AMCAS® Tool for Choosing Your Medical School

What is the Choose Your Medical School tool?
The AAMC American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®) created this tool to help applicants communicate their decisions about which schools they plan to attend and to support the schools’ enrollment management. Schools will only be able to access information on applicants who have been accepted to or placed on the alternate list (also known as the waitlist) at their schools. The tool depends on schools including it in their school-specific policies and communicating those policies to applicants in all materials.

How does this tool work?
Beginning February 19, accepted applicants can select “Plan to Enroll” in the AMCAS application. Before April 30, in alignment with the applicant protocols, making this selection allows schools to view in aggregate the number of applicants that selected “Plan to Enroll” for their schools.

• Until April 30, applicants can, at the time they make this selection, continue to hold other acceptances, remain on alternate lists, and continue to interview at other schools.
• If applicants receive new offers, they can update this selection at any time, but they can select only one school at a time.
• A school will only be able to see the aggregate number of their applicants who have selected that school or another school in the AMCAS tool.
• If an applicant selects “Plan to Enroll” at another school, AMCAS will not identify that school.

Beginning April 30, accepted applicants will have two options to select: “Plan to Enroll” and “Commit to Enroll.” Selecting “Commit to Enroll” indicates that the applicant has made a final selection and withdrawn all other applications.

• Starting April 30, the AMCAS tool will identify the applicants making either selection. This applicant-specific information will be visible only to schools where the applicant has a current acceptance or alternate-list position.
• The AMCAS tool will not identify the names of the other schools where an applicant has a current acceptance or alternate-list position.
• Selecting “Commit to Enroll” does not automatically withdraw applications from other medical schools. Applicants must communicate directly with all schools about their final decision according to each school’s specific policy.

Guiding Principles of the AMCAS Choose Your Medical School Tool
Guiding principles for professional behavior during the application cycle are set forth in Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants.

The primary, official method of communication during this process takes place between an applicant and a school. This tool is intended to supplement, not replace, that communication.

The tool depends on schools including it in their school-specific policies and communicating those policies to applicants in all materials, such as MSAR. It also relies on schools submitting timely and accurate admissions actions data to the AMCAS program throughout the application cycle as described by Application and Acceptance Protocols for Admissions Officers.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Admissions Tools and Resources recommends that a medical school require applicants to select “Commit to Enroll” no earlier than 21 days before the school’s matriculation date.

* Matriculation means that a student has begun a pre-matriculation program, attended orientation immediately preceding enrollment, or enrolled in classes at a medical school.

AMCAS® is a program of the Association of American Medical Colleges.
aamc.org/amcas
What reports will medical schools be able to run?
Medical schools will have access to the following reports:

- **February 19:** Medical schools can run an aggregate report to find out how many applicants in their pool have selected “Plan to Enroll” at their school versus another school.**
- **April 30:** Medical schools can run detailed reports to identify accepted and alternate-list applicants who have selected “Plan to Enroll” or “Commit to Enroll” at their school versus another school.
- **Post-cycle:** Medical schools can see where applicants in their pool matriculated (typically released in October of the matriculating year).

** In accordance with current protocols, applicants have until April 30 to start narrowing their accepted offers to one. Until then, the AMCAS tool cannot identify applicants to schools.

**Timeline: What Applicants and Medical Schools Can Do and When**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Applicant Activity</th>
<th>Medical School Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>“Plan to Enroll” becomes available</td>
<td>Applicants can begin to select “Plan to Enroll” for their top medical school choice.</td>
<td>Medical schools can run an aggregate report to determine how many applicants in their pool have selected “Plan to Enroll” for their school or for another school.***</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Applicant protocols ask applicants to narrow their acceptance offers to three.</td>
<td>Applicants holding more than three offers should narrow their offers of acceptance to three, with no limit on alternate-list offers.</td>
<td>Medical schools continue to submit timely admissions actions to the AMCAS program.</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>“Commit to Enroll” becomes available to applicants in the AMCAS tool. “Plan to Enroll” remains available to applicants in the AMCAS tool.</td>
<td>Applicants can select “Plan to Enroll” or “Commit to Enroll” in the AMCAS tool. “Commit to Enroll” indicates that they have made their final selection and have withdrawn all other applications. This does not automatically withdraw applicants from other medical schools.</td>
<td>Medical schools can run detailed reports to identify their accepted and alternate-list applicants who have selected “Plan to Enroll” or “Commit to Enroll” at their school versus another school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-cycle (around October)</td>
<td>AMCAS application cycle closes.</td>
<td>Applicants have matriculated.</td>
<td>Medical schools can see where applicants in their pool matriculated.</td>
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*** Schools will only be able to access information on applicants who were accepted to their school. Schools will not be able view students who hold zero acceptances.

**Example**

**FEBRUARY**

February 1
Alex the AMCAS applicant holds four acceptances and is on three alternate lists.

February 19
Alex selects “Plan to Enroll” for Super School.

**MARCH**

March 15
Alex receives a better offer from Awesome School and changes his “Plan to Enroll” selection from Super School to Awesome School. He is holding four acceptances and remains on three alternate lists.

**APRIL**

April 15
Alex narrows his selection to three acceptances and withdraws his acceptance from Good School. He remains on three alternate lists.

April 30
Alex narrows his selection to one school, Awesome, and keeps his “Plan to Enroll” status the same. He remains on three alternate lists and has withdrawn from two schools.

**MAY**

May 15
Alex receives an offer from the Best School Ever. He accepts and selects “Plan to Enroll” at this school in the AMCAS tool. He withdraws his application from Awesome School and remains on two alternate lists.

**JUNE**

The Best School Ever matriculates on June 29.

On June 8, 21 days before matriculation, Alex selects “Commit to Enroll” in the AMCAS tool based on the school-specific policy of the Best School Ever. He withdraws all other applications.