

Before AMCAS opens

Anchor dates from the AAMC's 2027 AMCAS cycle. New dates come out each spring and usually land in the same weeks; confirm before you plan around them.

A year out (summer)

- ☐ Pick an MCAT date that leaves room for a retake
- ☐ Start an activity log: dates, hours, a contact for each
- ☐ Keep clinical and volunteer hours steady
- ☐ List possible letter writers

Fall and winter

- ☐ Apply for Fee Assistance (FAP) before paying for anything
- ☐ Study for and take the MCAT (\$360 in 2027, \$145 with FAP)
- ☐ Ask for letters: CV, talking points, early deadline
- ☐ Check each school's letter requirements

January to April

- ☐ Personal statement drafts (5,300 characters max)
- ☐ Activity descriptions (700 characters each)
- ☐ Choose up to 3 Most Meaningful experiences
- ☐ First school list: mission, cost, MSAR stats
- ☐ Write each school's secondary fee and deadline down

From AMCAS to acceptance

MONTH-BY-MONTH CHECKLIST
MED SCHOOL APPS • PAGE 2/2

May-June: the primary

- ☐ AMCAS opens (May 5 in the 2027 cycle)
- ☐ Request every transcript the day it opens
- ☐ Submit early in the window (from May 28 in 2027)
- ☐ Pre-write secondaries: why us, challenge, diversity, gap year
- ☐ Schools start receiving applications (June 26 in 2027)

July-September: secondaries

- ☐ Turn each secondary around in about 2 weeks
- ☐ Budget for secondary fees (free to about \$150 each)
- ☐ Ask about fee waivers if you have FAP
- ☐ Early Decision deadline (Aug 3 in 2027), if applying ED

September-March: interviews

- ☐ Practice traditional and MMI formats
- ☐ Test your camera, light and sound for virtual days
- ☐ Log each interview: date, people, questions
- ☐ Send thank-you notes where schools allow them

Spring: decisions

- ☐ Read the AAMC application and acceptance protocols
- ☐ Compare offers: cost, aid, fit
- ☐ Respond to every school by its deadline

