

Get in Gear!

2013 Medical School Application Process

Prehealth Advising
Global Education & Career Development
12-185, 617-715-5328
http://gecd.mit.edu/grad_school/health

Workshop Overview

- Application Cycle Timeline
- Primary Application
- Prehealth Credential Service
- Prehealth Advisory Board Letter
- Secondday Applications
- School selection
- Prehealth Advising Services

2013 Application Cycle Overview



2013 Health Profession Application Deadlines:
<http://gecd.mit.edu/sites/default/files/2013AppTimeline2.pdf>

Primary Application

Centralized Application Services:

- AMCAS: U.S. Allopathic Medical Schools
- TMDSAS: State medical schools in TX
- AACOMAS: Osteopathic Medical Schools

Other Health Professions:

- AADSAS: Dental Schools
- VMCAS: Veterinary Medicine Schools
- SOPHAS: Public Health Schools
- PharmCAS: Pharmacy Schools

AMCAS Application Information

1. May 1, 2012: AMCAS 2013 becomes available
 2. First week of June: Applicants can submit completed AMCAS
 3. June 30: MIT Students are encouraged to submit their AMCAS application by June 30
- Actual deadlines for the AMCAS application vary by school:
 - AMCAS deadlines range from **Oct. 1st – Dec. 15th**
 - Individual School deadlines for submitting AMCAS applications:
<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas/deadlines/>

Early Decision Program (EDP)

- May apply to only 1 U.S. medical school through EDP (not all schools participate)
- Must attend that medical school, if accepted
- Application deadline: August 1
- Notified by: October 1
- If not accepted under EDP, you:
 - Will be placed in regular applicant pool
 - May then apply to additional schools

<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/62890/edp/>

Primary/AMCAS Application Components

- Biographical Information
- Coursework
- GPA
- Exam Score (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc.)
- Activities/extracurriculars
- Essay/personal statement
 - MD-PhD essays
- Schools

Transcripts/Coursework

- **MIT Prehealth Suggested Course list**

http://gecd.mit.edu/sites/default/files/reccourses2012_1.pdf

- **Request 2 Official Transcripts from the Registrar:**

<http://web.mit.edu/registrar/records/transcripts/official.html>

- 1 official transcript sent to you

- Upload copy to the MIT Prehealth Credential Service

- Use to enter your information into the primary application

- 1 official transcript sent to AMCAS

Exam Score (MCAT)

- AMCAS automatically receives a copy of **all** scores
- Recommended that applicants take exam only once
- Last MCAT exam accepted for the 2013 application process is administered in September 2012
 - If eligible for Prehealth Advisory Board Letter exam score should be **received** by **June 30th**
 - *Scores are received 30 days after test date*
 - If you plan to take an exam **AFTER** submitting your primary application, schools may wait until these scores are received to review your application

AMCAS Activities

- Enter work, internships, extracurricular activities, awards, honors, or publications
- College and beyond
- Maximum of 15
- Quality over Quantity
- Description should:
 - Describe your accomplishments and responsibilities
 - Provide brief description of organization or activity
 - Help the schools see the value of the experience
- Designate 3 of these 15 as your “most meaningful”
 - 1325 Extra characters for these activities
 - Must select #1 most meaningful

Essay/Personal Statement

Deadlines:

June 15, 2012: Last day to request an essay critique

June 30, 2012: Essay should be complete

Prehealth Advising provides essay critiques:

2 essay critiques per applicant /3 essay critiques per joint degree applicants (MD-PhD)

- Option #1: **Appointments** Call (in-person or phone appointment)
- Option #2: **Email Critiques**

Email prehealthessaycrits@mit.edu with a Word document copy of your essay. (no PDFs.)

Critiqued essays are typically returned via email within 3-4 days of the request for an email critique.

Prehealth Essay Writing Workshop:

<http://gecd.mit.edu/sites/default/files/prehealthessay.pdf>

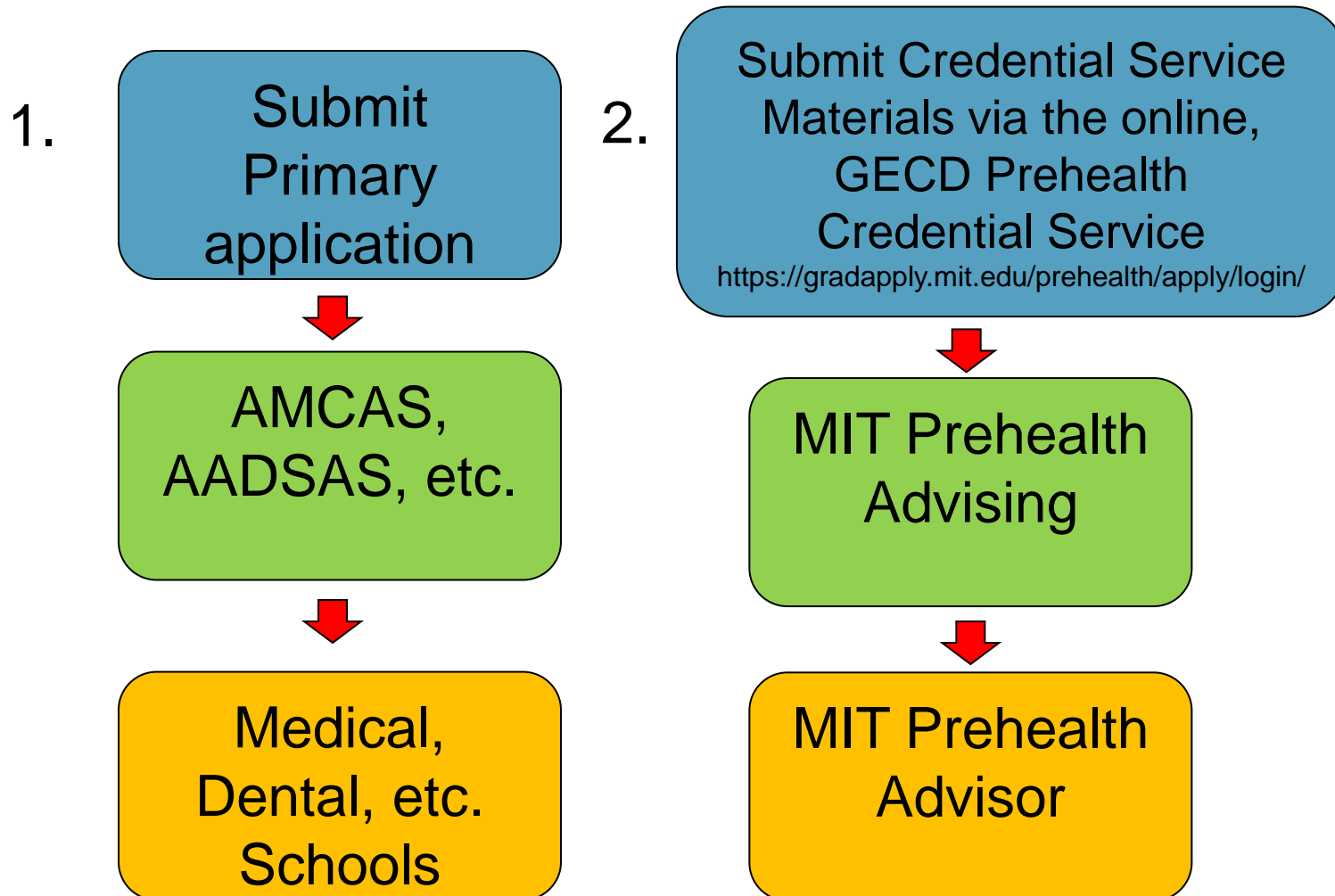
2013 Application Cycle Overview



2013 Health Profession Application Deadlines:

<http://gecd.mit.edu/sites/default/files/2013AppTimeline2.pdf>

By June 30th Applicants should:



GECD Prehealth Credential Service

- Online for the first time this year!
- Allows:
 - Applicants to enter/upload credential materials
 - Letters writers to upload letters of recommendation
 - Applicants to monitor when letters are received and once letters are sent to schools
- Benefits:
 - Review all letters of recommendation for errors
 - Share Credential File materials, including letters of recommendation with Prehealth Advisor to consider when writing Prehealth Advisory Board Letter
 - Send letters of recommendation to medical/health profession schools electronically

Credential Service

Methods of Letter Packet Delivery:

- Application Letter Services (AMCAS)
- veClient
- FedEx

Prehealth Credential Service Fees:

The following is the fee scale for use of the credential service for sending letters of recommendation to health profession schools, programs and health profession related scholarships.

\$75	Current MIT juniors, graduating seniors, and graduate students who also have an MIT undergraduate degree.
\$100	Alums with an MIT undergraduate degree seeking matriculation to a health profession school two or more years post graduation from MIT. Ex. MIT graduation year 2012, desired matriculation to a health profession school 2014.
\$8.00	FedEx fee for all applicants whose letters of recommendation cannot be sent via electronic transmission. A school designation form must be submitted to have your letter packet sent via FedEx.

GECD Prehealth Credential Service Timeline:

- 1) Create an online account now!
 - Begin filling out/uploading requested materials
 - Request letters of recommendation

- 2) By June 30 Applicants must:
 - Submit
 - Pay Credential Service fee
 - Ensure all letters of recommendation are received

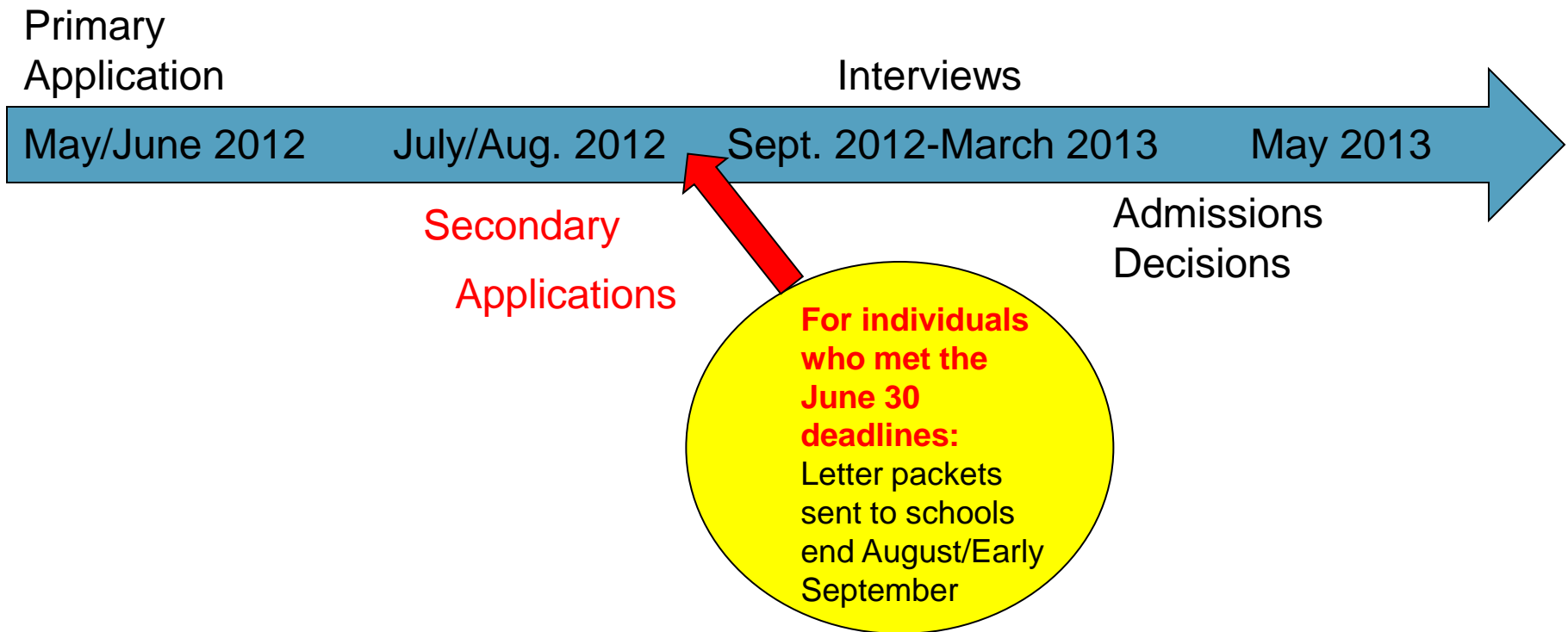
Prehealth Advisory Board Letter

- Comprehensive letter that incorporates everything in your credential file as well as information shared in your individual meetings
- **Individuals with a Prehealth Advisor:**
 - Credential File must be complete by June 30
 - Credential File accessible/sent to Prehealth Advisor (~ first week in July)
 - Advisor letter is sent to Prehealth Advising (~August 15)
- **Individuals who are not eligible for Prehealth Advisory Board Letter:**
 - Cover letter will be sent with your letter packet

Recommendation Letters

- 3-5 letters are required
 - 2 science (individuals who you have taken a class from)
 - 1 non-science (humanities, etc.)
 - Research
 - Activities (volunteer work, community service, internships, summer programs, student groups, etc.)
- Tip Sheet: *Asking for Recommendation Letters/How to get to know your faculty*
<http://gecd.mit.edu/sites/default/files/askingforrecletters.pdf>

2013 Application Cycle Overview



2013 Health Profession Application Deadlines:
<http://gecd.mit.edu/sites/default/files/2013AppTimeline2.pdf>

Secondary Applications

- Secondary (supplemental) applications are sent by medical schools after the AMCAS application has been received.
- Additional short essays are often required and should be tailored to each school if possible.
- \$75 - \$100 may be charged for each secondary application.
- Some secondary applications provide specific deadlines for submitting your completed applications. If no deadline is provided, submitting secondary applications within 2 weeks of receipt is highly recommended.
- Letters of recommendation are expected to arrive around the delivery time of your secondary applications.

Deciding Where to Apply...

- All schools are competitive and will give you the training required to practice medicine
- Create a tiered approach: select only a few schools at which admission may be a long shot and more schools at which acceptance is more realistic
- Apply to your state schools-check residency requirements
- Apply only to schools that you would actually attend if accepted

Deciding Where to Apply...

- Speak with the **Prehealth Advising Staff** for more guidance
- Reach out to MIT alumni who have attended or are attending the schools you are interested in
 - Review the **First Year Med Student Surveys** in the CareerBridge resource library (<https://www.myinterfase.com/mit/student/>)

Resources:

- **Selecting a Medical School tip sheet**
<http://gecd.mit.edu/sites/default/files/selectingmedschools.pdf>
- **Premed Data**
<http://gecd.mit.edu/sites/default/files/%2708-%2711acceptancesbyschool.pdf>

Application Process Expenditures

Average application costs:

- MCAT: \$235
- AMCAS: \$160 first app; \$33 each additional
- Secondaries: \$75 - 100 each
- Interviews: \$300- 400 each (average), includes:
 - Clothing
 - Transportation: flights or train
 - Meals
 - Taxis
 - Accommodations: hotel/motel
 - Haircut

Cost of applying to 15 schools:

- MCAT: \$235
- AMCAS: \$655
- Secondaries: \$1125 - \$1500
- Interviews (assuming 5 interviews): \$1500 - \$2000
- **Total: \$3515-\$4390**

Note: The numbers above provide only a rough estimate. The actual cost may be more or less depending on number of interviews, location of schools and more.

Application Process Expenditures

Ways to save money:

- Apply early for greater flexibility in scheduling of interviews
- Stay with alumni for your school interviews
- Find out a school's flexibility in scheduling your interview around the same time as another school
- Find out if a school is offering Skype interviews
- Borrow or buy interview attire at used clothing stores or through **MIT Women's League** (male & female interview clothing):
<http://web.mit.edu/womensleague/>
- Request fee waivers, if applicable (FAP)

Fee Assistance Program (FAP)

- For applicants who qualify:
 - MCAT reduced from \$235 to \$85
 - Applicant receives up to 14 free medical school designations through AMCAS (\$32 per school beyond 14 schools)
 - Most schools waive secondary fees
- **AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP)**
 - *<http://www.aamc.org/students/applying/fap/>*

Financial Aid Resources

- AAMC First For Medical School
 - <https://www.aamc.org/services/48668/first/>
- FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov/

Prehealth Advising Services for Applicants

- Letter Selection strategy
- Credential Service
- Essay Critiques
- School Selection strategy
- Mock Interviews
- Post Interview review
- Reapplication planning

Prehealth Advising

- **Tamara Menghi**, Interim Assoc. Director, trmenghi@mit.edu
- **Erin Scott**, Assistant Director, scotte@mit.edu
- **Bonnie Walters**, Prehealth Advising Counselor, bon@mit.edu
- **Deb Shafran**, Administrative Assistant, dshafran@mit.edu
- **Lauren Makucin**, Graduate Assistant, makucin@mit.edu

Appointments: Call 617-715-5328

Walk-ins: Tuesdays 3-4 p.m.

Website: http://gecd.mit.edu/grad_school/health