



Post-MCAT Questionnaire

2018 Report

February 2019

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2018 AAMC Post-MCAT Questionnaire Summary Report

Executive Summary

Background

The Post-MCAT Questionnaire (PMQ) is administered by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The survey collects information from individuals who have taken the Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®) for the purpose of helping medical schools and medical educators understand more about aspiring and potential medical students. The Summary Report presents data from the 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 PMQs. Copies of the Summary Report and the survey tool are publicly available on the AAMC website at www.aamc.org/data/pmq.

Methodology

The PMQ is administered online. MCAT registrants are invited via email to take the PMQ within four days of sitting for the exam and have three weeks to complete the survey. Limiting the time to respond to the survey to three weeks ensures that examinees can only respond to the PMQ prior to receiving their MCAT scores. MCAT registrants are invited to take the PMQ each time they take the MCAT. Because of increased demand in 2014 ahead of the launch of the new MCAT in 2015, several administrations of the MCAT occurred outside of the typical MCAT year. These administrations (October 2014 through December 2014) are not included in this report. The 2015 data in this report reflect only responses from examinees of the new 2015 MCAT; data from the January 2015 administrations are, therefore, not included.

Of the 88,710 individuals invited to take the PMQ, 30,425 individuals responded (for a response rate of 34.3% in 2018). While MCAT examinees are eligible to participate in the PMQ each time that they take the MCAT, the PMQ Summary Report only includes information from the first PMQ that an individual completed. In 2015, the old MCAT and new MCAT fielded—the report includes only the first PMQ associated with the new 2015 MCAT. Survey data for participating individuals may not be comparable to data for non-participants.

Selected Findings

Background Information

Starting in 2016, only the responses from U.S. citizens and permanent residents are included for the Socioeconomic Status (SES) question (Q3), as opposed to previous years when all responses were included. For this reason, the reported values for years 2014 and 2015 will differ from those reported in prior publications of this report. Respondents most often were categorized with having an AAMC SES Education Occupation (EO) indicator of EO-1, which indicates that the highest education level of any parent reported was less than a college degree, regardless of occupation (25.5% in 2018). In the past five years, the percentage of respondents reporting SES EO level EO-4, which indicates that the highest education and occupation level of any parent reported was a master's degree for at least one parent working in an executive, managerial, or professional occupation, rose from 17.5% in 2014 to 20.2% in 2018.

Premedical Experiences

Almost three-fifths of respondents each year indicated that they definitely decided to study medicine before college, either before high school or during high school (59.5% in 2018). Over half of respondents in 2018 had taken courses at a four-year college or university within the three months before their MCAT exam (61.7% in 2018). In all five years, the majority of respondents were full-time students throughout their undergraduate education (93.2% in 2018).

MCAT Preparation

Nearly three-quarters of respondents reported using an MCAT preparation book (paper version) published by a commercial company to help prepare for the MCAT (74.8% in 2018). The most commonly reported MCAT preparation resource in 2018 was the Official MCAT® Practice Exams (79.7%). Of the respondents who used the Official MCAT® Practice Exams, over 90% found them “Useful” or “Very useful” in 2018 (94.5%). In the past three years, the percentage of respondents reporting they used Khan Academy as an MCAT preparation resource rose from 57.0% in 2015 to 65.0% in 2018.

The most commonly cited challenges in preparing for the MCAT in all five years were: “Difficulty balancing my time between studying for the MCAT and non-work-related time demands (e.g., family obligations, school)” (74.6% in 2018); “Difficulty balancing my time between studying for the MCAT and my job” (58.5% in 2018); and “Difficulty relearning material I learned a while ago” (52.4% in 2018).

Career Plans and Interest

Each year, the majority of respondents indicated that they are “Very likely” to apply to an MD-granting medical program (86.5% in 2018). For the last five years, the most commonly cited item that would encourage respondents to apply to medical school was “Finding a medical school where I will feel comfortable” (86.3% in 2018). In all five years, the most commonly cited item that would discourage respondents from applying to medical school was “Grades, MCAT scores, and other academic qualifications” (72.0% in 2018).

Financial Information

Each year, less than half of respondents indicated that they have, or will have, outstanding education loans for their college/premedical education (41.0% in 2018). For those with debt, the median education debt decreased from \$26,000 in 2016 and 2017 to \$25,000 in 2018. Additionally, respondents who had noneducational, consumer debt reported a median debt decrease from \$6,500 in 2017 to \$6,000 in 2018.

Coursework

Over half of respondents had taken or had been taking Introductory Sociology in 2018 (53.4%), compared with 33.6% in 2014. Over two-fifths of respondents (40.3% in 2018) reported taking Introductory Sociology “To help me on the MCAT”, up from 5.2% in 2014. Respondents who reported having taken Introductory Psychology “To help me on the MCAT” also rose from 5.7% in 2014 to 36.6% in 2018.

Providing Feedback

We encourage constituents to provide feedback regarding the PMQ report. If you would like to provide feedback, please contact pmq@aamc.org.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total number of individuals who responded to the questionnaire:	37,677	27,545	32,563	32,316	30,425
1. Sex:					
Note: This information is populated from other AAMC data sources (e.g., MCAT).					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	44.9	41.8	43.1	41.5	39.7
Female	55.1	58.2	56.9	58.5	60.3
Number of respondents	37,600	27,483	32,469	32,224	30,348
2. How do you self-identify?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. Self-identified race/ethnicity is only reported for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Self-identified race/ethnicity and citizenship/permanent residency status are populated from other AAMC data sources (e.g., MCAT).					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0
Asian	19.0	16.4	18.1	18.7	19.3
Black or African-American	8.6	9.7	9.2	9.4	9.5
Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin	9.6	9.7	9.8	9.6	10.6
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
White	47.5	46.9	48.6	49.4	49.7
Other	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4
Non-U.S. Citizen and Non-Permanent Resident	14.1	16.7	15.2	14.2	14.0
Number of respondents	37,677	27,545	32,563	32,316	30,425

3. Parental Education and Occupation

The Socioeconomic Status (SES) Education Occupation (EO) indicator classifies individuals into five ordered groups (EO-1 through EO-5) based on four aggregated categories of education (No college degree, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Doctoral degree) and two aggregated categories of occupation (Executive, managerial or professional; Service, clerical, skilled and unskilled labor). The lowest (most disadvantaged) SES group is EO-1, and the highest is EO-5. Determination of an EO indicator is based on having both education and occupation information for at least one parent. If a respondent provided complete information for two parents, the EO indicator displayed is for the parent with the higher value. The EO indicator is only reported for U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
EO-1 Less than a college degree (regardless of occupation category)	26.7	27.9	26.7	25.8	25.5
EO-2 College, master's, or doctoral degree; Service, clerical, skilled and unskilled labor occupations	9.6	9.7	8.8	8.6	8.7
EO-3 College degree; Executive, managerial or professional occupations	22.4	23.1	20.9	21.0	22.0
EO-4 Master's degree; Executive, managerial or professional occupations	17.5	17.2	19.3	20.3	20.2
EO-5 Doctoral degree; Executive, managerial or professional occupations	23.8	22.2	24.3	24.4	23.6
Number of respondents	27,221	18,836	26,454	26,725	25,248

4. What is your proficiency in English?

Participants were asked to identify their proficiency in English according to the provided definitions:

Native/functionally native: I converse easily and accurately in all types of situations. Native speakers may think that I am a native speaker, too.

Advanced: I speak very accurately, and I understand other speakers very accurately. Native speakers have no problem understanding me, but they probably perceive that I am not a native speaker.

Good: I speak well enough to participate in most conversations. Native speakers notice some errors in my speech or my understanding, but my errors rarely cause misunderstanding.

Fair: I speak and understand well enough to have extended conversations on current events, work, family, or personal life. Native speakers notice many errors in my speech or my understanding.

Basic: I speak the language imperfectly and only to a limited degree and in limited situations. I have difficulty in or understanding extended conversations.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Native/functionally native	87.4	89.4	89.6	90.1	90.2
Advanced	8.5	7.6	7.4	7.2	7.1
Good	3.5	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.3
Fair	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Basic	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Number of respondents	32,671	23,218	27,068	26,502	25,732

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
5. Do you speak another language?					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	64.4	62.2	61.4	61.1	60.5
No	35.6	37.8	38.6	38.9	39.5
Number of respondents	32,719	23,288	27,096	26,520	25,776
6. What is your proficiency in a language other than English?					
Note: See Q4 for proficiency definitions. Only those who responded "Yes" to Q5 could respond to this item. Percentages may not sum to 100% because respondents could indicate proficiency levels for more than one language.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Native/functionally native	32.4	32.6	33.9	34.5	34.5
Advanced	23.7	22.8	23.3	23.5	23.1
Good	31.0	31.5	30.8	30.7	29.8
Fair	23.6	24.2	22.9	23.1	23.7
Basic	27.4	26.0	26.3	25.5	25.3
Number of respondents	20,681	14,189	16,255	15,838	15,164
7. Most commonly reported languages by respondents from the most recent survey year indicating native/functionally native or advanced proficiency in a language other than English in Q6.					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% because less commonly reported languages are not displayed and respondents could indicate more than one language.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Spanish	30.3	31.6	31.4	30.3	31.6
Chinese	11.7	10.7	11.0	9.7	9.4
French	10.3	11.4	10.1	10.5	9.1
Hindi	7.1	6.2	6.5	6.8	7.4
Arabic	5.9	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2
Number of respondents	10,773	7,337	8,632	8,517	8,147

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
8. When did you definitely decide that you wanted to study medicine?					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
I have not definitely decided that I want to study medicine	2.9	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1
Before high school	25.9	27.7	26.7	27.4	27.9
During high school/before college	31.3	31.6	31.7	31.4	31.6
During the first two years in college	18.1	17.2	18.0	18.0	17.6
During junior year in college	8.0	7.3	7.7	7.4	7.5
During senior year in college	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.5
After receiving a bachelor's degree	8.1	7.8	7.7	8.1	7.7
After receiving an advanced degree	2.1	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.1
Number of respondents	36,639	26,557	31,326	31,057	29,278

9. Please indicate any experiences in which you have participated.
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.

	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Middle school premedical or science program	11.4	10.7	10.6	11.2	10.7
Magnet science/health science high school	8.2	8.1	7.9	8.2	8.7
Summer laboratory research apprenticeship for high school students	9.5	8.6	9.0	9.5	9.4
Classroom-based summer, after-school, or Saturday premedical program for high school students	9.0	8.7	9.1	9.4	9.0
Laboratory research apprenticeship for college students	48.8	47.3	49.4	51.4	51.8
Summer academic enrichment program for college students	15.3	14.7	14.6	15.6	15.6
Non-degree post-baccalaureate program to strengthen academic skills	7.4	7.9	7.6	7.2	7.7
Non-degree post-baccalaureate program to complete premedical requirements	8.6	8.8	8.6	7.9	8.4
Volunteered in the healthcare field	84.7	84.0	84.5	85.5	86.0
Volunteered in a non-healthcare field	75.2	76.0	76.6	77.3	77.0
International volunteer experience	26.6	27.0	27.0	27.4	26.9
Shadowed a physician or other healthcare professional	78.2	77.5	80.1	82.0	82.3
None of the above	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.8
Number of respondents	36,500	26,459	31,168	30,922	29,249

10. During the last three months, what describes your attendance at school or college?
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.

	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
I did not attend any school in the last three months				24.1	25.1
High school				1.2	1.3
Community college				2.1	2.0
Four-year college or university				62.1	61.7
Post-baccalaureate premedical program				6.5	6.1
Graduate/professional program (e.g., MS, PhD, JD)				7.5	7.4
Number of respondents				30,701	29,068

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
11. What best describes your enrollment status throughout your undergraduate education?					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Full-time	93.3	93.2	93.2	93.3	93.2
Full-time during some years and part-time during others	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.2
Part-time	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6
Number of respondents	36,362	26,319	30,925	30,692	28,913
12. Have you already graduated from college?					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	44.8	46.0	47.1	49.1	49.8
No	55.2	54.0	52.9	50.9	50.2
Number of respondents	36,404	26,358	30,991	30,709	29,064
13. How many years have passed since you graduated from college? Note: Only those who responded "Yes" to Q12 could respond to this item.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Less than 1 year	42.2	39.0	41.7	42.7	43.2
1-2 years	29.3	30.9	29.0	28.8	28.7
3-4 years	15.1	15.2	16.2	15.5	15.6
5 or more years	13.4	14.9	13.1	13.0	12.5
Number of respondents	16,267	12,083	14,562	15,056	14,370
14. How did you spend your time between college and taking the MCAT? Note: Those who responded "Less than 1 year" in Q13 could not respond to this item. Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Worked at another career	55.8	56.4	53.8	55.0	55.8
Worked to improve finances	43.5	45.4	43.4	44.2	44.7
Continued coursework to prepare for the MCAT exam	41.3	40.3	40.3	41.2	42.3
Continued coursework to fulfill premedical requirements	27.2	26.3	25.6	24.8	25.7
Took premedical courses for the first time	14.3	12.7	12.3	11.8	11.3
Pursued graduate studies	31.3	34.4	30.9	30.6	30.9
Worked/volunteered internationally	14.1	13.5	13.0	12.6	12.8
Worked/volunteered in research	40.8	40.5	39.3	37.8	39.2
Helped fulfill family obligations	31.7	31.0	29.4	30.7	33.9
Other	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.9	7.6
Number of respondents	9,342	7,309	8,454	8,603	8,138

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
15. How much time did you spend preparing for the MCAT exam (excluding time taking regular courses)?					
Approximate number of weeks:					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0-8 weeks	33.1	31.5	28.8	26.9	26.2
9-12 weeks	30.0	32.6	30.6	29.7	27.4
13-16 weeks	16.1	17.2	17.7	18.3	18.8
More than 16 weeks	20.8	18.7	22.8	25.1	27.6
Number of respondents	34,541	24,768	29,044	28,176	27,916
Median time spent preparing for the MCAT (weeks)	12	12	12	12	12
16. How much time did you spend preparing for the MCAT exam (excluding time taking regular courses)?					
Average number of hours per week:					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0-10 hours per week	27.3	24.4	23.0	21.8	20.7
11-20 hours per week	28.0	27.2	26.9	27.1	28.0
21-30 hours per week	19.6	20.3	20.9	21.0	22.0
More than 30 hours per week	25.1	28.1	29.3	30.1	29.4
Number of respondents	34,407	24,640	28,897	28,048	27,661
Median time spent preparing for the MCAT (hours)	20	20	21	23	22

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
17. What kinds of resources did you use to prepare for the MCAT exam?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. The response options for this question were revised in 2017. Blank cells indicate the resource was not a response option in the corresponding year.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
What's on the MCAT Exam? Interactive tool				18.9	17.8
The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam (paper version)				19.3	19.3
The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam (electronic version)				34.6	35.4
Official MCAT® Practice Exams				73.7	79.7
Official MCAT® Sample Test				53.0	53.8
Official MCAT® Question Packs				43.0	49.8
Official MCAT® Section Bank				41.8	48.9
Official MCAT® Flashcards				18.5	22.0
How to Create a Study Plan for the MCAT® Exam				7.6	6.5
Khan Academy		57.0	61.2	62.2	65.0
MCAT preparation book (paper version) published by a commercial company	70.4	71.6	69.5	76.6	74.8
MCAT preparation book (electronic version or e-book) published by a commercial company	30.8	27.2	29.3	30.5	27.2
MCAT practice tests published by a commercial company	56.0	62.9	66.0	66.7	62.7
Materials (e.g., handouts, online modules) from an MCAT test preparation course produced by a university, medical school, or post-baccalaureate program	12.0	10.5	12.0	21.6	19.4
MCAT-related social media sites, blogs, and online communities				30.1	34.1
Free online flashcard generators				25.2	30.4
Other free MCAT preparation resources				31.2	35.5
Other educational materials that are not specifically labeled for MCAT preparation (e.g., textbooks, course notes, online modules, journals)	33.1	28.2	28.7	24.6	23.5
Number of respondents	35,202	25,432	29,923	29,464	28,294

18. How useful were each of the following resources to prepare for the MCAT exam?
Note: Only those who selected a given resource in Q17 could respond to this item. The response options for this question were revised in 2017. Blank cells indicate the resource was not a response option in the corresponding year.

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating				Count
	Not useful	Somewhat useful	Useful	Very useful	
What's on the MCAT Exam? Interactive tool					
2018	3.5	30.2	47.4	18.9	4,825
2017	3.0	31.3	47.3	18.4	5,291
2016					
2015					
2014					

18. How useful were each of the following resources to prepare for the MCAT exam?

Note: Only those who selected a given resource in Q17 could respond to this item. The response options for this question were revised in 2017. Blank cells indicate the resource was not a response option in the corresponding year. (Continued)

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating				Count
	Not useful	Somewhat useful	Useful	Very useful	
The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam (paper version)					
2018	4.8	32.5	40.9	21.9	5,263
2017	4.1	28.1	43.5	24.4	5,453
2016					
2015					
2014					
The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam (electronic version)					
2018	2.5	26.1	47.2	24.2	9,598
2017	2.5	25.8	48.5	23.2	9,741
2016					
2015					
2014					
Official MCAT® Practice Exams					
2018	0.5	5.1	24.2	70.3	22,041
2017	0.6	6.1	28.3	64.9	21,145
2016					
2015					
2014					
Official MCAT® Sample Test					
2018	1.4	9.9	34.2	54.4	14,785
2017	1.1	9.9	34.8	54.1	15,105
2016					
2015					
2014					
Official MCAT® Question Packs					
2018	1.4	13.7	37.8	47.1	13,654
2017	1.6	13.5	39.8	45.1	12,186
2016					
2015					
2014					
Official MCAT® Section Bank					
2018	0.7	7.8	31.4	60.2	13,389
2017	0.7	7.9	34.5	56.9	11,791
2016					
2015					
2014					
Official MCAT® Flashcards					
2018	5.1	27.6	37.8	29.5	5,986
2017	4.2	26.2	41.2	28.4	5,211
2016					
2015					
2014					
How to Create a Study Plan for the MCAT® Exam					
2018	5.1	31.3	41.1	22.5	1,753
2017	6.2	32.7	40.8	20.3	2,133
2016					
2015					
2014					

18. How useful were each of the following resources to prepare for the MCAT exam?

Note: Only those who selected a given resource in Q17 could respond to this item. The response options for this question were revised in 2017. Blank cells indicate the resource was not a response option in the corresponding year. (Continued)

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating				Count
	Not useful	Somewhat useful	Useful	Very useful	
Khan Academy					
2018	1.0	15.5	39.7	43.8	17,857
2017	0.9	16.0	41.2	42.0	17,666
2016	1.1	16.6	42.8	39.6	17,841
2015	1.5	17.7	40.3	40.5	14,216
2014					
MCAT preparation book (paper version) published by a commercial company					
2018	1.7	14.8	43.1	40.4	20,517
2017	1.3	13.4	43.7	41.6	21,762
2016	1.1	12.7	45.6	40.5	20,283
2015	1.3	14.8	45.4	38.5	17,797
2014	0.7	11.5	45.7	42.1	24,366
MCAT preparation book (electronic version or e-book) published by a commercial company					
2018	1.9	17.6	45.1	35.4	7,401
2017	1.5	14.6	46.5	37.5	8,592
2016	1.5	16.0	47.9	34.7	8,443
2015	1.9	18.7	46.5	33.0	6,699
2014	0.9	13.9	47.4	37.9	10,578
MCAT practice tests published by a commercial company					
2018	2.5	19.8	42.0	35.7	17,299
2017	1.5	15.1	41.8	41.6	19,050
2016	1.2	12.5	40.8	45.5	19,218
2015	2.3	16.7	41.4	39.6	15,632
2014	1.8	15.8	43.3	39.2	19,335
Materials (e.g., handouts, online modules) from an MCAT test preparation course produced by a university, medical school, or post-baccalaureate program					
2018	2.5	20.6	48.6	28.2	5,209
2017	2.1	19.9	48.7	29.2	6,013
2016	2.8	19.6	50.7	26.9	3,382
2015	3.8	23.3	48.8	24.1	2,537
2014	2.8	19.6	51.9	25.8	4,065
MCAT-related social media sites, blogs, and online communities					
2018	3.6	34.1	37.1	25.2	9,334
2017	4.1	37.9	38.5	19.4	8,513
2016					
2015					
2014					
Free online flashcard generators					
2018	4.0	31.7	38.9	25.5	8,303
2017	5.0	34.7	38.3	22.0	7,141
2016					
2015					
2014					

18. How useful were each of the following resources to prepare for the MCAT exam?

Note: Only those who selected a given resource in Q17 could respond to this item. The response options for this question were revised in 2017. Blank cells indicate the resource was not a response option in the corresponding year. (Continued)

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating				Count
	Not useful	Somewhat useful	Useful	Very useful	
Other free MCAT preparation resources					
2018	1.6	30.4	47.9	20.0	9,635
2017	2.2	31.0	48.7	18.1	8,778
2016					
2015					
2014					
Other educational materials that are not specifically labeled for MCAT preparation (e.g., textbooks, course notes, online modules, journals)					
2018	1.6	29.5	46.3	22.6	6,418
2017	1.8	29.0	47.6	21.6	6,970
2016	1.5	25.4	49.2	23.9	8,323
2015	1.9	27.0	49.2	21.9	7,002
2014	1.8	26.6	48.1	23.4	11,447

19. In addition to the resources previously mentioned, for each of the following topic areas, what other activities did you do specifically to get ready for the MCAT exam?

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Read on my own about this topic area					
Natural Sciences	68.6	72.2	72.9	73.4	67.1
Behavioral and social sciences	43.2	75.0	75.5	75.6	72.1
Humanities	38.8	60.8	61.4	61.8	54.6
Research/statistics	33.8	54.3	55.6	56.5	51.0
Not applicable	23.4	14.2	13.7	13.6	17.1
Number of respondents	32,804	23,653	27,430	26,876	26,035
Participated in a study group about this topic area					
Natural Sciences	18.5	18.7	18.5	18.2	16.9
Behavioral and social sciences	9.9	15.5	15.0	14.5	14.1
Humanities	6.7	10.1	10.0	9.7	9.1
Research/statistics	7.5	10.8	10.9	10.4	10.2
Not applicable	76.4	75.6	75.9	76.5	77.7
Number of respondents	27,602	18,567	21,504	21,042	21,343
Took an online course in this topic area					
Natural Sciences	19.9	20.4	21.5	24.2	21.9
Behavioral and social sciences	12.4	23.2	24.1	26.5	24.3
Humanities	10.4	16.5	17.6	19.8	17.8
Research/statistics	7.3	14.2	14.8	17.0	15.4
Not applicable	74.6	70.1	68.9	66.7	69.5
Number of respondents	27,376	18,760	21,698	21,515	21,581

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
19. In addition to the resources previously mentioned, for each of the following topic areas, what other activities did you do specifically to get ready for the MCAT exam? Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. (Continued)					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Volunteered in a setting that exposed me to this topic area					
Natural Sciences	25.7	27.5	28.4	29.1	29.3
Behavioral and social sciences	22.3	26.8	26.5	26.2	27.9
Humanities	13.5	15.8	16.4	16.6	17.5
Research/statistics	20.5	24.0	24.6	24.4	25.1
Not applicable	54.2	49.4	47.9	48.2	47.3
Number of respondents	28,756	19,808	22,989	22,478	22,684
Volunteered or worked in a research lab that exposed me to this topic area					
Natural Sciences	34.4	37.9	41.0	41.5	40.6
Behavioral and social sciences	12.5	15.4	15.7	16.0	17.2
Humanities	3.9	5.0	5.1	5.2	6.1
Research/statistics	34.4	41.3	42.8	43.5	42.2
Not applicable	47.7	42.6	39.6	39.0	40.1
Number of respondents	29,601	20,632	24,114	23,720	23,600
20. Who helped you prepare for the MCAT exam? Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No one helped me prepare for the MCAT exam	47.4	48.4	48.0	47.0	46.2
Prehealth advisor	8.6	9.4	9.3	10.3	10.2
Research advisor or faculty member (not a prehealth advisor)	3.6	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.0
Career guidance counselor (not a prehealth advisor)	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Physician	4.8	5.0	4.6	5.3	5.2
Family member	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.5	10.2
A college student/peer study group	17.4	16.7	18.4	19.3	21.2
A medical student	7.1	6.1	6.3	7.3	7.9
Online discussion forum participants	6.9	7.2	9.1	10.4	13.5
Paid tutor	7.1	6.4	6.5	7.9	8.4
Faculty or staff at a commercial test preparation company	28.0	27.5	25.9	23.8	21.2
Other	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.2
Number of respondents	34,045	24,349	28,185	27,553	26,813

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
21. What kinds of challenges, if any, have you had getting ready for the MCAT exam?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Difficulty getting into the college courses I needed	6.3	7.7	6.9	6.5	5.9
Difficulty learning new material for which I lacked relevant coursework	31.0	43.5	41.4	40.6	40.7
Difficulty relearning material I learned a while ago	53.5	50.0	49.8	50.4	52.4
Difficulty getting concrete and detailed information about the MCAT exam	19.4	39.6	26.9	24.1	23.7
Difficulty affording preparation courses and materials	41.3	42.2	42.7	42.5	43.4
Difficulty balancing my time between studying for the MCAT and my job	54.3	55.6	55.5	56.4	58.5
Difficulty balancing my time between studying for the MCAT and non-work-related time demands (e.g., family obligations, school)	71.4	70.6	71.7	71.5	74.6
Other (please specify)	3.0	3.9	3.0	3.0	2.4
Number of respondents	33,064	23,894	27,545	26,902	26,293

22. How likely are you to apply to the following graduate or professional programs?

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating				Count
	Not likely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very likely	
MD-granting medical program					
2018	1.5	3.3	8.7	86.5	26,755
2017	1.6	2.9	7.8	87.8	27,500
2016	1.7	2.8	8.5	86.9	28,095
2015	1.7	3.1	8.6	86.6	24,228
2014	2.2	3.5	9.3	85.0	33,918
DO-granting medical program					
2018	29.3	22.8	15.4	32.4	25,403
2017	30.0	22.1	15.7	32.3	25,896
2016	31.0	22.1	15.3	31.5	26,473
2015	31.8	21.9	15.1	31.3	22,787
2014	32.2	22.7	15.3	29.8	31,964
Other health program (e.g., Veterinary, Dental, Physician Assistant, Pharmacy)					
2018	71.3	19.6	6.1	3.0	24,659
2017	68.5	20.6	7.2	3.7	25,012
2016	66.7	21.6	7.6	4.1	25,589
2015	65.0	22.4	8.3	4.3	22,107
2014	63.9	22.4	8.8	4.9	31,091
Graduate program in science, technology, or math					
2018	56.6	24.3	10.9	8.3	24,783
2017	55.8	24.1	11.8	8.3	25,086
2016	54.8	24.8	12.3	8.1	25,681
2015	54.3	24.5	13.0	8.1	22,172
2014	52.8	26.0	12.9	8.3	31,178

22. How likely are you to apply to the following graduate or professional programs? (Continued)

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating				Count
	Not likely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very likely	
Non-health professional program (e.g., law, MBA)					
2018	84.9	10.6	3.1	1.4	24,448
2017	84.0	11.2	3.4	1.5	24,749
2016	84.4	10.9	3.3	1.3	25,290
2015	84.3	11.0	3.4	1.3	21,801
2014	83.5	11.3	3.7	1.4	30,700
Graduate program in behavioral or social sciences (e.g., psychology, sociology)					
2018	81.6	13.5	3.6	1.3	24,491
2017	80.8	13.8	3.9	1.4	24,851
2016	81.0	13.4	4.0	1.5	25,435
2015	79.8	14.1	4.5	1.6	21,948
2014	82.8	12.3	3.7	1.2	30,837
Graduate program in the humanities (e.g., history, English)					
2018	95.6	3.3	0.7	0.3	24,324
2017	95.1	3.8	0.8	0.4	24,609
2016	95.2	3.6	0.7	0.4	25,196
2015	95.0	3.7	1.0	0.4	21,728
2014	94.9	3.8	0.8	0.4	30,551

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
23. What type of medicine are you interested in pursuing?					
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Primary care medicine (e.g., family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics)	31.4	30.7	29.0	27.7	27.8
Medical specialty (e.g., allergy/immunology, cardiology, dermatology)	28.8	29.3	29.3	30.8	31.8
Surgical specialty (e.g., general surgery, orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery)	22.5	22.8	23.3	23.0	23.1
Not sure/undecided	17.3	17.2	18.4	18.6	17.3
Number of respondents	33,991	24,254	28,089	27,487	26,846

24. Which of the following items would encourage you to apply to medical school?

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.

	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Finding a medical school where I will feel comfortable	83.8	84.7	85.1	85.4	86.3
Fit between my personal interests/goals and a medical school's mission	75.9	76.6	78.5	79.3	80.3
Availability of academic support in medical school	59.4	62.2	63.2	64.0	65.5
Availability of financial support in medical school	72.0	72.5	72.1	72.2	73.9
Availability of social support in medical school	43.9	49.5	52.4	54.3	56.7
Grades, MCAT scores, and other academic qualifications	72.1	70.9	72.6	72.5	72.0
Number of respondents	33,837	24,189	28,062	27,452	26,730

25. Which of the following items would discourage you from applying to medical school?
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Amount of current debt	28.5	29.4	28.8	27.3	28.6
Cost of applying to medical school	43.0	45.4	46.6	45.9	47.4
Cost of medical school	62.1	62.5	62.8	62.9	64.2
Grades, MCAT scores, and other academic qualifications	72.4	72.0	71.1	71.5	72.0
Family obligations	20.8	20.9	21.9	21.2	20.9
Number of respondents	30,992	22,170	25,619	25,102	24,716

26. Please indicate the extent to which the following individuals have positively or negatively influenced your decision to pursue a career in medicine.

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating					Count
	Very negative	Somewhat negative	Somewhat positive	Very positive	Not applicable	
Prehealth advisor						
2018	4.0	9.7	28.8	24.3	33.1	26,171
2017	4.0	9.7	29.1	25.7	31.5	26,795
2016	4.1	9.6	28.8	24.8	32.8	27,325
2015	4.4	9.6	27.5	23.7	34.8	23,609
2014	4.1	9.4	28.6	25.0	32.8	33,111
Research advisor or faculty member (not a prehealth advisor)						
2018	1.0	3.5	27.2	40.3	28.0	26,061
2017	1.2	3.8	27.6	39.8	27.6	26,506
2016	1.2	3.9	27.9	38.5	28.5	27,032
2015	1.3	3.7	27.0	37.8	30.1	23,379
2014	1.3	4.1	28.2	38.1	28.3	32,833
Career guidance counselor (not a prehealth advisor)						
2018	1.7	4.1	18.9	13.1	62.2	25,846
2017	1.8	4.2	19.8	15.4	58.8	26,292
2016	1.9	4.3	19.7	14.6	59.5	26,829
2015	2.0	4.3	19.1	14.6	60.1	23,172
2014	1.9	4.7	20.1	14.8	58.5	32,542
Physician						
2018	0.6	2.5	18.2	65.0	13.8	26,139
2017	0.6	2.5	18.3	64.9	13.7	26,813
2016	0.9	2.8	19.2	63.0	14.1	27,312
2015	0.7	2.8	19.3	62.2	15.0	23,629
2014	0.9	2.8	19.7	62.2	14.4	33,068
Family member						
2018	0.9	2.9	19.4	68.9	7.9	26,213
2017	0.9	3.2	19.1	68.6	8.2	26,868
2016	0.9	3.0	18.5	69.4	8.2	27,401
2015	0.9	3.0	17.7	70.2	8.3	23,714
2014	0.9	3.0	18.7	69.5	7.9	33,159

26. Please indicate the extent to which the following individuals have positively or negatively influenced your decision to pursue a career in medicine. (Continued)

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating					Count
	Very negative	Somewhat negative	Somewhat positive	Very positive	Not applicable	
A college student						
2018	1.1	4.0	27.1	44.2	23.6	26,033
2017	1.0	4.3	26.2	44.1	24.4	26,665
2016	1.1	4.3	26.3	43.5	24.7	27,195
2015	1.1	4.4	25.8	42.6	26.1	23,477
2014	1.2	4.4	26.4	42.9	25.0	32,933
A medical student						
2018	0.7	2.9	22.8	42.6	31.0	26,023
2017	0.8	3.3	22.4	42.9	30.6	26,660
2016	0.9	3.2	22.9	41.5	31.5	27,215
2015	1.0	3.6	22.3	41.7	31.3	23,534
2014	1.0	3.8	22.7	41.5	31.0	32,936

27. How are (or were) your college/premedical education costs paid?

Note: The percentage is the average of the percentages for the category. Responses needed to total 100%.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Scholarships or awards	33.5	33.8	34.1	35.2	35.9
Scholarships or awards with a service commitment (NHSC, Military, etc.)	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7
Loans	19.6	20.3	18.8	18.1	18.6
Work-study program	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Personal income and savings	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.1	7.6
Money from parents, guardians, or other relatives	34.2	33.3	34.4	34.7	33.2
Money from spouse or partner	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Other	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3
Number of respondents	30,398	21,401	24,662	24,040	22,798

28. Do you (or will you) have any outstanding education loans for your college/premedical education?

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Yes	43.6	44.9	41.8	40.6	41.0
No	56.4	55.1	58.2	59.4	59.0
Number of respondents	32,145	22,754	27,146	26,581	25,712

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
29. What is, or will be, the total amount of outstanding education loans for your college/premedical education? Note: Amounts totaling > \$500,000 were treated as invalid. Only those who responded "Yes" to Q28 could respond to this item.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No debt (\$0)	58.1	56.9	60.3	61.5	61.2
\$1 to \$4,999	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.8
\$5,000 to \$9,999	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.1
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.0
\$15,000 to \$19,999	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
\$20,000 to \$24,999	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.2	5.6
\$25,000 to \$29,999	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.3
\$30,000 to \$49,999	9.7	10.1	9.1	8.6	8.0
\$50,000 to \$74,999	5.1	5.6	4.8	4.8	4.6
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.9	2.0
\$100,000 to \$500,000	2.8	3.2	3.0	2.7	3.3
Number of respondents	31,195	22,024	26,213	25,675	24,784
Median premedical debt of those reporting premedical debt	\$25,000	\$28,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$25,000
30. Do you have any noneducational, consumer debt that you are legally required to repay? (This includes credit card debt, car loans, home mortgages, or other consumer debt.)					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	18.9	20.1	17.6	17.8	18.4
No	81.1	79.9	82.4	82.2	81.6
Number of respondents	32,774	23,317	27,056	26,454	25,597

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
31. Please list the amount of your noneducational, consumer debt.					
Note: Amounts totaling > \$500,000 for credit cards, car loans, and other debt were treated as invalid, and amounts totaling > \$10,000,000 for mortgage and total debt were treated as invalid. Only those who responded "Yes" to Q30 could respond to this item.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No debt (\$0)	82.5	81.5	83.4	83.3	83.8
\$1 to \$4,999	8.2	8.3	7.3	7.2	6.9
\$5,000 to \$9,999	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.6
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.7
\$15,000 to \$19,999	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
\$20,000 to \$24,999	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
\$25,000 to \$29,999	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
\$30,000 to \$49,999	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
\$75,000 to \$99,999	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
\$100,000 or more	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.7
Number of respondents	32,203	22,866	26,713	26,109	24,924
Median noneducational debt of those reporting noneducational debt	\$5,000	\$5,800	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$6,000
32. Please list the amount of your noneducational, consumer debt for each category listed below.					
Note: The number shown in each category is the median of those providing valid figures. Amounts totaling greater than \$500,000 for credit cards, car loans, and other debt were treated as invalid, and amounts totaling greater than \$10,000,000 for mortgage and total debt were treated as invalid. Only those who responded "Yes" to Q30 could respond to this item.					
Credit Cards					
Median	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Number of respondents	4,385	3,355	3,452	3,414	3,138
Car Loans					
Median	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$11,000
Number of respondents	2,153	1,723	1,828	1,848	1,735
Mortgage					
Median	\$140,000	\$152,000	\$150,000	\$155,000	\$176,000
Number of respondents	833	589	611	575	522
Other Consumer Loans					
Median	\$3,000	\$3,400	\$3,650	\$4,000	\$4,000
Number of respondents	616	479	424	413	352
Total Amount					
Median	\$5,000	\$5,800	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$6,000
Number of respondents	5,624	4,230	4,432	4,362	4,044

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
33. Which of the following courses have you taken or are you currently taking?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. The response option, “Course that focuses on critical thinking, reasoning, or problem-solving” was added in 2017. Blank cells indicate the course was not a response option in the corresponding year.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Introductory biology	95.9	96.3	95.5	93.1	94.1
Molecular or cellular biology	73.8	73.7	74.5	73.5	74.7
Anatomy or physiology	68.9	70.0	69.1	67.7	69.5
Genetics	70.4	71.5	71.5	70.1	71.8
Introductory (inorganic) chemistry	93.7	93.2	93.0	90.6	91.7
Biochemistry	72.9	82.9	87.7	87.6	90.4
Organic chemistry	96.9	96.4	96.8	94.6	96.4
Introductory physics	95.6	94.9	94.8	92.6	94.6
Calculus	89.0	87.6	88.0	85.8	87.1
Research methods	42.5	43.4	41.8	40.8	40.1
Statistics	77.9	81.9	83.3	82.9	85.5
Public health	20.2	21.1	20.8	21.6	21.8
Ethics or philosophy	49.2	50.3	49.7	48.9	48.9
English composition/writing	86.2	85.6	85.9	84.2	84.2
English literature or other humanities	77.2	77.4	77.3	75.1	75.9
Introductory psychology	72.6	83.0	84.6	83.6	85.8
Other psychology	36.9	43.1	42.3	42.2	43.4
Introductory sociology	33.6	48.0	51.5	51.7	53.4
Other sociology	15.7	17.9	18.0	17.4	17.7
Cultural anthropology, urban studies, or other courses about different cultures	37.8	34.9	35.0	33.5	33.7
Course that combined two natural science subject areas	25.0	25.2	25.7	25.7	26.5
Course that combined two behavioral or social science subject areas	15.9	16.8	16.1	15.8	15.4
Course that combined one natural and one behavioral or social science subject areas	32.7	35.8	35.1	35.9	36.7
Course that focuses on critical thinking, reasoning, or problem-solving.				33.2	34.5
Number of respondents	32,851	23,413	27,017	26,937	25,570

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
34. Please describe the reason(s) why you took each of the following courses.					
Note: Only those who selected a given course in Q33 could respond to this item. Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. Blank cells indicate the course was not a response option in the corresponding year.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Introductory biology					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	82.8	84.5	84.6	85.1	86.2
To help me on the MCAT	29.1	28.7	29.5	28.4	31.7
Required or recommended by medical schools	47.8	46.4	46.9	46.2	48.3
Personal Interest	28.1	26.1	26.8	26.0	27.2
Number of respondents	31,006	22,069	25,170	24,466	23,497
Molecular or cellular biology					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	81.8	82.8	82.7	82.9	83.7
To help me on the MCAT	26.4	27.0	28.2	27.9	31.5
Required or recommended by medical schools	36.9	36.8	38.1	37.8	40.2
Personal Interest	30.5	28.5	29.2	28.2	29.6
Number of respondents	23,738	16,812	19,509	19,200	18,560
Anatomy or physiology					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	65.9	68.1	67.9	68.1	69.0
To help me on the MCAT	31.1	30.5	31.7	31.5	34.6
Required or recommended by medical schools	36.1	36.1	37.2	36.9	39.1
Personal Interest	45.3	43.0	42.5	42.1	44.9
Number of respondents	22,098	15,925	18,088	17,646	17,259
Genetics					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	82.2	83.1	82.9	80.4	83.6
To help me on the MCAT	26.5	25.9	28.0	26.5	30.9
Required or recommended by medical schools	35.0	34.7	36.2	35.1	38.0
Personal Interest	30.6	28.6	28.7	27.3	30.6
Number of respondents	22,571	16,258	18,697	18,798	17,836
Introductory (inorganic) chemistry					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	82.3	83.3	83.3	83.7	85.0
To help me on the MCAT	29.0	28.7	29.4	28.6	32.4
Required or recommended by medical schools	47.4	46.2	46.5	46.0	48.1
Personal Interest	18.4	16.9	18.0	17.3	18.4
Number of respondents	30,134	21,243	24,384	23,658	22,784
Biochemistry					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	72.6	72.2	72.0	72.7	74.7
To help me on the MCAT	26.9	36.1	38.3	37.1	41.2
Required or recommended by medical schools	44.8	47.6	49.8	49.5	52.3
Personal Interest	29.6	27.3	27.8	26.4	27.9
Number of respondents	23,449	18,910	23,032	22,944	22,480

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
34. Please describe the reason(s) why you took each of the following courses.					
Note: Only those who selected a given course in Q33 could respond to this item. Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. Blank cells indicate the course was not a response option in the corresponding year. (Continued)					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Organic chemistry					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	77.4	78.3	78.0	78.4	80.0
To help me on the MCAT	31.9	31.5	32.5	31.6	35.9
Required or recommended by medical schools	51.5	49.9	50.3	49.6	52.1
Personal Interest	19.0	17.2	18.2	17.5	18.5
Number of respondents	31,222	22,004	25,393	24,723	23,975
Introductory physics					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	78.3	78.6	78.9	79.0	80.5
To help me on the MCAT	31.2	30.9	31.3	30.5	34.5
Required or recommended by medical schools	49.0	47.6	48.0	47.4	50.1
Personal Interest	15.8	14.1	15.0	14.2	14.3
Number of respondents	30,780	21,638	24,868	24,209	23,503
Calculus					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	81.6	82.6	82.5	83.3	84.4
To help me on the MCAT	9.7	12.8	13.7	13.4	15.3
Required or recommended by medical schools	35.5	34.0	35.4	34.3	36.1
Personal Interest	20.6	19.2	20.0	18.8	19.7
Number of respondents	28,500	19,881	22,939	22,317	21,575
Research methods					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	75.6	79.0	78.8	78.8	80.1
To help me on the MCAT	8.1	13.9	15.7	15.6	17.8
Required or recommended by medical schools	16.4	18.0	19.5	19.3	21.8
Personal Interest	36.4	30.9	30.5	30.1	32.8
Number of respondents	13,485	9,728	10,781	10,412	9,775
Statistics					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	79.8	81.3	80.7	81.1	83.0
To help me on the MCAT	7.5	16.0	17.6	17.2	19.0
Required or recommended by medical schools	28.6	30.2	32.8	33.6	34.8
Personal Interest	20.8	18.9	19.4	18.4	19.1
Number of respondents	24,864	18,539	21,669	21,500	21,124
Public health					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	52.3	56.2	54.9	55.4	56.1
To help me on the MCAT	5.5	10.2	10.7	11.4	11.7
Required or recommended by medical schools	10.8	13.0	13.9	14.7	13.9
Personal Interest	60.2	57.1	57.4	56.5	58.8
Number of respondents	6,361	4,689	5,287	5,466	5,293

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
34. Please describe the reason(s) why you took each of the following courses.					
Note: Only those who selected a given course in Q33 could respond to this item. Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. Blank cells indicate the course was not a response option in the corresponding year. (Continued)					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Ethics or philosophy					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	67.5	69.0	68.5	68.6	69.2
To help me on the MCAT	5.0	9.7	10.2	10.8	11.1
Required or recommended by medical schools	12.1	14.6	15.5	16.2	16.6
Personal Interest	47.6	44.6	44.4	43.5	46.0
Number of respondents	15,582	11,298	12,834	12,560	11,966
English composition/writing					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	85.6	86.3	86.1	86.6	88.1
To help me on the MCAT	7.1	8.9	9.3	9.3	9.9
Required or recommended by medical schools	27.8	27.8	29.1	28.4	28.9
Personal Interest	20.6	19.5	19.8	18.5	19.3
Number of respondents	27,578	19,413	22,355	21,832	20,779
English literature or other humanities					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	78.1	80.1	79.5	80.1	81.5
To help me on the MCAT	6.7	8.7	9.3	9.1	9.8
Required or recommended by medical schools	23.2	23.3	24.8	24.0	24.6
Personal Interest	31.0	28.0	28.6	27.2	28.4
Number of respondents	24,537	17,416	19,967	19,328	18,644
Introductory psychology					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	64.3	63.7	62.7	63.4	66.4
To help me on the MCAT	5.7	29.3	34.2	34.1	36.6
Required or recommended by medical schools	17.5	26.5	31.6	34.3	37.0
Personal Interest	50.3	43.1	41.3	39.4	40.7
Number of respondents	23,196	18,849	22,071	21,745	21,247
Other psychology					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	55.2	56.6	55.3	55.5	57.9
To help me on the MCAT	4.3	18.3	21.4	22.2	24.3
Required or recommended by medical schools	10.3	13.8	16.4	18.1	19.8
Personal Interest	63.6	60.2	59.3	57.2	60.1
Number of respondents	11,669	9,669	10,884	10,845	10,634
Introductory sociology					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	66.9	58.0	57.5	58.2	61.4
To help me on the MCAT	5.2	35.5	39.6	38.5	40.3
Required or recommended by medical schools	16.1	27.4	32.7	35.1	37.2
Personal Interest	42.1	36.2	34.5	33.3	35.3
Number of respondents	10,648	10,840	13,376	13,370	13,137

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
34. Please describe the reason(s) why you took each of the following courses.					
Note: Only those who selected a given course in Q33 could respond to this item. Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. Blank cells indicate the course was not a response option in the corresponding year. (Continued)					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Other sociology					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	53.5	53.0	50.7	50.9	51.2
To help me on the MCAT	3.4	16.1	20.0	19.7	22.1
Required or recommended by medical schools	9.8	13.0	16.1	17.9	19.7
Personal Interest	58.6	56.4	56.7	56.0	58.4
Number of respondents	4,891	3,961	4,557	4,394	4,245
Cultural anthropology, urban studies, or other courses about different cultures					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	57.9	57.6	57.8	57.1	57.7
To help me on the MCAT	3.2	8.5	9.6	9.0	8.9
Required or recommended by medical schools	8.3	9.7	11.0	11.2	11.6
Personal Interest	60.7	58.2	58.0	58.0	60.5
Number of respondents	11,914	7,746	8,930	8,488	8,177
Course that combined two natural science subject areas					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	67.0	69.4	69.1	70.7	71.3
To help me on the MCAT	11.4	15.6	16.9	16.3	18.8
Required or recommended by medical schools	13.1	15.3	15.7	16.4	18.1
Personal Interest	50.4	47.7	47.5	45.7	46.5
Number of respondents	7,831	5,546	6,493	6,487	6,398
Course that combined two behavioral or social science subject areas					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	54.1	55.3	55.2	56.1	55.9
To help me on the MCAT	4.9	10.8	11.8	11.4	12.5
Required or recommended by medical schools	7.2	8.7	9.9	11.2	12.2
Personal Interest	65.2	63.9	62.5	60.5	63.9
Number of respondents	4,932	3,654	3,986	3,920	3,693
Course that combined one natural and one behavioral or social science subject areas					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major	53.7	56.0	55.1	56.3	57.2
To help me on the MCAT	6.5	13.6	15.1	15.0	16.2
Required or recommended by medical schools	8.0	10.2	11.0	11.9	12.5
Personal Interest	70.5	67.6	66.6	64.3	66.5
Number of respondents	10,279	7,958	8,920	9,021	8,897
Course that focuses on critical thinking, reasoning, or problem-solving					
Required by my undergraduate school or for my major				69.1	70.3
To help me on the MCAT				16.9	18.6
Required or recommended by medical schools				13.2	14.3
Personal interest				47.0	48.0
Number of respondents				8,399	8,376