



## OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

Harvard University • Harvard College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
54 Dunster Street • Cambridge, MA 02138 • USA  
Telephone: (617) 495-2595 • Fax: (617) 495-3584 • [www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu](http://www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu)

# EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS ON MEDICAL SCHOOL SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

*The following are questions, sorted by topic that medical schools have asked applicants on their secondary applications. Keep in mind that next year's questions may be different and the specific questions vary from school to school.*

### Why Medicine and Your Future in Medicine

- What satisfactions do you expect to receive from your activities as a physician? *(2475 character limit)*
- Please share with us your thoughts on specialties and how you plan to choose yours *(250 word limit)*
- What do you think will be your greatest personal challenge as a physician, and how will you address this? *(300 word limit)*
- Write another essay that provides us with some insight into you as a person.

### Added Diversity to the Medical School Community

- Do you consider yourself a person who would contribute to the diversity of the student body of our medical school?
- How will you contribute to the diversity of your medical school class and Stethoscope Medical School? *(300 word limit)*
- At Stethoscope Medical School, we are committed to building a superb educational community with students of diverse talents, experiences, opinions, and backgrounds. What would you as an individual bring to our medical school community? *(250 word limit)*
- What makes you special, someone who will add to Stethoscope Medical School's community? *(250 word limit)*

### Additional Information/Special Circumstances

- Do you wish to include any comments (in addition to those already provided in your AMCAS application) to the Admissions Committee?
- Please feel free to use this space to convey any additional information that you might wish the Committee to know. *(1000 character limit)*
- Optional Essay: 500 words to give a stronger view of yourself as an applicant.
- Are there any special circumstances that Stethoscope Medical School should be aware of?
- Do you have unique experiences or obstacles that you have overcome that were not covered in your application about which you would like to inform our Admissions Committee?
- Indicate any special experiences, unusual factors or other information you feel would be helpful in evaluating you, including, but not limited to, education, employment, extracurricular activities, prevailing over adversity. You may expand upon but not repeat AMCAS application information. *(2000 character limit)*

### **Leaves of Absences/Post-Grad Experiences**

- Did you take any leaves of absence or significant breaks from your undergraduate education?
- If you have already completed your education, if your college or graduate education was interrupted, or if you do not plan to be a full-time student during the current year, describe in chronological order your activities during the time(s) when you were not enrolled as a full-time student. *(1800 character limit)*
- Are you expecting to go on to medical school directly after completing your undergraduate work? If no, please explain. *(1400 character limit)*
- If you are not attending school full-time during the entire 2008-2009 school year, please indicate activities, coursework, employment, or other occupations for that period to account for full-time involvement. *(three line limit)*

### **Why Us? (Fit)**

- At Stethoscope Medical School, we strive to identify students who will be a great "fit" with our medical school. Our mission statement is an expression of our core purpose and educational philosophy. Please reflect on its content and write an essay describing why you see yourself as a great "fit" for our school. Please include examples of past service, community, clinical, educational, and research experiences. Please also discuss your future goals.
- Briefly describe your interest in Stethoscope Medical School. *(100 word limit)*
- Why have you chosen to apply to Stethoscope Medical School, and how do you think your education at here will prepare you to become a physician for the future? *(5000 characters limit)*
- What is your specific interest in the MD Program at Stethoscope Medical School? What opportunities would you take advantage of as a student here? *(ten line limit)*

### **Situational and Experiential**

- Tell us about a difficult or challenging situation that you have encountered and how you dealt with it. In your response, identify both the coping skills that you called upon to resolve the dilemma, and the support person(s) from whom you sought advice. *(2400 character limit)*
- Please check up to three activities which demonstrate commitment and leadership.
- Briefly describe any health-related experience and/or research experience (volunteer or employed). Also, indicate the time and frequency of your involvement.
- Select one experience from your list of non-academic activities and describe in a brief essay how it impacted on your decision to go into medicine. *(250 word limit)*
- Please provide a narrative or timeline to describe any features of your educational history that you think may be part of particular interest to us. For example, have you lived in another country or experienced a culture unlike your own, or worked in a field that contributed to your understanding of people unlike yourself? Or, have you experienced advanced training in any area, including the fields of art, music, or sports? This is an opportunity to describe learning experiences that may not be covered in other areas of this application. It is not necessary to write anything in this section. *(2000 character limit)*