

MD PROGRAM

How to Apply

We encourage students from diverse backgrounds who have strong potential for leadership and service in broad areas of patient care, research, medical education, administration, and service to apply to our program.

The education of a physician comprises a preparatory phase in college, a rigorous course of professional education leading to the MD degree, postgraduate or residency training, and lifelong continuing education after the conclusion of formal training.

The award of the MD degree signifies the individual has acquired a broad base of knowledge and skills requisite for the practice of medicine. The medical school educational process prepares an individual to be a physician – not a surgeon, psychiatrist, or any other specialist.

We require an online application to be submitted through AMCAS (<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school-amcas/applying-medical-school-amcas/>) and a secondary application for the College of Medicine. Applicants judged to be most qualified are invited for an interview mid-September through March. See a detailed application timeline with deadlines (<https://med.psu.edu/md/apply/deadlines/>).

Application Process

When applying to the MD Program, please adhere to the following procedure and guidelines:

- Complete and submit an online application (<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school-amcas/applying-medical-school-amcas/>) to the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS), indicating Penn State College of Medicine as one of your medical schools of choice. For more information, call the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) at 202-828-0600.
- Upon receipt of your initiated AMCAS application, beginning in July, Penn State College of Medicine will notify you via email to complete and submit our web-based Secondary Application.
- Provide AMCAS with official transcripts, service fees, and letters of recommendation. AMCAS will verify application information and send it electronically to Penn State College of Medicine. We must receive your fully verified and processed AMCAS application by November 15.
- Applicants seeking an application fee waiver are reviewed on an individual basis only after an AMCAS fee waiver has been granted and appropriate documentation submitted.
- Letters of recommendation are required from each institution that has granted you a degree and any institution you are attending or plan to receive a degree. A composite recommendation from a pre-professional committee is strongly recommended. If there is no such committee, letters should be solicited from individual faculty members as outlined in the secondary application instructions. If there is a pre-professional committee and a recommendation will not be forthcoming, you should explain why in a separate letter to the admissions committee. Applicants who have been enrolled in a graduate program are required to provide an additional letter of support from their graduate program. Please note: The College of Medicine is only accepting letters through the AMCAS letter system (<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school-amcas/applying-medical-school-amcas/>). You must send, or have

sent, your letters directly to AMCAS. Please reference the website above or call AMCAS at 202-828-0600 for further clarification.

- It is the policy of the College of Medicine not to grant requests for late application.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to see that the application is complete. A completed application is one in which all necessary materials have been submitted with all questions on each form completely and answered, the \$80 application fee has been paid, and the required letters of recommendation have been received and processed by AMCAS.

Correspondence Policy

The "preferred" addresses (mail and email) on applicants' AMCAS applications are the addresses to which any printed correspondence from Penn State College of Medicine will be sent. If your preferred addresses (mail or email) change after you have submitted your application to AMCAS, you will need to enter the new addresses on your electronic application, then re-certify and re-submit your application to AMCAS with the updated addresses.

Email is a primary and official mode of communication between the College of Medicine and its applicants. Some correspondence from the College of Medicine is sent only by email and will not be sent to you unless you provide an email address. Due to the importance of the admissions process, we recommend that applicants establish a unique email address for during the process and check that email address regularly throughout the process. Be sure to keep both your email address and your preferred address up-to-date at all times.

It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to make sure that the email address indicated as "preferred" on the AMCAS application is functional. The College of Medicine is not responsible for email that unable be delivered or for emails deleted as bulk, spam, or the like.

Interview Process

The interview is an essential component of the selection process. It provides vital information about the applicant that is impossible to obtain by any other means.

Faculty interviews with critical evaluations are the only method within the admissions process for the assessment of the important nonacademic attributes of applicants. The selection committee places great importance on these evaluations in making decisions on admission.

Dates: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, mid-September through March.

Interview day: One half of the applicants will interview in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. Both groups will tour the facility and lunch together. Two or three faculty members will interview each applicant.

Interview Agenda

Group 1

8:30 a.m.: Arrival and registration
8:45 a.m.: Welcome and overview of day's activities
9 to 11 a.m.: Faculty interviews

Group 2

10:30 a.m.: Arrival and registration
10:45 a.m.: Welcome and overview of day's activities

Groups 1 and 2

11:15 a.m.: College of Medicine presentation and Q&A

Noon: Lunch with medical students

1 p.m.: Tour of College of Medicine and Medical Center Complex

Group 1

2 p.m.: Group checks out and is finished for the day

Group 2

2 to 4 p.m.: Faculty interviews

4:15 p.m.: Group checks out and is finished for the day

Official action following the interview is made by the medical student selection committee. The action taken by the committee may be acceptance, hold, or rejection. Candidates will be notified of a decision within six to eight weeks of the interview.

International Applicants

International applicants must complete all academic requirements for admissions in an accredited United States or Canadian college or university.

They must also follow the same application procedures (<https://med.psu.edu/md/apply/process/>), and adhere to the same timeline and deadlines (<https://med.psu.edu/md/apply/deadlines/>) as domestic applicants.

Obtaining Visa Eligibility Documentation

If you're accepted to the College of Medicine, you will need to officially accept your offer of admission. After you have accepted your offer of admission, the Directorate of International Student and Scholar Advising (DISSA) will contact you by email to provide you with a link and a set of instructions for how to access their online system (iStart).

There, you will be directed to work through a pre-arrival checklist that helps guide newly admitted international students through the process of requesting visa eligibility documentation (I-20/DS-2019) and/or gaining clearance to register for classes, in addition to other crucial steps toward attending the Penn State College of Medicine.

Please note: All newly admitted international students need to access DISSA's iStart system and complete the **Request I-20/DS-2019 OR Provide Current Visa Documentation** step. It can take DISSA two to three weeks to process requests for an I-20/DS-2019. If you are outside the U.S. and must apply for a student visa, you should submit your request for an I-20/DS-2019 no later than May 15 of your year of matriculation, to allow time for you to obtain a visa and make travel arrangements. Please be guided accordingly in submitting documents to DISSA.

Accepted international applicants are sent a checklist detailing the above requirements, as well clearly indicating the deadlines for submission of these documents.

If the checklist items are not fulfilled by the indicated deadlines, candidates will be withdrawn from the entering class without the possibility of reinstatement.

Financing Your Medical Education

Accepted international applicants must verify the ability to finance their medical education. Foreign nationals are not eligible for financial support from the federal government or Penn State University. Learn about the financial aid verification procedure for Penn State University and the College of Medicine (<https://global.psu.edu/category/you-arrive/>).

Questions?

If you have questions about your application or about admissions, please contact the Penn State College of Medicine Office of Student Affairs at 717-531-8755 or StudentAdmissions@pennstatehealth.psu.edu.

If you have questions about your proof of finances and the verification procedure, please contact Student Aid at 717-531-7052 or StudentAid@pennstatehealth.psu.edu.