**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:

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. Laboratories in conjunction with these subjects add 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 2013, the average MCAT score was 33 and the average GPA was 3.5. Tulane receives over 10,000 applications each year for its incoming class of 175 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 $100 with their online Tulane secondary application. The deadline to submit the secondary application is December 1.

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. If your letters are submitted by three individual letter writers rather than your schools pre-health or premedical committee, you should send a letter to the admissions office explaining why you’re not using the committee. If your undergraduate school has a pre-health or premedical committee, please submit the “Committee letter packet” rather than separate letters of recommendation. Otherwise, submit no more than three individual letters of recommendation from individuals who know you well. Include at least two from faculty who can attest to your ability to handle the sciences.
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.

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 2013 class was a 3.5. The average MCAT score was a 33. 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 2015 class, you will need to submit MCAT scores from at least 2012.

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.

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?
No. We do not accept AP credits.

Can I take premed courses at a community college?
Yes. Check to see that any community college you attend is 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.

**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.

**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 all four years 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.

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 September 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.

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 September. 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 at medsch@tulane.edu. 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 ordinarily accept transfer students.