

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I schedule an appointment with an admissions counselor?

We do not have admissions counselors, but have worked to include all the basic information you need on our **Admissions website (tulane.edu/som/admissions)**. **If your questions are not addressed on our website, please give us a call at 504-988-5187 or 504-988-5331 to speak with a member of our staff. Here are some basics that should help:**

Does Tulane have required classes that I need to take before applying?

We have no prerequisites that are required, but in general you will need to have a solid background in the sciences, including: biology, physics, chemistry, and mathematics. When taking laboratories, in conjunction with these subjects, adds depth to the experience. Exposure to psychology, sociology, biochemistry, statistics, and studying a foreign language illustrate competencies that are pertinent to being a good physician. Of course, liberal arts courses that include writing are invaluable preparation for medical school and beyond.

For the class admitted in 2015, the average MCAT score was 32.5 and the average GPA was 3.60. Tulane receives over 10,000 applications each year for its incoming class of 185, so an applicant must set themselves apart in some way to be invited for an interview.

Applying to Tulane University School of Medicine

Applications to most medical schools are submitted online with the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). You will find more information about AMCAS on the Association of American Medical Colleges website:

www.aamc.org/students/amcas/start.htm

If you select Tulane as one of your choices, AMCAS will send your verified information to us. Once your verified application is received at Tulane, you will receive an e-mail from the Office of Admissions, giving you access to Tulane's online secondary application. There is no prescreening of applicants for the secondary.

Applicants will be required to submit a photo and application fee of \$125 with their online Tulane secondary application. The deadline to submit the secondary application is January 15.

You may also find help with the medical school application process by contacting your pre-health or premedical advisor at your school's academic advising office.

How many Letters of Recommendation does Tulane prefer and from whom? Tulane prefers only three letters of recommendation. No more and no less. Tulane's requirement for letters of recommendation is as follows: a committee letter or a letter of recommendation packet containing three letters of recommendation. Two must be from professors/ professionals of a science background, and the third letter can be from anyone of your choice. If there is not a pre-health committee at your school, then you submit individual letters. Two must be from professors/ professionals of a science background, and

the third letter can be from anyone of your choice. If you are out of school or have a non-science background, choose three professionals that know you well. Applicants currently enrolled in a graduate program must submit one letter from their program director. Once you complete your AMCAS application you will receive an e-mail notification from Tulane Medical School to fill out the Electronic Secondary Application.

What is the maximum number of letters that I can submit with my application?

Tulane prefers a maximum of three letters and no more. Letters should be written by individuals who know you well. Ideally two of the letters should be from faculty members who can attest to your ability to perform well in science courses. Other letters may be from liberal arts faculty members or a job supervisor or a program director. A Pre-Health or Pre-Medical Committee letter may have more letters within it as part of a packet and can substitute for the three individual letters described above.

I submitted too many LOR's; can I remove one or request the committee to read a certain three letters? AMCAS and or TUSOM cannot edit/ add/ remove/ update any letters of recommendation that are already submitted. We cannot tell the committee which ones to read. Please allow the committee to view the letters as they see fit and please note more than 3 may not be read. It is up to the individual committee member which ones they will read.

Does Tulane allow multiple MCAT scores to be reported on the application?

Yes. Members of the admissions committee typically look at the highest scores. Many schools do not find multiple MCAT scores of use. Applicants should prepare with great care to take the MCAT examination.

Can I apply for a waiver of my application fee?

You may request an application fee waiver through AMCAS when you submit your AMCAS application. If your request is granted, you will automatically be granted a fee waiver for the secondary application as well.

What are the average GPA and MCAT scores for accepted students?

The average cumulative GPA for our students who enrolled in the fall 2015 class was a 3.6. The average MCAT score was a 32.5. We do not have minimum scores or GPAs, but our applicant pool is extremely competitive, so only the strongest applicants are selected for interview.

Does Tulane offer a preparation course for the MCAT?

Tulane does not provide a prep course for the MCAT.

If I take the MCAT a second time, will my two tests of scores be averaged?

No. Each set of scores will be assessed separately.

What is the oldest MCAT score that Tulane will accept? We will accept MCAT scores as far back as three years prior to matriculation. For example, to apply for the fall 2016 class, you will need to submit MCAT scores from at least 2013.

Will my undergraduate and graduate GPAs be looked at separately or combined?

If you have taken post baccalaureate courses, this course work will be calculated with your undergraduate grades and appear in your cumulative GPA with your AMCAS data. However, if you have taken courses in a graduate degree program, your GPA in that program will be separated from your undergraduate and post baccalaureate cumulative GPA.

My early college grades are significantly lower than my most recent grades, including post baccalaureate courses. Is that a problem?

The admissions committee will look at the improvement a student makes over the course of his or her college career. An upward trend in the GPA will look better than a downward one. We will look very carefully at the specific courses taken in the early and later years as well.

Does Tulane want copies of my transcripts?

No. All your course work will be verified by AMCAS and will appear on your AMCAS application. If you are offered admission, you must submit to us official, final transcripts from all schools attended prior to matriculation. **Failure to do so will jeopardize your entry into medical school.**

What does "accredited" mean?

If your undergraduate degree is from a college or university in the United States or Canada, the college or university must be regionally accredited in order for you to qualify for admission to Tulane. For a list of accredited schools, please visit the website for the Council for Higher Education Accreditation at: <http://www.chea.org/> **Look for their regional accrediting organizations.**

If your degree is from a college in the US or Canada that is **not** accredited, you are not eligible to apply to Tulane University School of Medicine.

Here is an additional list of the 6 regional accreditations that Tulane accepts:

List of regional accreditors [edit]

The following are the regional accrediting agencies for educational institutions in the United States:^{[4][5]}

- [Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools](#) - Educational institutions in [New York](#), [New Jersey](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Delaware](#), [Maryland](#), the [District of Columbia](#), [Puerto Rico](#), and the [US Virgin Islands](#), as well as schools for American children in [Europe](#), [North Africa](#), and the [Middle East](#).
- [New England Association of Schools and Colleges](#) - Educational institutions in the six [New England](#) states ([Connecticut](#), [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Rhode Island](#), and [Vermont](#)).
- [Higher Learning Commission](#), formerly part of the [North Central Association of Colleges and Schools](#)^[6] - Educational institutions in [Arkansas](#), [Arizona](#), [Colorado](#), [Iowa](#), [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), [Kansas](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Missouri](#), [North Dakota](#), [Nebraska](#), [New Mexico](#), [Ohio](#), [Oklahoma](#), [South Dakota](#), [Wisconsin](#), [West Virginia](#), and [Wyoming](#).
- [Northwest Accreditation Commission](#) for primary and secondary schools and [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#) (NWCCU) for postsecondary institutions in [Alaska](#), [Idaho](#), [Montana](#), [Nevada](#), [Oregon](#), [Utah](#), and [Washington](#).
- [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools](#) - Educational institutions in [Alabama](#), [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), [Kentucky](#), [Louisiana](#), [Mississippi](#), [North Carolina](#), [South Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#), [Texas](#) and [Virginia](#).
- [Western Association of Schools and Colleges](#) - Educational institutions in [California](#), [Hawaii](#), [Guam](#), [American Samoa](#), [Micronesia](#), [Palau](#), and [Northern Marianas Islands](#), as well as schools for American children in [Asia](#).

Each regional agency has full accrediting authority for both grade schools (primary and secondary) and colleges (postsecondary), with the exception of the northwestern region, for which responsibility is divided between two separate accreditation agencies ([Northwest Accreditation Commission](#) for primary and secondary schools and the [Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities](#) for colleges and universities).^{[7][8]}

Will my application be reviewed if I take the MCAT examination after August 31?

All applications completed prior to our deadline of January 15 will be thoroughly reviewed. However, waiting for MCAT scores after September 1 puts applicants at a disadvantage since Interview slots are filled as applications are read and reviewed—so called “rolling admissions”.

If I applied last year, can my letters be reused again for this application round?

No. Updated letters must be included in any new application.

Will Tulane accept AP credits?

We do not accept AP credits for transferring or replacing classes taken at Tulane Med School. All students must take Tulane’s required classes without exception. AP credits in undergrad are acceptable however; Tulane would like to see some upper level science classes taken as well. This is a **recommendation**.

Can I take premed courses at a community college?

Yes. Check to see that any community college you attend is regionally accredited.

Does Tulane prescreen AMCAS applications before sending secondary applications?

No. Secondary applications are sent to all AMCAS applicants as soon as the AMCAS application has been received by Tulane and before the deadline of January 15.

How long after I submit my AMCAS application will I receive an invitation to fill out a secondary application?

Within one week after Tulane has received your verified AMCAS application

Do I have to be a premed major to apply to Tulane?

You do not have to be a premed or biology major to apply to Tulane. We admit many students with non-science majors. Good preparation in the sciences does make an applicant **much** more competitive.

Does it matter where I go to college?

Tulane accepts students from state and private schools all over the country. What you do and accomplish during your undergraduate career and beyond is the most important aspect that we consider. Evidence of rigor in course selection, discipline, work ethic, and leadership are most important. Also, as mentioned above, the school must be accredited regionally.

I have been out of college for a year or more. Will that be a problem for my being considered as an applicant?

No. Many of our students have taken a year or more off after college. Some worked full-time; others volunteered or worked abroad; and other applicants pursued interests outside of medicine. Some applicants feel that they need to take some post-bac science courses to strengthen or refresh their knowledge in the sciences. This is not required, but consider that you will need to be able to submit strong, recent MCAT scores (taken within three years of matriculation) in order to be competitive.

Does Tulane have a post-baccalaureate program to prepare students for medical school?

Tulane does not have a post-baccalaureate program designed to prepare students for medical school, but we have a number of one-year Masters Programs that may be appropriate. Please check the biomedical sciences program website for those programs and more information.

International students

Do you accept applications from international students?

Yes. International students are welcome to apply. The admissions process is identical for domestic and international students. All applicants will receive a full review of their file, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. AMCAS does not verify foreign degree however, international students are able to apply and will be considered. International Students do not need to send additional paperwork, applying through AMCAS is all that is needed.

What financial aid is available for international students?

Please note that citizens of foreign countries are ineligible to receive US federal financial aid. All international students are required by Tulane University to show proof of ability to pay one year of tuition prior to becoming admitted.

Are TOEFL scores required?

TOEFL scores are not required; however, all applicants must take the MCAT. Strong performance on the MCAT will demonstrate the needed aptitude in English.

I'm not a citizen, but I am classified as "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)". May I apply to Tulane?

Yes.

After applying to Tulane

How do I find out if my application has been received and is ready for review?

An e-mail will be sent to you as soon as your application is complete and ready for review. This can take up to three weeks so please be patient. Not only may we be waiting on your letters of recommendation or MCAT score but we may be waiting for the application to be reviewed.

After my application is complete, what happens next?

All completed applications will be screened for an interview. If you are invited for an interview, you will be notified by e-mail, so please be sure to keep AMCAS and the Office of Admissions informed of any change in your contact information.

Approximately 500 applicants will be invited for an interview between August and February. We receive over 10,000 applications each year. Those who are not invited for an interview will receive notification by e-mail in March. Applicants must be interviewed in person in order to be considered for admission.

Each month between September and February, the admissions committee will select interviewed applicants to be accepted. Letters of acceptance will be e-mailed after each committee meeting and a hard copy of the letter will be mailed to you subsequently.

We operate on a "rolling" admissions cycle, so if you are interviewed but not selected for admission by the admissions committee, you will be eligible for selection for admission at a later time. This is the "acceptance range" category. Our Acceptance Range group is a non-ranked list.

After my application is complete, how long will it take before I find out if I am invited for an interview?

We begin sending out invitations in early August. Invitations are sent out until the end of the season in February. The order in which applicants are interviewed is largely although not entirely based upon how early the applications are completed, so it behooves the applicant to complete the application as early as possible.

How are applicants screened for an interview?

All of the materials and information in the applicant's file are considered. MCAT scores and GPA are the strongest indicators; however, exceptional letters of recommendation, college and community involvement, and significant experience in a clinical setting are also very important as well as leadership.

How many are accepted from the "acceptance range" list each year?

The number varies from year to year and depends upon the decisions of the initially accepted applicants. As we receive "withdraw" requests from "accepted students", we then select applicants from the "acceptance range" category to fill the class.

Can I check the status of my application online?

Yes. Once your application is complete, there is no change to the status of your application unless you're invited for an interview. All applications are kept in review throughout the interview season. Very few are rejected during the interview season.

What if I have new information to add to my application file?

You may send all updates to the Office of Admissions via uploading documents to your secondary portal. These documents will become a part of your file. We do not accept updates via mail or email. All updates must be digitally uploaded. It is also important to update your address information with AMCAS as well.

I'm an MD/PhD (Physician Scientist Program) applicant. Does my application go to the MD pool if I'm not accepted into the combined degree program?

Yes.

If I am a current applicant, can I make an appointment with someone in the admissions office to discuss my application?

No. If you would like to address a particular issue with your application you should submit something in writing to the office of the admissions via e-mail: medsch@tulane.edu

Financial aid

How can I find out if I qualify for scholarships?

We cannot tell you in advance whether or not you qualify. Need-based loans and scholarships are awarded based on the results of completed financial applications.

What financial aid forms do you require?

Interviewed candidates who will need consideration for financial aid or documentation for loans must complete the profile and the free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We highly recommend that all interviewed candidates complete these forms. Upon acceptance to Tulane, financial consideration can be given in a timely way only if the required documentation is already on file with the Tulane University financial aid office. Website: <http://tulane.edu/financialaid/hsc/som/index.cfm>

Already in Medical School

How do I apply for clinical rotation at Tulane?

Students currently enrolled in an AAMC member medical school or an international medical school may apply online for up to two four-week clinical rotations at Tulane. <http://tulane.edu/som/student-affairs/visiting-students.cfm>

Do you accept transfer students?

Tulane does not accept transfer students.