

Applying to Medical School

How can I find answers to my questions?

We ask that you **please read the entire sets of instructions before filling out your applications**. Bookmark the instructions on your computer and use them for reference as you are filling out your applications. To quickly find a topic while filling out an application use the help feature on the site. *Follow directions completely and precisely!* Mistakes may delay your application from being processed.

Application Services

There are three different application services and although similar, each service has a different process and set of instructions.

AMCAS

The American Medical College Application service is used by most allopathic (MD) medical schools.

- Application and instructions are available at: <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas/>

You can also contact AMCAS directly at amcas@aamc.org or 202-828-0600, or visit www.amcas.org for more information. The application for each year is available to complete sometime at the beginning of May, but cannot be submitted until early June.

TMDSAS

The Texas Medical and Dental School Application Service (TMDSAS) processes medical and dental school applications for Texas schools.

- Application and instructions are available at: <https://www.tmdsas.com>

You can also contact TMDSAS directly at tmdsas@utsystem.edu or 512-499-4785. The application for each year will be available to complete and submit approximately at the beginning of May.

AACOMAS

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine application service is used by most osteopathic (DO) medical schools.

- Application and instructions are available at: <https://aacomas.aacom.org/>

You can also contact AACOMAS directly at 301-968-4190 or visit www.aacom.org for more information. The application for each year is available to complete sometime at the beginning of May, but cannot be submitted until early June.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many schools should I apply to and how do I pick schools?

BYU students apply to an average of 12-16 schools. We suggest applying to a wide range of schools, including both “dream schools” and “back-up schools”. If you don’t know which schools to apply to, check the *MSAR Medical School Admission Requirements* or the *Osteopathic Medical College Information Book*, which lists medical schools and their specific requirements. The newest edition of the MSAR is online only and available at <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar/>. Limited access is free, but one year access to it can be acquired for a small fee. The Osteopathic Medical College Information Book can be downloaded as a free pdf at <http://www.aacom.org/resources/bookstore/cib/Pages/default.aspx>

What goes into BCPM science GPA?

Courses in biology (Bio, PDBio, MMBio, Neuro, etc.), chemistry, physics (including astronomy), and mathematics (including statistics), as well as research in these subjects (such as PDBio 494R) are counted in your BCPM.

*Note: Your exercise science (EXSC), health sciences (HLTH), and nutritional science (NDFS) courses do not qualify. Only some of the Plant and Wildlife Science (PWS) courses qualify. **Consult the application's instructions on coursework for further clarification.***

How do I designate BYU Semesters for AMCAS and AACOMAS?

Use the following designations for each semester. Be sure to assign the correct calendar year for Spring and Summer terms so that your coursework follows chronological order. Academic years start at the beginning of Summer term and end with the completion of Spring term.

BYU Summer term	—	Summer Session (Summer)
BYU Fall semester	—	1 st Semester (Fall)
BYU Winter semester	—	2 nd Semester (Spring)
BYU Spring term	—	Mini Semester (Spring)

Note: For TMDSAS, list your semesters and terms exactly as they appear on your transcript

How do I list integrated lab coursework?

If your courses have integrated labs with instruction, list the course description as “and lab”, then click the Lecture and Lab designation box. For example, Chem 105—General Chemistry and lab.

Note: Mistakes in coursework designation may slow down your application. Students should follow the directions in the respective application service instructions regarding classification of course work.

*For TMDSAS all courses must appear **exactly** as they do on your transcript, do not place “and lab” in the designations.*

Where do I list AP credits?

AP credits should be listed in the first college semester or term and assigned with the AP course designation. List the course names for which your AP exam gave you credit, breaking down your credits as listed on your BYU transcript, if possible. For example, if you took the AP English exam and received credit for WRTG 150 then list under your 1st college semester: WRTG 150—3.0 credits—P (because you got a passing grade) and then check the Advanced Placement box. If your transcript gives you credit for AP 100R, list the class name as “AP Credit: English” (or whatever subject the test was in.)

Where do I list language test credits?

If BYU departmental exams are taken for foreign language credits, it must reported in the first college semester here at BYU and designated as **AP Credit**. If you are a transfer student, list the language test credits under the first college semester of the institution where you received the language credit.

Whom can I get science letters of recommendation from?

Professors teaching any biology, chemistry, physics, or math course count as science professors. Exercise science, public health, and nutritional science professors do not count. However, professors of EXSC 362, 400, 463, or 464 may write a science letter of recommendation, but grades from these courses will **not** go towards the BCPM science GPA.

What should I list for my Work and Activities section?

Include significant experiences, awards, honors, research, service, hobbies, leadership, and extracurricular activities. You don't necessarily need to list fifteen activities—quality over quantity. If you have too many activities, grouping activities together by category is permissible. For example, listing all of your shadowing experiences as one activity is advisable. Along with the activity description, you may also include a short description of what you learned from the activity.

Will the Preprofessional Advisement Center send my transcripts to application services?

No. Transcripts must be requested from the BYU Records Office in B-150 ASB. Requests can also be made online. You will need to print out a transcript request form from each of the AMCAS/AACOMAS/TMDSAS websites to bring or send to the BYU Records Office. The Records Office will attach this form to your official transcripts and send it to AMCAS/AACOMAS/TMDSAS. Send in your transcripts two or three days before the application opens. However, do not send your transcript prior to the opening date of the application service. If you want your spring term grades to be considered as part of your application, then you will need to wait until after spring grades are posted to submit your application and request your official transcript. Once your transcripts are received and your online application is submitted they will start to process your application. This will take anywhere from 1-6 weeks. You will need to submit an official transcript for all other universities or colleges you have attended, including institutes of religion.

What if I am waiting for my MCAT score before I apply?

If you are waiting to get your MCAT scores to decide which schools to apply to, submit the application for at least one school so that it will start to be processed. Most likely, the MCAT score will not change which schools you decide to apply to.

Can I submit my application before I receive all my letters of recommendation?

Yes! And we suggest that you do so the verification process of your application can begin. In fact, most schools won't even consider your letters of recommendation until you have completed their supplemental application.

Note that waiting later than 30 days after you submit your application to turn in letters will likely slow down the verification process for the letter packet.

What happens after I submit my application?

After you have submitted your application, schools will send you secondary applications asking for pictures, essays, fees, etc. Your application will not be completely evaluated until all materials have been submitted, so complete these requirements quickly.

What is the Early Decision Program?

Some schools have an early decision program. As a part of the early decision program, applicants must have their AMCAS application sent in by *August 1* of the year before they plan to enter medical school. With Early Decision, you initially apply to just *one* allopathic medical school, and you *must* attend that school if you are accepted (you are usually notified by October 1). If you are rejected or the notification deadline passes, you can apply to that school again as well as any other school you designate through the regular application process, however you will be a later applicant.