

Statement from AAMC Group on Student Affairs Committee on Admissions Regarding 2021 Applicants to US Medical Schools during COVID-19

The AAMC Group on Student Affairs Committee on Admissions (COA) understands that medical school applicants are experiencing a variety of different challenges in this unpredictable and unprecedented time as you prepare your applications for medical school. We are having ongoing discussions with U.S. medical schools and are working on developing resources to assist them in more fully defining and responding to the variety of issues that may impact your medical school application this year. Many issues are being discussed, ranging from new grading options and admission timeline changes to MCAT postponements, to loss of clinical/research/volunteer/employment opportunities, and to potential financial instability for applicants as they and their families are affected by the current economic downturn. As a result, many medical schools are updating their policies and timelines for this cycle. Applicants should check the [Medical School Admission Requirements \(MSAR\)](#) and/or directly with the medical schools to which you are applying for more information.

Some schools may want to hear more about how COVID-19 might have personally impacted you. We are gathering resources to share with medical schools that include examples of secondary questions that allow applicants to share their COVID-19 stories so that admissions committees have a more thoughtful perspective about the hardships applicants may be facing. Some medical schools are also transitioning to virtual interview processes this cycle to assist with the financial hardship of travel and to help keep applicants safe and healthy. Consequently, this presents new considerations for applicants, such as the possible lack of resources to conduct virtual interviews effectively or availability of an environment conducive to interviewing.

We are encouraging medical schools to be thoughtful of circumstances applicants might be facing during this application cycle and the increased need to communicate directly with applicants and with the premedical community. If you have limited access to technological capabilities for Wi-Fi or inadequate device support, we encourage you to reach out to your undergraduate institution or local public library to see if they have rooms available to reserve where you may

conduct your interview. Don't hesitate to reach out to your premedical advisors or medical schools if you need assistance finding a location for your interview. The AAMC has established a webpage to support applicants with [virtual interview guidance](#) on how to conduct a successful virtual interview.

We understand that the economic status of applicants and their families may have changed significantly due to COVID-19. The AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP) has been updated for this application cycle from 300% of the Federal Poverty Level for household size to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Please make sure you review all admissions timelines and requirements for schools to which you are applying. We encourage you to frequently review the AAMC's and respective medical schools' web/social media sites to remain updated on potential changes affecting this cycle in light of COVID-19.

In summary, we recognize the challenges that applicants are facing during these unprecedented times in modern society. Please remember that you are not alone and the AAMC GSA Committee on Admissions is here to support you.

Sincerely,

AAMC Group on Student Affairs Committee on Admissions