Tips and Advice for Applying to Medical School

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11/2/10
HANDS
Dr. Cohen
Are you sure...?

- Medical schools only accept those who are very well prepared...
- Medical school preparation is very rigorous
- Only about half of the applicants get accepted
- A lot is expected of medical school students
- Medical school is expensive
Required Courses

- 1 year of Biology
- 1 year of Chemistry
- 1 year of Physics
- 1 year of English
- 1 year of Math
Recommended Courses

- Obviously there are a lot of other courses that are helpful...
  - Microbiology
  - Psychology
  - Kinesiology
  - Nutrition
  - Literature
  - Statistics
  - History
  - Social Sciences (well rounded=good!)
What Medical Schools look at

- GPA (want about 3.7+)
- MCAT (want about 31P and above)
- Transcript
- Coursework
- Extracurriculars
  - Health related service
  - Volunteer work
  - RESEARCH
  - Evidence of initiative and devotion
- Letters of recommendation
  - Typically want 3
  - Teachers (including one non-science professor)
  - Family members
  - Supervisors
- Interview
MCAT: Your New Best Friend!

- Scoring 1-15 for BS, PS, VR, J-T Writing
- Average Score: 24
- “Acceptable Score”: 31
- Competitive Score: 35-37+
- Computer Based Test
- No calculators!
- MEMORIZE+ UNDERSTAND FORMULAS!
MCAT Prep

- Start early! DO NOT CRAM!
- Usually, science classes are not enough...
- A good time to start would be 1 year before the exam (maybe Sophomore year)
- Practice exams and explanations are great practice... after you feel comfortable with the material
MCAT: What's in it?

- Physical Sciences
- Verbal Reasoning
- Writing Section
- Biological Sciences
Wikiptemed.com

- AWESOME SITE for MCAT prep
- Includes video lectures!
- Practice problems and solutions
- A little slow covering the material but great resource!
- Can be used to supplement class notes for studying for undergrad sciences
How Awesome is Wikipremed?

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Examkrackers

- They offer a free MCAT quiz every day!
- Very useful study tool
- Other stuff is extraneous
Kaplan

- Give free practice exams
- Offer very expensive MCAT prep courses
AAMC- American Association of Medical Colleges

- They offer 3 free practice exams!
- There are 7 of them that you have to pay for to access...
There is more out there!

- Look! Use Google!
- Free practice tests and questions
When Should I Apply

- If right after college: Junior year
- Some people take time off...
How to Apply
How To Apply

- Take required courses and as many other useful classes as possible
- Ask for recommendation letters
- Send them to schools... or if at UMASS send to the Premed advisors: The O'Connor's
- Take MCAT
- MCAS online application (Fees! Make sure to make your essay COUNT! Yes it is: “Why do you want to become a doctor?”)
- Secondary application, if necessary
- Interview
- Wait and pray (if applicable)
The End!!