

TERMS & DEFINITIONS

The following are common words you may find within the online application and application instructions. We have attempted to provide a comprehensive list, but it may not be exhaustive. If you would like to submit a suggestion to expand this list, please e-mail us at amcas@aamc.org.

AMCAS (terms specific to AMCAS)

AAMC ID

An 8-digit number assigned by the AAMC at the time of registration for any of the following applications; AMCAS, FAP or the MCAT examination.

Academic Change Request

An electronic request option available after AMCAS processing is complete, used to request a review of possible AMCAS mistakes.

Academic Status

A student's achieved educational level, e.g., freshman, sophomore, junior or senior. This education-level assignment is based on the number of credit hours completed.

Alternate IDs

Any ID numbers other than an assigned AAMC ID such as SSN, SIN or University assigned identification number.

AO (All Other) GPA

The AMCAS grade-point-average calculation, for all courses except biology, chemistry, physics, and math.

BCPM GPA

The AMCAS grade point average calculation for courses classified as biology, chemistry, physics, and math.

Certification

Certification refers your legal signature for an electronic application. Your certification, or electronic signature, serves the same purpose as a written, legal signature, and is binding.

Course Classification

Course classification designation should primarily be determined by course content rather than course title or department. The applicant is instructed to consult his/her pre-professional health advisor or registrar to resolve any questions concerning this classification.

Credit Hours

Hours received for courses taken at a college or university that appear on an official transcript. Some institutions may refer to credit hours as “units.”

Current Future Courses (CC)

All courses an applicant is attempting at the time the AMCAS application is filed, and all courses which the applicant plans to take before entering a U.S. medical school

Delayed/Deferred Matriculant

The program type an applicant selects if she/he submitted a prior year’s application and was accepted to a particular medical school for a specific year, but has decided (and the medical school has approved this decision) to delay entrance until the following year.

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

A standardized, multiple-choice examination designed to assess problem solving, critical thinking, and writing skills in addition to the examinee's knowledge of science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine. Scores are reported in each of the following areas: Verbal Reasoning, Physical Sciences, Writing Sample, and Biological Sciences. Medical college admission committees consider MCAT scores as part of their admission decision process.

Official Transcripts (OT)

An official document that contains all essential academic data such as: dates of attendance, courses taken, grades and credits awarded, degrees received. It may also contain information related to the student's current status at the institution.

Post Submission Changes

Limited changes to the biographical and medical schools sections of the AMCAS application after submission.

Transcript Grade

Grades, symbols, and notations that appear on an official transcript, issued by a college or institution at which a course has been completed.

Non-AMCAS

The following is common terminology inside and outside of AMCAS.

AARTS

Credit granted for courses taken while enrolled in the United States Army.

Advanced Placement (AP)

College level courses taken while in High School or by passing an AP departmental exam. Students must earn college credit for all AP courses taken.

Audit (AU)

Courses taken for experimentation without worry of grade or review. Credit hours do not count toward fulfillment of graduation requirements.

CEGEP Grade 13

CEGEP or Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel is two years of general or three years of technical education between high school and university. CEGEP is considered the first level of higher education in Canada, the second being university. CEGEP accepts students who have completed six years of elementary school and five years of secondary school.

Clock Hours

Credits given for attending approved in-service programs. Sixty minutes of continuous in-service is equivalent to one Clock Hour.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

A nationally standardized examination administered by the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Provides an opportunity for examinees to demonstrate and receive college credit for competency obtained through life experiences.

Continuing Education Units (CEU)

A way to document noncredit work in specifically developed activities for adult learners in a variety of disciplines. One CEU is provided for every 10 hours engaged in a learning activity under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction.

Deferred Grade (DG)

Certain courses are designed to extend for more than one term, either because of the volume of course content or amount of required student work. Research projects, theses and dissertations are examples of courses that might have a multi-term structure.

Exempt (EX)

An individual department may use any of the following criteria to determine course exemption:

- A) Previous courses completed by the student at another institution
- B) Previous employment experience
- C) The student's score on an approved examination. If granted, course exemption will allow the student to enroll in a higher-level course within the sequence.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A measure of a student's academic achievement at a college or university; calculated by dividing the total number of grade points received by the total number attempted.

Honors (H)

Specialized college level courses.

Incomplete (I)

A temporary symbol of (I) assigned when the student is unable to fulfill all the normal course requirements. Many schools will assign "IF" or "F" if coursework is not completed within appropriate time limit given by the professor.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters provided by a Counselor, Pre Health Advisor, Pre Med Committee, or Professional referencing your character. Letters of Recommendation are requested from the medical schools during the secondary application process.

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Narrative Evaluation

Written evaluations, provided by institutions, that are on a special grading system for which letter grades are usually unavailable. The evaluations are provided for each class a student has completed describing their performance.

No Record (NR)

No Record or NR is used when a grade is unavailable at the time of transcript issuance due to an administrative error and/or lateness.

Pass/Fail (PF)

A Pass/Fail grading system is one in which no more than two possible passing grades are attainable.

Repeat (R)

Any course that was failed, or the initial grade earned was below departmental standards. The initial attempt, as well as all subsequent course attempts of a "repeated" course sequence, must be listed on the Academic Record.

Social Insurance Number (SIN)

A 9-digit number assigned to Canadian residents or citizens for tax purposes.

Social Security Number (SSN)

A 9-digit number assigned to you by the Social Security Administration. If you do not have a SSN, AMCAS can assign a temporary SSN to you.

SMART

Sailor/Marine Ace Registry Transcript lists credit granted for courses taken while enrolled in the US Navy or Marines.

Withdraw

Courses for which a student has registered and subsequently chosen not to complete.

ACRONYMS

Common acronyms found within AAMC Web site and AMCAS application.

AMCAS

AAMC-Association of American Medical Colleges

AAMC ID Association of American Medical Colleges Identification Number

AMCAS- American Medical College Application Service

AO-All Other

BCPM-Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math

EDP-Early Decision Program

FAP-Fee Assistance Program

GPA-Grade Point Average

IDs-Identification Numbers

MSAR-Medical School Admission Requirements

OT-Official Transcript

SIN-Social Insurance Number

SSL-Secure Socket Layer

SSN-Social Security Number

Non-AMCAS

AACOMAS-American Association Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service

AARTS- Army American Council on Education Registry Transcript System

ACT-American College Testing Program, Inc

AIC-Advisor Information Center

AIS-Advisor Information System

AP-Advanced Placement

CBT-Computer Based Test

CEGEP- Canadian College d'Enseignement General et Professionel

CLEP-College Level Examination Program

ERAS-Electronic Residency Application Service

FAP-Fee Assistance Program

GMAT- Graduate Management Admission Test

GPA-Grade Point Average

GRE-Graduate Record Examination

LSAT-Law School Admission Test

MCAT-Medical College Admissions Test

MSAR-Medical School Admission Requirements

MED LOANS-Medical School Loans

MED MAR-Medical Minority Application Registry

NRMP-National Residency Match Program

NAAHP-National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions

OHPA-Official Health Professions Advisor

OMSAS-Ontario Medical School Application Service

THx- Testing History System

TMSAS-Texas Medical School and Dental Service

SMART- Sailor/ Marine Ace Registry Transcript

SMEP-Summer Medical Education Program

2009 APPLICATION STATUSES

Statuses are used by AMCAS to track your application process. Medical schools may use different words or meanings to explain these statuses in relation to the AMCAS and medical school secondary application processes.

Not Submitted to AMCAS

AMCAS has not received your application.

Submitted to AMCAS - Waiting for Transcripts

AMCAS has received your application. Required transcripts have not been received for review.

Submitted to AMCAS – Ready for Review

AMCAS has received a copy of all required transcripts and has placed the application in line to be reviewed by an AMCAS verifier.

Submitted to AMCAS - Under Review

A verifier is reviewing your application. You will be notified if there are any additional transcripts needed for processing.

Returned to Applicant

Application has been returned to applicant for missing coursework.

AMCAS Processing is Complete

Application has been made available to your designated medical schools.