medical career?
39. If you are not a minority, how might you best meet the needs of a multiethnic, multicultural patient population?
40. How has adversity shaped you?

41. To what extent do you believe that you owe a debt to those less fortunate than yourself? Please explain.

#### Medical School

42. What special qualities do you feel you possess that set you apart from other medical school candidates?

43. What kind of medical schools are you applying to, and why?

44. Pick any specific medical school to which you are applying and tell the interviewer about it. What makes this school particularly desirable to you?

45. What general and specific skills would you hope an ideal medical school experience would give you? How might your ideal school achieve that result?

#### Motivation

46. Discuss your decision to pursue medicine. When did you decide to become an MD, and why?

47. Why did you decide to choose medicine and not some other field where you can help others, such as nursing, physical therapy, pharmacology, psychology, education, or social work?

48. How have you tested your motivation to become an MD? Please explain.

49. What will you do if you are not accepted to medical school this year? Have you an alternative career plan?

50. Is there anything else we have not covered that you feel the interviewer should know about you or your interest in becoming a doctor?

### Sources

<https://www.acceptmed.com/blog/medical-school-application-timeline-explained-in-5-minutes>

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/understanding-process/understanding-process>

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/premed-calendar>

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/services>

<https://www.princetonreview.com/med-school-advice/medical-school-interview-questions>

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/public-health-pathways>