

BLOCK 1 OF INSTRUCTION: Welcome and Admissions Process

OVERVIEW: This block of instruction outlines a history of the program and provides a general overview of what to expect during the event. It is designed to give participants a general introduction to academic medicine and the medical school application process.

OBJECTIVES

- Welcome attendees.
- Set the tone for the day.
- Provide an overview of the three missions of academic medicine.
- Discuss the admissions process.

SUGGESTED PRESENTERS

- Medical school dean or hospital CEO
- Head of undergraduate medical education
- Dean of admissions

SUGGESTED TIME: 1 hour

KEY MESSAGES

- Medical education is the foundation and future of the nation’s health care system, as it trains future doctors and health care professionals.
- Medical education is a complex collaborative process requiring substantial resources—both intellectual and financial.
- Medical schools are working to increase enrollment to meet the nation’s health care needs, become more diverse, and devise an application review process that selects the best candidates to become future physicians and health care professionals.

KEY TOPICS

- Briefly discuss the three missions of academic medicine, how they interact and intersect.
 - Educate and train tomorrow’s doctors
 - Conduct research to find tomorrow’s cures and train future researchers
 - Provide care—which encompasses unique, critical services not found at other hospitals—to millions of Americans, including the sickest, most complex patients and those needing charity care

- Provide an overview of medical education.
 - Medical education is the foundation and future of the nation’s health care system.
 - It trains future doctors and health care professionals.
 - It is a complex, collaborative process that requires substantial resources—both intellectual and financial.
 - There are 151 accredited MD degree-granting schools interacting with teaching hospitals, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, and other partners.
 - There are numerous parts of medical education, including undergraduate medical education (UME), residency/graduate medical education (GME), fellowships, and continuing medical education (CME).

- Provide an overview of the medical school admissions process.
 - Preparation for medical school
 - What types of undergraduate courses and/or programs are helpful when preparing for medical school?
 - Are any undergraduate courses required for admission to medical school?
 - Are there post-baccalaureate training opportunities?
 - MCAT[®] exam
 - Discuss what subject areas the MCAT covers and what it is designed to test for.
 - Discuss how MCAT scores are used in the admissions process.
 - AMCAS[®] service and the application process, including holistic review
 - How does the application process work?
 - What do you look for in applications?
 - Discuss the mission of the school.
 - Discuss how holistic review affects the application process.
 - Identify what makes a good doctor.
 - Explain what you are doing to promote diversity.
 - Review your institution’s application and acceptance numbers.
 - How many applicants did you have?
 - For how many slots?
 - What is the demographic breakdown (race, gender, rural, etc.) of your most recent class?

ACTIVITIES

- Introduce yourself, welcome participants to the program, and congratulate them on their “acceptance to medical school.”

- Hand out envelopes that contain “acceptance letters” and the application and enrollment statistics for your most recent entering class.

PROJECT MEDICAL EDUCATION



- Conduct white coat ceremony. Admit participants to medical school and have them read the Hippocratic Oath.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Have a photographer on hand to take photos of the white coat ceremony. Give away photos at the end of the day or after the event.
- Offer breakfast and coffee if you start early in the morning.
- Consider holding an informal reception or dinner the night before the official start of your program, especially if you have out-of-town participants arriving early. This will allow participants to get to know each other and to find out a bit more about the program.
- If you do not provide transportation from the hotel (or airport) to the site, arrange for escorts at the entrance to your facility. Distribute maps before the event.
- Anticipate the need to accommodate different arrival times.

RESOURCES

[*Aspiring Docs: Information for High School Students*](#) (PDF)

[*Aspiring Docs: Considering a Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program*](#) (PDF)

[*Aspiring Docs: What it's Like to Participate in a BS/MD Program*](#) (PDF)

[*Core Competencies for Entering Medical Students*](#) (webpage)

[*The Evolution of the Medical College Admission Test \(MCAT exam\)*](#) (PDF)

[*MCAT Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)*](#) (webpage)

[*AMCAS Overview*](#) (video)

[*Aspiring Docs: Applying to Medical School*](#) (PDF)

[*Aspiring Docs: How Medical Schools Review Applications*](#) (PDF)

[*Advancing Holistic Review Initiative*](#) (PDF)

[*Aspiring Docs: What It's Like to Participate in a White Coat Ceremony*](#) (PDF)