

Overview of the Application Med/Vet/Dental School 2027 - 2026



HEALTH PROFESSIONS PROGRAM

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Agenda

In this presentation, we will cover the following:

1. Admissions Data & Other Factors
2. Application Overview & Timeline
3. Application Components
 - Including the Composite Letter of Evaluation Process
4. Resources
5. Next Steps

Admissions Data

Dartmouth Applicant
Outcomes in the
Med/Vet/Dental
Application

2026 Dartmouth Applicants: MD

Total Applicants: 144
Acceptance Rate: 80%

Total Accepted: 113
Not Accepted: 20%

Accepted	Mean	Median	Range
Cum GPA	3.75	3.8	3.28-3.99
BCPM	3.64	3.69	2.91-3.99
MCAT	517	518	

Not Accepted	Mean	Median	Range
Cum GPA	3.54	3.57	2.92-3.98
BCPM	3.39	3.44	2.42-3.95
MCAT	512		

BCPM: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, & Math

25th percentile	3.45	3.15	3.44
75th percentile	3.84	3.71	3.83

2026 Dartmouth Applicants: Medicine Nationally

Dartmouth Acceptance Rate:

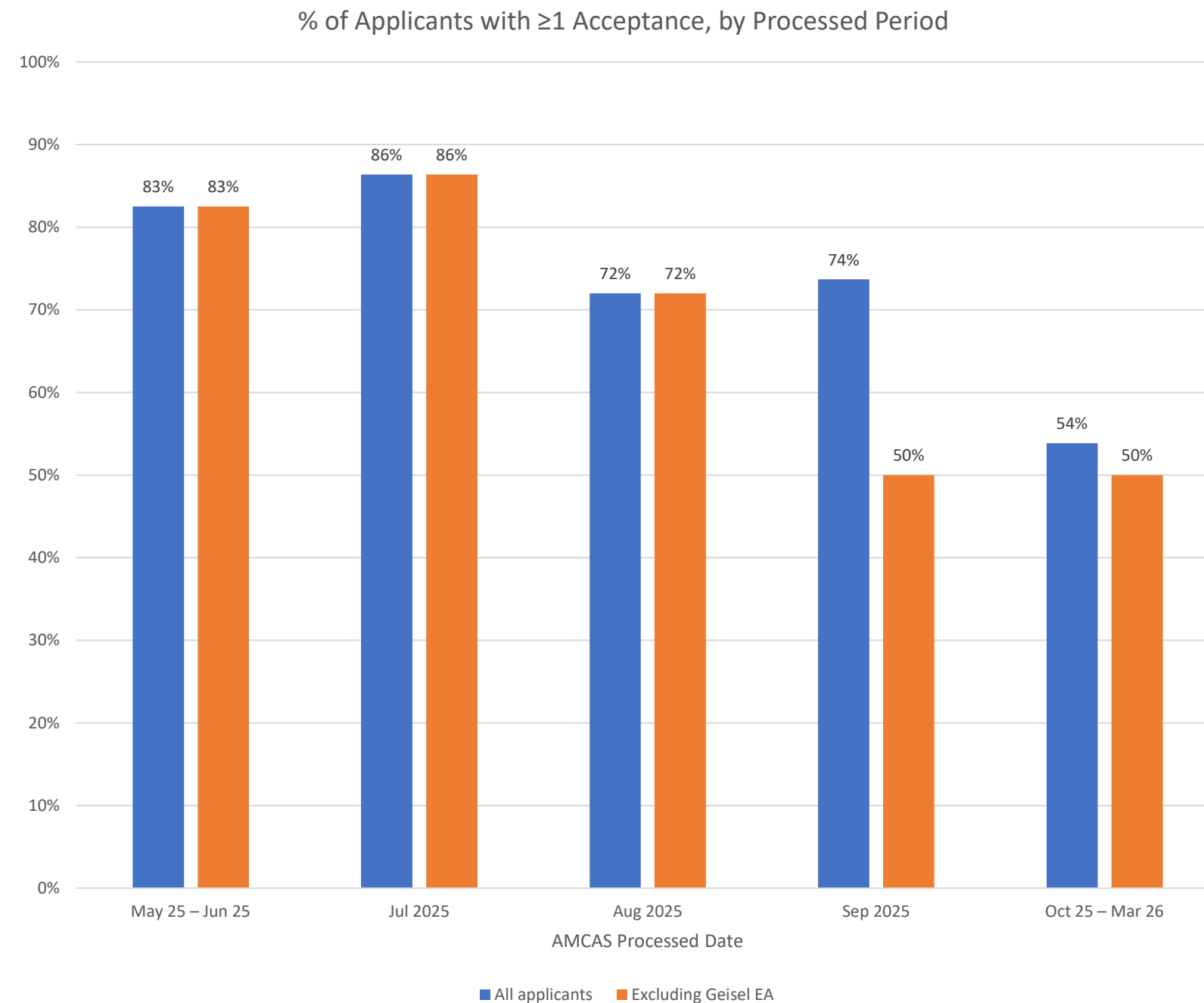
Dartmouth Accepted	Mean
GPA	3.75
BCPM	3.64
MCAT	517

National Acceptance Rate:

National Applicants Accepted	Mean
GPA	3.81
BCPM	3.75
MCAT	512

BCPM: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, & Math

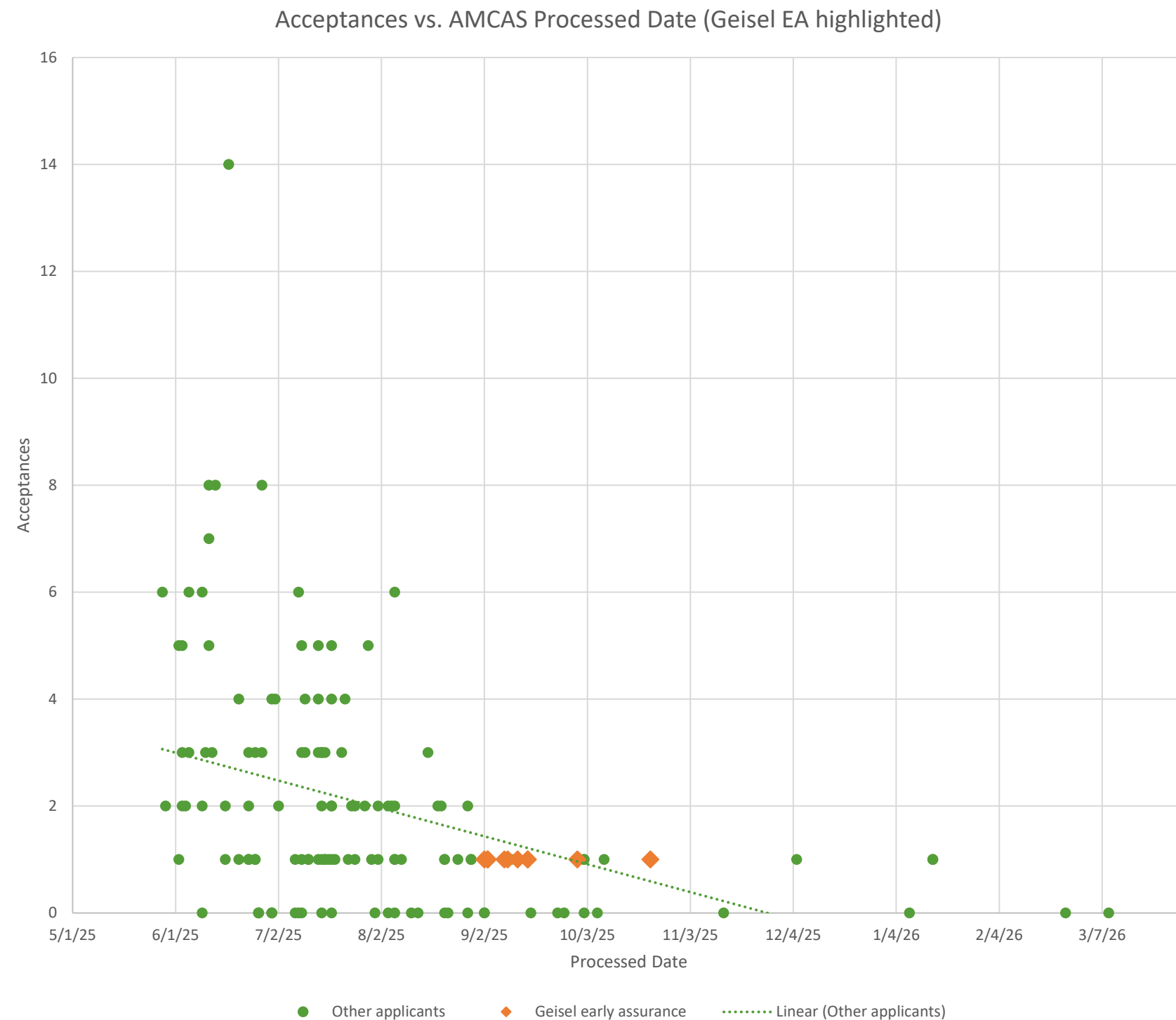
Timing



Applicants processed by end of **July 2025** had the **highest rate of getting at least one acceptance (86%)**, slightly above those processed in May–June (83%). A drop doesn't show up until being processed in August.

What do we mean by “processed?” AFTER submitting your application, it gets verified. Being processed means the verification is complete.

To be “processed” by the end of July still means submitting the application by mid-end of June.



One thing to keep in mind: July applicants averaged somewhat fewer acceptances (about 2.2, versus 3.1 for June). So being processed by end of July is a good time for getting in somewhere, but earlier applicants tended to have more schools to choose from.

- BUT WHY may have multiple factors—the earliest applicants may have already graduated, had more time, had more experience etc. It may not be because of timing, or it might be...

Some Factors for Success

- Clinical Exposure
- Altruistic Activities
- Scholarly Experience
- Personal Statement
- School List
- Interview
- Letters of Evaluation
- Utilization of HPP
- Distance Travelled
- Authenticity
- Sincerity

Demonstrating Competencies

- Listening Skills
- Problem Solving
- Written & Oral Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Initiative
- Cultural Competency
- Compassion / Empathy
- Integrity
- Resiliency
- Adaptability
- Reliability & Dependability
- Persistence
- Motivation
- Intellectual Curiosity
- Perspective Taking
- Creativity

The Applicant's Role & HPP's Role

2027-2028 Application Cycle

YOUR ROLE

- Join the MedApp 2027-2028 Listserv – set your inbox to receive HPP emails.
- Meet with an HPP advisor to access your readiness to apply.
- Utilize HPP newsletters & resources.
- Understand the Composite Process – review the Composite Process Handbook.
- Know all deadlines.
- Know your tasks & responsibilities.

HPP's Role

- Help you to access your readiness & navigate you throughout the process.
- Provide newsletters, resources, & regular updates.
- Offer workshops & info sessions to help you prepare.
- Review application writing.
- Oversee the Composite Letter Process – reviews & compiles final composite packet.

The Application Timeline

Application Timeline

Fall 26 – Summer 27

- Assess your readiness with an advisor
- Understand the application/composite process
- Choose and confirm your composite/support writers.
- Set SPECIFIC deadlines with your composite/support writers
- Open a PrivateFolio account

Winter – Spring 27

- Write auto sketch & work/activities list. Send to support writers.
- Upload auto sketch, work/activities list, & transcripts to PrivateFolio.
- Send PrivateFolio letter requests to support writers.
- Monitor PrivateFolio & send reminders to support writers.
- Start reflecting/brainstorming your essays.
- Start creating your school list.

Spring – Summer 27

- Submit Release to Composite Writer Form when ALL support letters and documents are uploaded to PrivateFolio.
- Start drafting your personal statement and work/activities.
- Seeking writing support from advisors.
- Request official transcripts.

Spring – Summer 27

- Complete school list.
- Complete/submit primary application.
- Prepare for SJTs.
- Draft & submit secondary essays. Seek writing support from advisors.
- Composite writers submits drafts for HPP review.
- HPP upload final composite packet to application.

Fall 27 – Spring 28

- Prepare for interviews.
- Write/send update letters, letters of intent, & letters of interest.
- CYMS tool.
- Make decisions.

Timing is a Crucial Factor

Because most schools have rolling admissions, we highly recommend submitting your primary application EARLY in the process. Understanding the application timeline helps you prepare in a timely fashion!

What is early?

Aim to submit between the first date of submission and the end of June.

Should you wait for Spring grades?

Maybe! They will often benefit an applicant. Consult with HPP regarding whether waiting for Spring grades (available ~June 15) will benefit you.

When Will Applications Open?

The below dates are from the 2026-2027 Cycle. The 2027-2028 Cycle will be similar.

2026 Cycle	AMCAS (MD)	AACOMAS (DO)	TMDSAS (TX)
Application Opens	May 5	May 4	May 1
Submission Opens	May 28	May 4	May 15
Processed App Sent to Schools	June 26		

2026 Cycle	AADSAS (Dental)	VMCAS (Vet)
Application Opens	May 12	
Submission Opens	June 2	

The Application Components:

- Composite Process
- Primary & Secondary Applications
- Application Services
- Standardized Tests
- Fee Assistance
- Situational Judgment Tests
- Interviews

The Composite Letter Process

The Composite Letter of Evaluation



What is the Composite Letter?

It is unique, comprehensive letter written by a “composite writer” that provides an in-depth perspective on an applicant's preparedness for med/dental/vet school.

It summarizes the applicant’s academic background, extracurricular experiences, personal/professional qualities, & preparedness/motivation for med/vet/dental school.



Who is it written by?

The composite writer is chosen by the applicant, usually the person who knows them best.

- The composite writer must be from the Dartmouth Community (Dartmouth, Geisel, DHMC).
- Can be faculty, staff, coach, etc.
- Does not need to be in the sciences.



What does the composite writer do?

The writer integrates their evaluation of you with information and quotes from your support letters.



What is included in the Final Composite Packet?

The composite letter, plus 3-5 support letters, and HPP Cover Letter.

Choosing A Composite Writer + Support Writers

In addition to your composite writer, you will choose 3–5 support writers to provide letters of recommendation.

We highly recommend that your entire writer group (composite + support writers) include:

Two faculty members who have taught you in a science class (one can be neuroscience or engineering, if science-focused).

At least one faculty member from your major (if you're not a science major) or another type of class that was meaningful for you.

Writers from outside the classroom, such as a research supervisor (PI), a coach, an internship supervisor, a job supervisor, FSP faculty, or an extracurricular activity. They can be individuals outside of Dartmouth as well.

Note about the two science writers requirement! If your composite writer taught you in a science course, then they can count as ONE of your science writers.

Your Steps & Tasks

1 Understand your tasks & responsibilities

2 Understand the composite/application timeline

3 Choose & ask your composite writer

4 Choose & ask your 3-5 support writers

5 Agree on SPECIFIC (i.e., exact dates) deadlines for your composite & support writers

6 Create a PrivateFolio account

7 Write your autobiographical sketch, work/activities list (5 meaningful experiences), & resume

- Send these materials to your support writers
- Upload these materials, plus transcript(s) to PrivateFolio

8 Monitor your PrivateFolio account

9 Send reminders to your composite & support writers

10 Submit the Release to Composite Writer Form when ALL your support letters & materials are uploaded to PrivateFolio

- This will prompt HPP to send your letters & materials to your composite writer.

HPP's & Composite Writer's Steps & Tasks

1

HPP compiles & sends your materials to your composite writer.

2

Composite writer creates a draft composite & sends it to HPP for review.

3

HPP reviews & works with composite writer to create a final draft (this can take 1-4 weeks).

4

HPP creates the final Composite Letter of Evaluation Packet.

5

HPP uploads your packets to your application services.

Target Deadlines

Jan 15

- Ask/confirm composite & support writers.
- Establish deadlines.
- Send support writers auto sketch, work/activities list, resume, & transcript if requested.
- Create a PrivateFolio account. Send support writer PrivateFolio letter request so they can upload their letters.

March 25

- Ideal deadline for support writers to submit their letters.
- Upload your auto sketch, work/activities list, resume, & transcript to PrivateFolio.
- Submit the Release to Composite Writer Form.

Mid-May – June 25

Ideal deadline for composite writer to submit the composite to HPP for review.

July 31

Latest recommended deadline for the composite writer to submit the composite to HPP for review.

The Primary Application

The Primary Application Includes

- Demographics / Personal Information

- Work and Activities

- Personal Statement / Narrative

- Exam Scores

- Input Every Course

- Transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended

- Impact Statement

- Institutional Action Statement

- School List

- Additional Essays (AADSAS, TMDSAS, Combined Degree)

FYI: Composites/letters are often submitted AFTER the primary application.
This is perfectly okay!

Institutional Action, Felonies, & Misdemeanors

- Applications ask if you have ever had an institutional action, felony, and/or misdemeanor; secondaries might ask about summary offenses and other charges.
- If you are not sure whether you have one, speak to your pre-health advisors to clarify.
- If you have, you must say yes and explain.
- Please talk directly to your pre-health advisers about this between now and early spring.
 - Stay calm until you've had a chance to discuss it with us.
 - We can coach you through what you will say about it.
- Your composite writer or one of your support writers can also offer context.

Be Prepared

There is a Lot of Writing Ahead

- Primary: Work/Activities, Personal Statement
- Secondary Essays
- Update Letters later
- Attend workshops! Seek feedback on writing drafts in a timely fashion.

Filling out the Application

- Attend the HPP Filling out the Application as a Dartmouth Applicant Info Session in the Spring.
- Keep FAQs by your side when filling out
- Submission timeline factors:
 - Quality of writing
 - Waiting for transcript

Application Services, Tests, & Costs

Application Services

- AMCAS: Allopathic Medicine – MD
- AACOMAS: Osteopathic Medicine – DO
- TMDSAS: Texas Medical & Dental Schools
- AADSAS: Dentistry
- VMCAS: Veterinary Medicine

Fee Assistance: Application & Tests

AMCAS/MCAT Fee Assistance

- Not retroactive — you must be approved before signing up to gain the benefit.
- Plan ahead: gather tax/income info; processing takes 5–10 business days once submitted.
- Reduced MCAT & rescheduling fees
- Free AAMC MCAT practice products
- Also reduces AMCAS application costs
- Most medical schools will also waive secondary fees

Other Programs

- AACOMAS Fee Assistance
- TMDSAS: no fee waivers available
- DAT Fee Waivers
- AADSAS Fee Waivers
- GRE Fee Reimbursements
- VMCAS Fee Reimbursement

MCAT

Cost: \$325

- Pre-registration open
- Registration OPEN for January and March–June dates
- July–September dates expected to open February 2025
- Fee Assistance Program available

Helpful Resources

[Accommodations](#)

[Registration information](#)

[MCAT content](#)

[HPP MCAT page](#)

DAT & GRE

DAT (Dental) — \$525

- Apply, then obtain a DENTPIN
- You must take the exam within 6 months of applying for the DAT, or pay the fee again
- [Learn more / apply for accommodations](#)

GRE (Veterinary Medicine) — \$220

- Get started at:
<https://www.ets.org/gre.html>

Submitting the Primary Application without Letters

Applicants typically submit their composite letter set **AFTER** they have submitted their primary application.

You don't have to wait to submit your primary application for the letter to be completed. It is typical for the composite letter packet (and committee letters from other schools) to be added later.

Secondary Applications

Secondary Applications

What to Know

- Every school you've applied to will send one
- Includes 2–8 essay prompts per school, sometimes other short questionnaires
- Most schools don't screen before sending secondaries
- Treat each secondary as if it's the only one that matters — focus on quality.
- Be sure you know the school's mission, values, and curriculum — and that they know how your candidacy aligns.

What to Avoid

- Focusing on speed over quality, or quality without timeliness
- Writing when tired or burnt out
- Re-using essays without double-checking the prompt

Situational Judgment Tests (SJTs)

Situational Judgment Tests (SJTs)

CASPer

- <https://acuityinsights.app/>
- Dates: takecasper.com/dates-times
- Registration opens May — shows schools that require it
- Select all schools to receive the report
- Cost: \$85 (incl. 7 programs); \$16 per additional program
- Scores delivered 4 weeks after the test
- Valid for one application cycle only

AAMC PREview

- <https://students-residents.aamc.org/aamc-preview/take-aamc-preview-professional-readiness-exam>
- See which programs require/recommend PREview
- Cost: \$100 flat fee
- Valid for up to 3 cycles, but only once per test year
- Registration opens January

The Components of a Completed Application

The Completed Application Includes

1

Exam Scores

2

The Primary Application

3

**Composite/Letters of
Evaluation**

4

Situational Judgment Tests (SJTs)

5

Secondary Applications

A Moment to Reflect

Trust your own path through this process — it will look different from everyone else's, and that's exactly how it should be.

Next Steps

Next Steps

1 Access your readiness with a Pre-Health Advisor.

2 Familiarize yourself with & understand the Composite Letter Process.

3 Choose & ask your composite & support writers.

4 After confirming your composite & support writers, open a PrivateFolio account.

5 Send PrivateFolio letter requests to your support writers – this will allow them to submit their letters to PrivateFolio.

6 Starting reflecting on & gathering information about your work, activities, & experiences.

7 Create an organization system to keep track of your work, activities, & experiences.

8 If you qualify, apply for Fee Assistance.

Resources

AAMC (Medical)



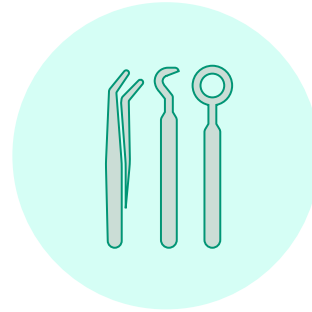
<https://www.aamc.org/>

[MCAT](#)

[MSAR](#)

[Aspiring Doctors](#)

ADEA (Dental)



<https://www.adea.org/>

[AADSAS Help Center](#)

AAVMC (Veterinary)



<https://www.aavmc.org/>

[VMCAS](#)

Final Advice

- Utilize HPP to help you assess where you're at, and for any other part of the process.
- Don't compare yourself to anyone else.
- Be yourself.
- Give yourself time to write well.