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Admitting Diverse Classes: Strategies, Barriers, and Possibilities for Using MCAT Scores in Context

Learn Serve Lead 2021



UCSF School of Medicine

Catherine Lucey, MD, MACP

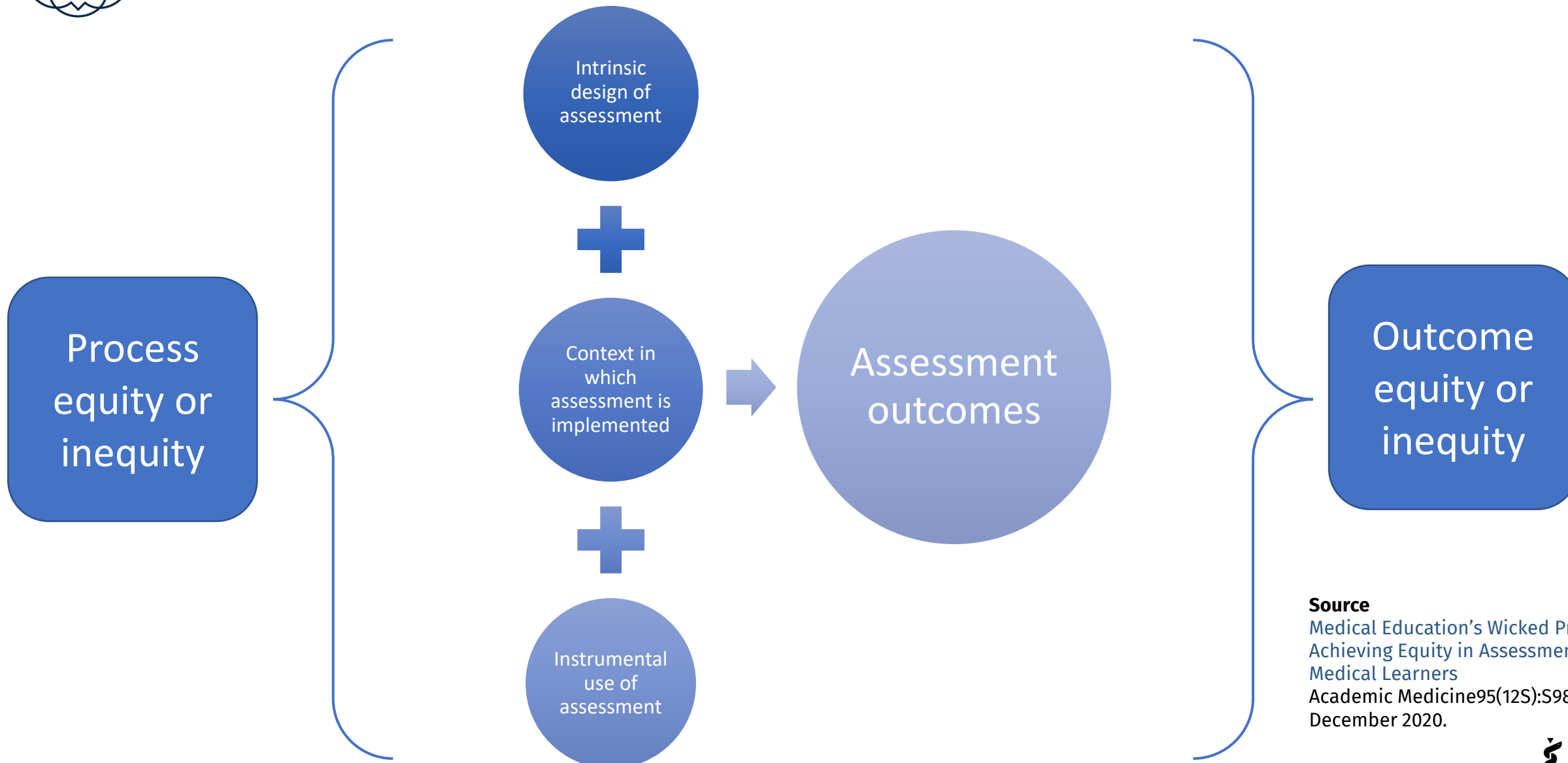
Executive Vice Dean and
Vice Dean for Education

[Online Profile](#)





Equity and the MCAT Exam



Source
Medical Education's Wicked Problem:
Achieving Equity in Assessment for
Medical Learners
Academic Medicine 95(12S):S98-S108,
December 2020.



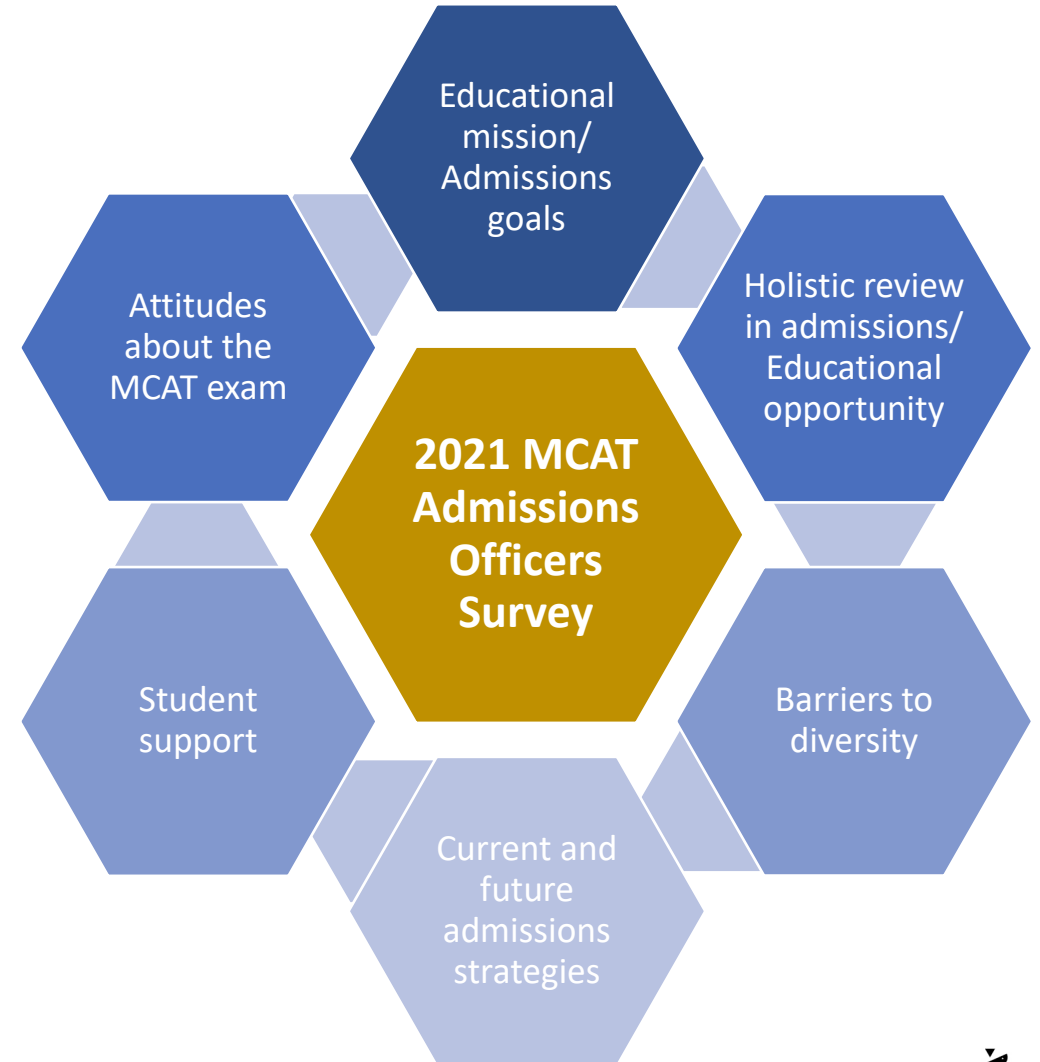
You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



About the 2021 MCAT Admissions Officers Survey

- ✓ What are schools trying to accomplish?
- ✓ What gets in the way?
- ✓ How are they currently doing it?
- ✓ Where are the opportunities for improvement?



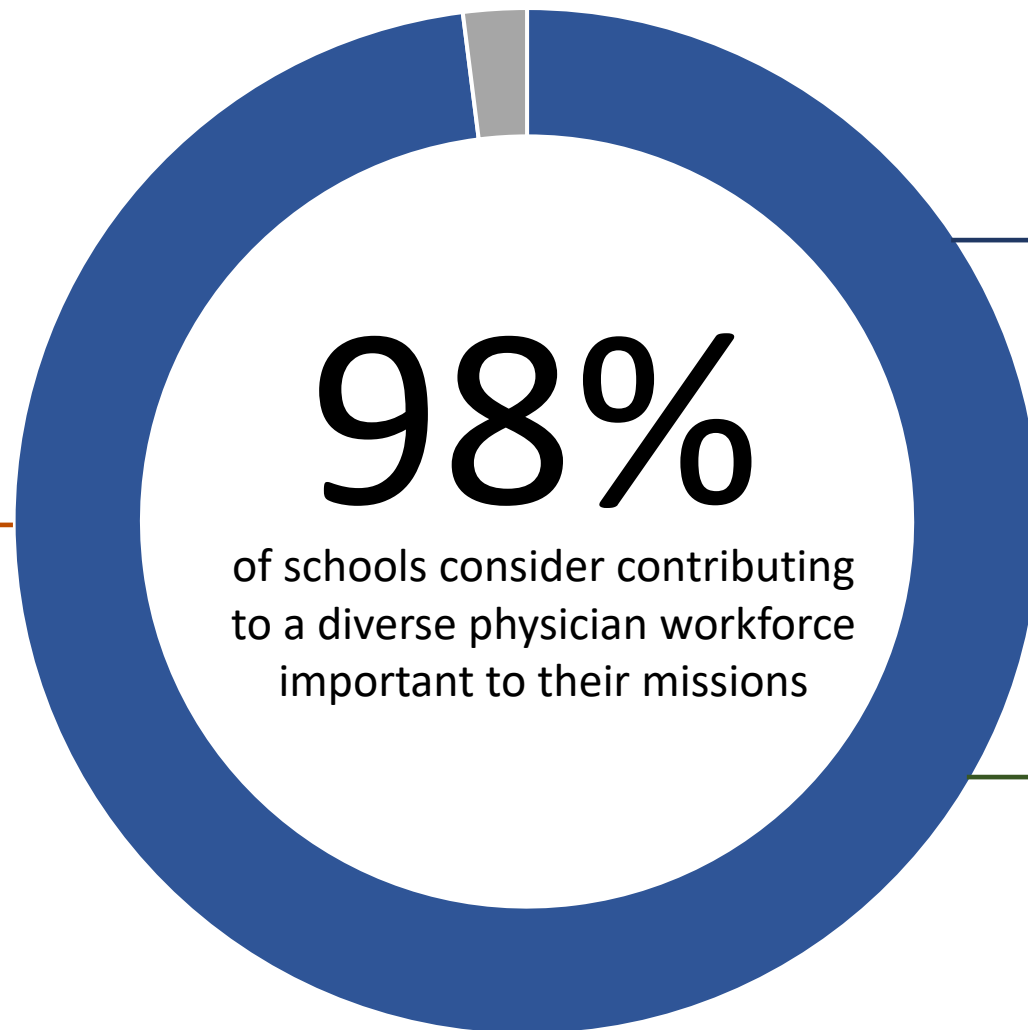


Diversity Is a Common Focus Across Schools

National Data from
2021 AO Survey

Geographic location

- 83% Medically underserved areas
- 72% In-state
- 70% Rural
- 62% Tribal
- 48% Urban



Individual characteristics

- 99% URM
- 97% Experienced disadvantage
- 96% Low-SES
- 92% 1st Generation
- 47% Multilingual

Undergraduate experience

- 35% Under-resourced university
- 21% Non-science major
- 19% Community college



Promising Practices at Boston University, Morehouse School of Medicine, and University of Illinois-Chicago



Kristen Goodell, MD
Associate Dean of Admissions
[Online Profile](#)

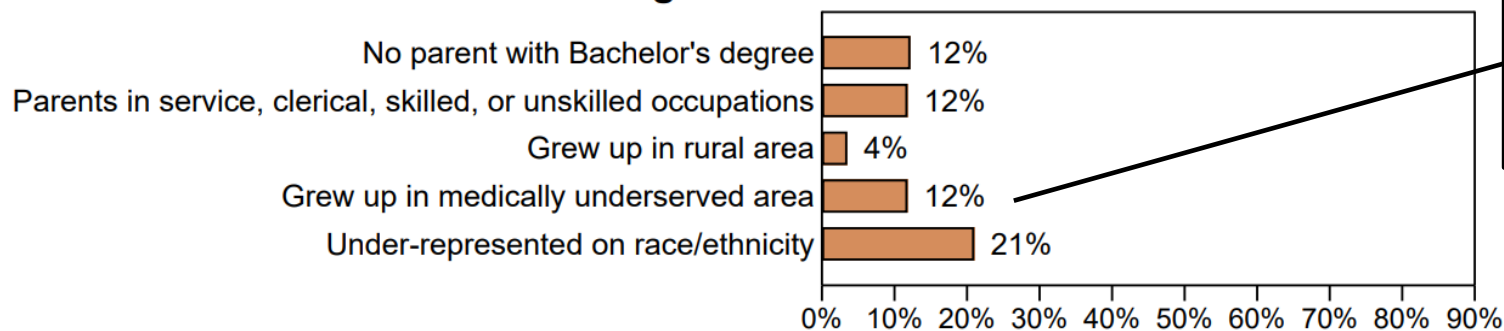




2018-2020 Matriculants (N = 468)

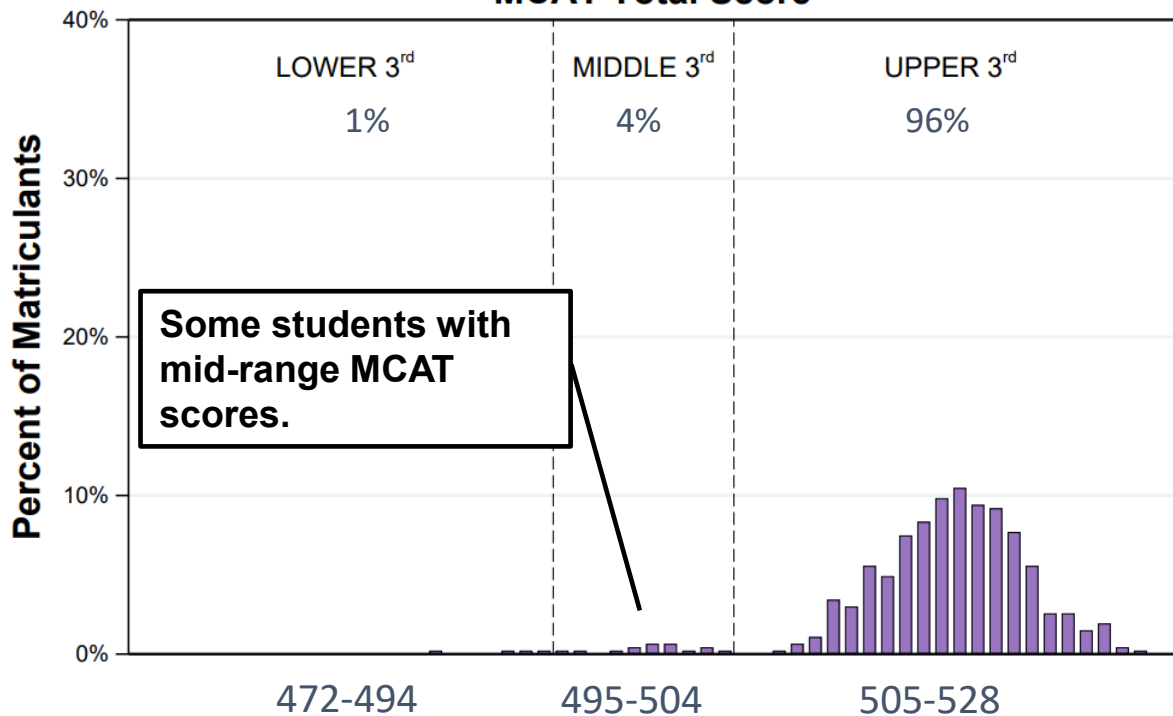


Background Characteristics

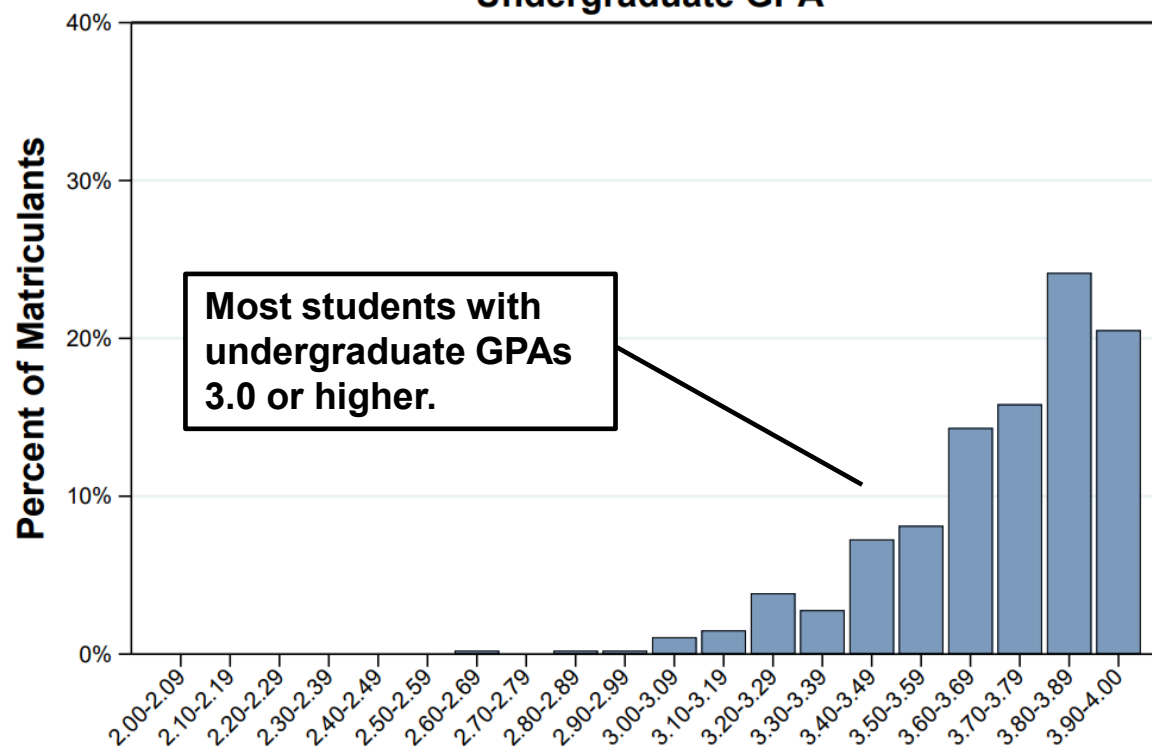


We recruit classes with diverse backgrounds to help us serve our larger mission.

MCAT Total Score



Undergraduate GPA





How do you put MCAT scores in context during the admissions process?



MCAT Scores/UGPAs in Context

National Data from
2021 AO Survey

Most used data

Educational data

- Upward/downward college grade trends (95%)
- BCPM coursework/ grades (87%)
- Post-college coursework/degrees (≥81%)
- Letters of recommendation (81%)
- Required coursework (77%)

Background/experience data

- Evidence of grit (98%)
- 1st gen, lower-SES, URM (≥94%)
- Work experience (93%)
- Essays/personal statements (91%)

College data

- Prehealth advisor (29%)
- Average MCAT/UGPA (29%)
- % graduates who continue education (29%)
- Graduation rate (29%)

High school data

- % who go to college (35%)
- Average SAT/ACT score (20%)
- Graduation rate (25%)

Community data

- Poverty rate (33%)
- Housing stability (36%)
- % single-parent households (38%)
- Crime rate (28%)

Most interest in using





Ngozi Anachebe, MD, PharmD, FACOG
Senior Associate Dean
Admissions & Student Affairs

*Now Vice Dean for Educational Affairs at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

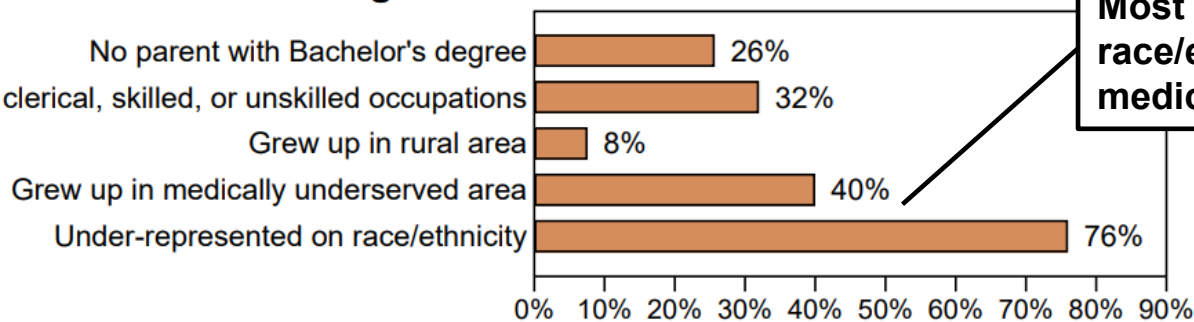




2018-2020 Matriculants (N = 305)

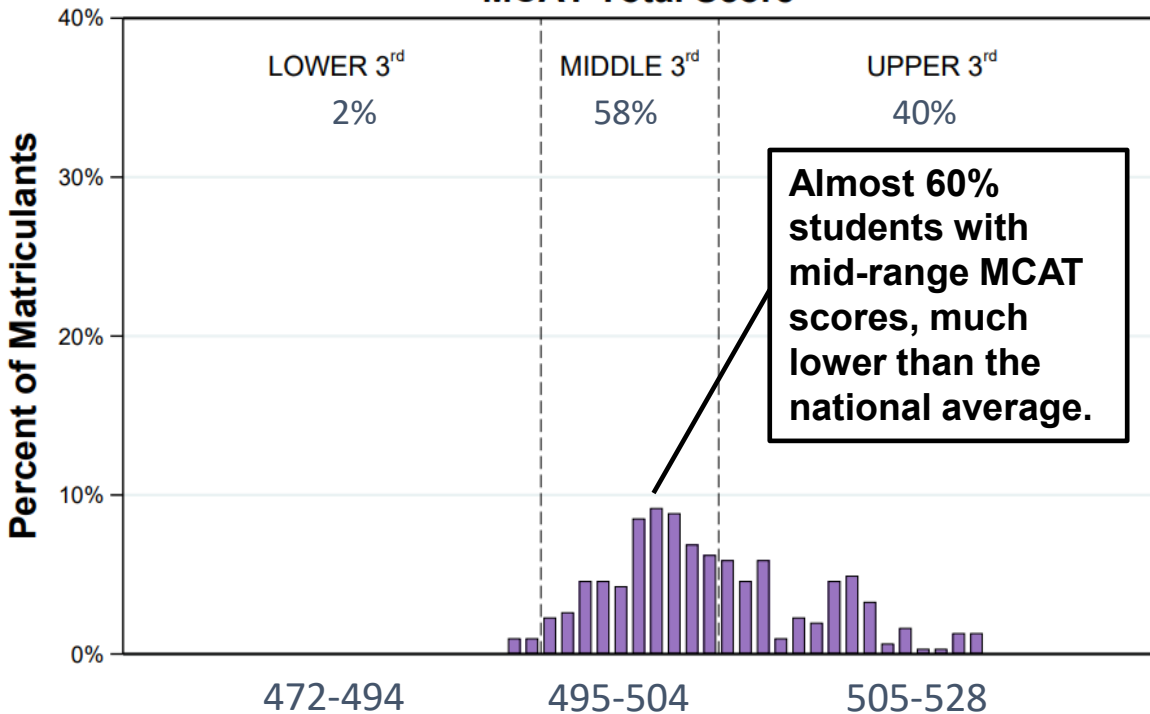


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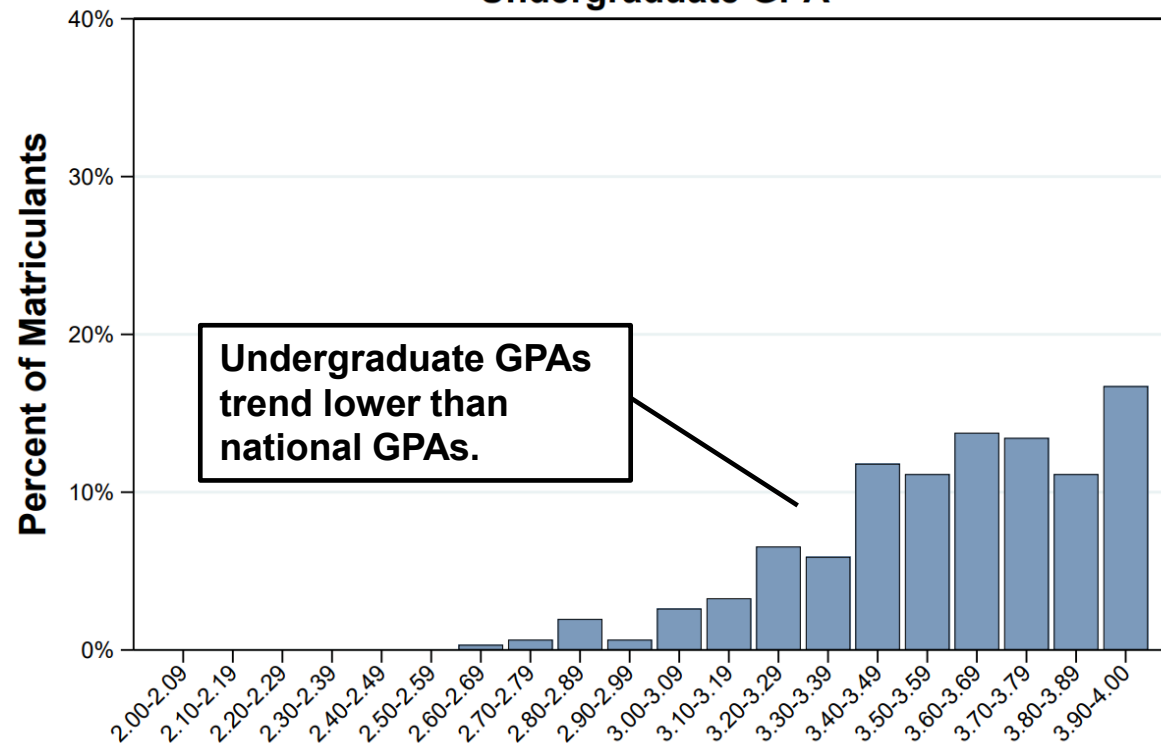


Most students are URM by race/ethnicity or come from medically underserved areas.

MCAT Total Score



Undergraduate GPA






How do you use student performance data in feedback systems between admissions, medical education, and student affairs?



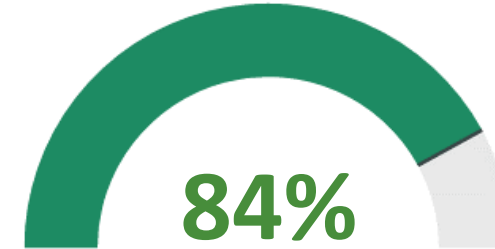
Use of Student Performance Data

National Data from
2021 AO Survey



Pressure
to admit
higher MCAT
scores

- 63%** Passing licensure exams
- 60%** Matching to residency
- 58%** Graduating on time/+1
- 52%** Financial & social risks of not graduating
- 31%** USNWR ranking
- 30%** Expectations from administration/ board



of schools provide info
about students' success
to admissions

Use of performance data by MCAT/GPA

- 71%** First time pass rates on licensure exams
- 58%** Graduation rates
- 38%** Match rates

14%-29% would use these data if available





UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Leila Amiri, PhD

Assistant Dean of Admissions and Recruitment



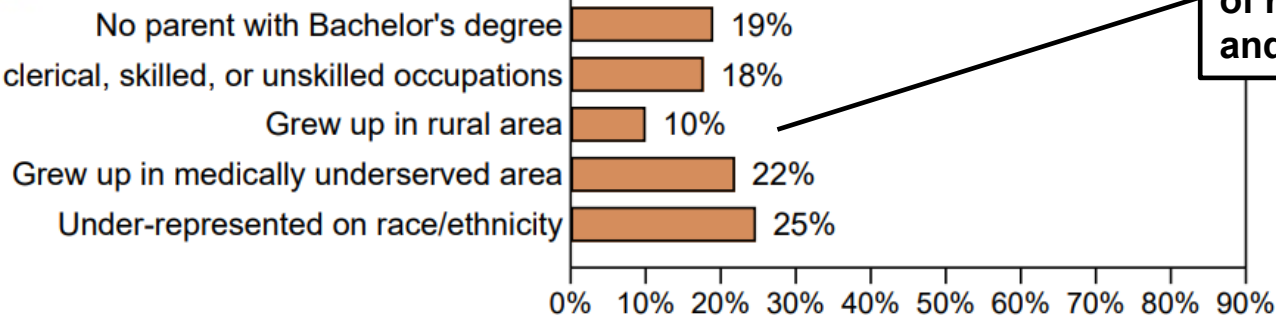


2018-2020 Matriculants (N = 898)



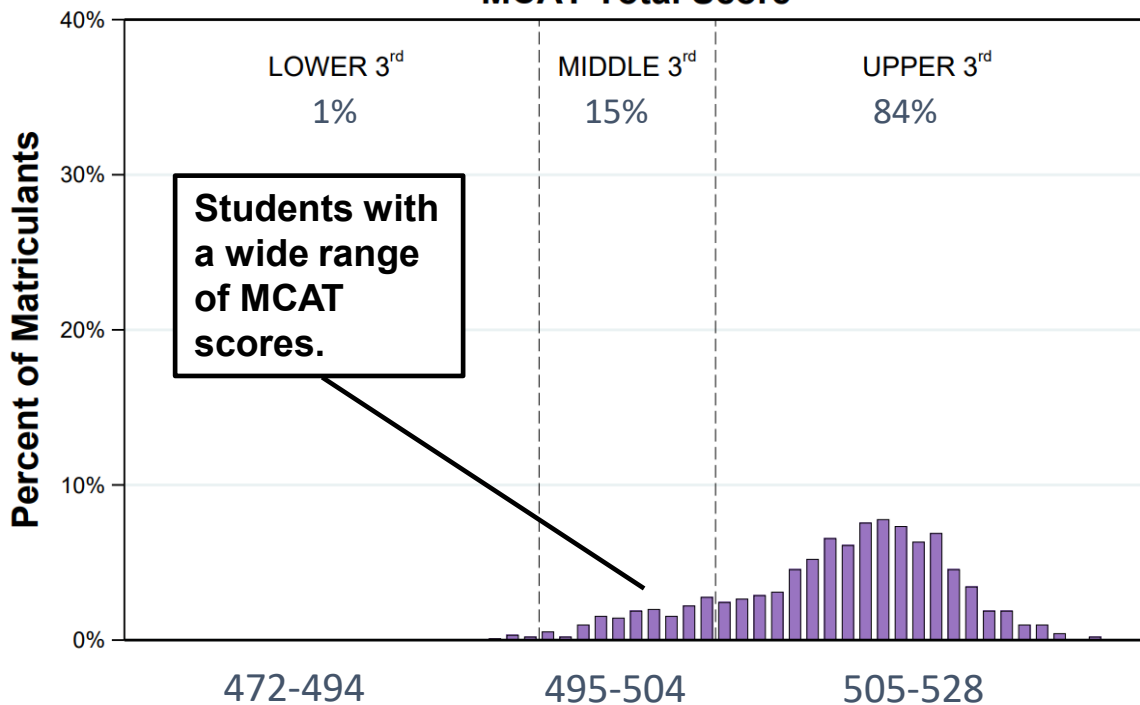
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Background Characteristics

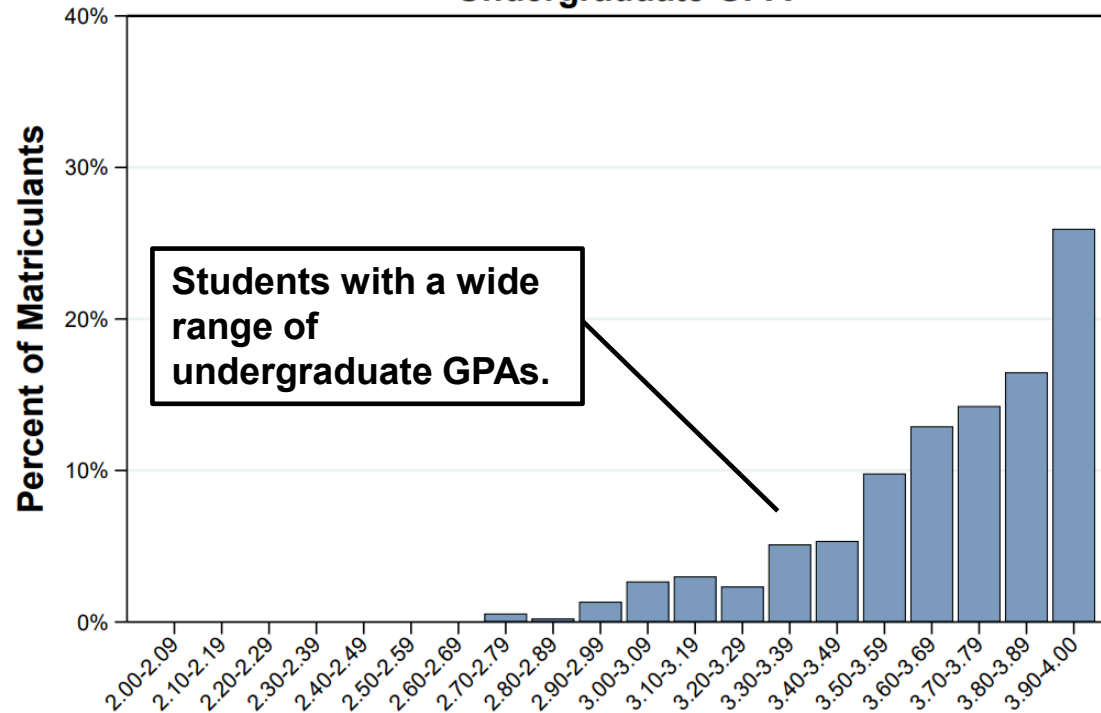


Large percentage of rural students and URM students.

MCAT Total Score



Undergraduate GPA





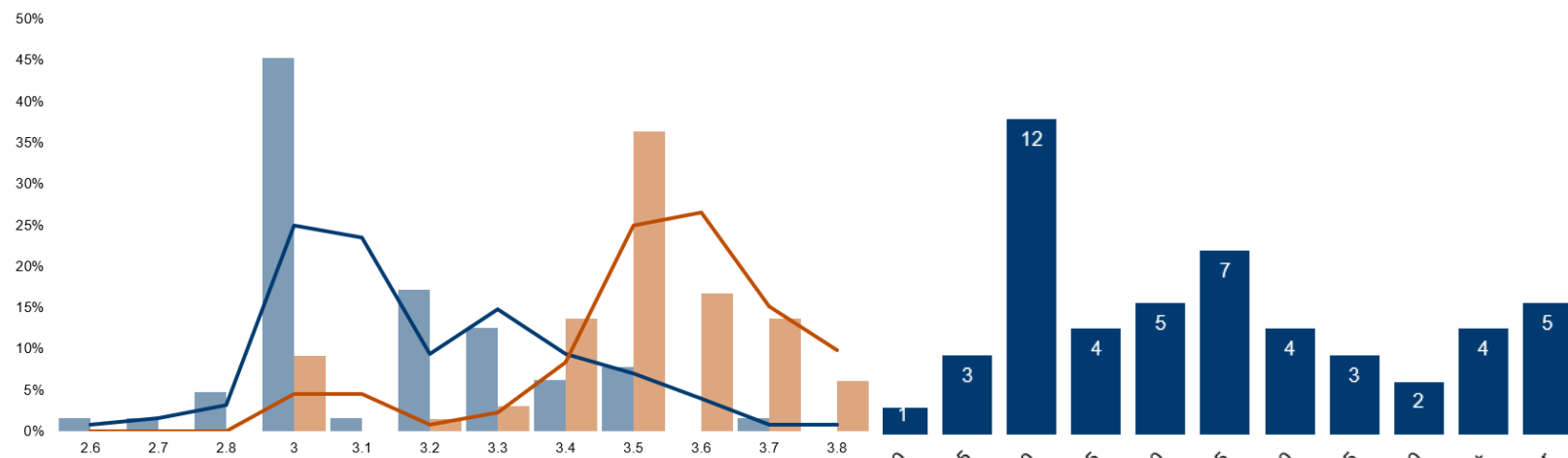
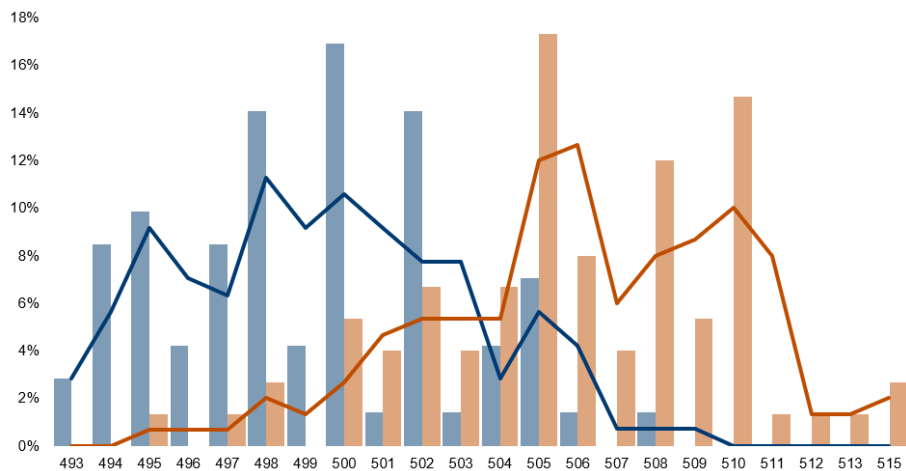
How do you support the students you admit?



Schools Have Different Needs

National Data from
2021 AO Survey

The **MCAT/GPA thresholds** for students who can succeed with/without academic support and the **number of students supportable** in each entering class are **wide-ranging** across schools.



— Ready for your curriculum with academic support
 — Ready for your curriculum without academic support



Schools Support Their Students in Different Ways

National Data from
2021 AO Survey

Most offered services

Wellness and counseling services

Step 1 prep

Content tutoring


Pre-matriculation program on foundational sciences

Deceleration with one extra year

Post-matriculation coursework on foundational sciences

Least offered services





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