

Secondary Applications

Presented by the UConn Pre-Medical/Dental
Center

Today We Will Cover

- Review of the application process at UConn
- What is a secondary application?
- Where do you submit secondary applications?
- General secondary application timeline
- Common/sample questions to expect
- Tips & Tricks
- Resources
- Q & A

Review of the application process at UConn

Cycle #1 – Composite letter will be submitted by 7/31/20 (provided all deadlines below are followed). Early submissions will be submitted as they are completed.

Composite letter submitted by 7/31/20:	
Confirm your MCAT will be taken by 6/27/20 (list of 2020 MCAT dates here .pdf ↗).	
Confirm all letters of recommendation have been fully uploaded to your References page. Check the box that reads "Please check this box when ALL of your individual letters of recommendation have been uploaded to your References page."	6/1/20
Complete the Course Grades and IDs pages of your portal.	6/1/20
Complete the Exams page of your portal when your scores become available.	<i>Varies</i>

If any of the above materials are NOT submitted by the deadlines above, your composite letter will be submitted during the next composite letter cycle.

Cycle #2 – Composite letter will be submitted by 8/31/20 (provided all deadlines below are followed). Early submissions will be submitted as they are completed.

Composite letter submitted by 8/31/20:	
Confirm your MCAT will be taken by 7/31/20 (list of 2020 MCAT dates here .pdf ↗).	
Confirm all letters of recommendation have been fully uploaded to your References page. Check the box that reads "Please check this box when ALL of your individual letters of recommendation have been uploaded to your References page."	7/1/20
Complete the Course Grades and and IDs pages of your portal.	7/1/20
Complete the Exams page of your portal when your scores become available.	<i>Varies</i>

Dental School Timelines

[Medical School Timelines](#)

[Dental School Timelines](#)

[Reapplicants & Previous Cycle Deferrals](#)

NEW APPLICANTS ONLY–2021 Cycle Composite Letter Timeline

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Register for the portal here ↗.2. Complete the Student Registration, Competency-Based Admissions, HPED, Questions, and Resume pages of your portal.3. Once you have submitted those five sections, check the "I am ready to schedule Pt I of my composite interview" box. The system will prompt you to enter your availability for a composite interview, but as a pre-dental student, please enter "N/A." Dr. Abbott has traditionally not required a composite interview because he feels that he has gotten to know you throughout your four years at UConn well enough. However, if you are a transfer student or have never met him before, you may want to consider scheduling a regular appointment with him at nexus.uconn.edu ↗ and indicate "composite interview" in the notes.4. Send out requests for individual letters of recommendation through your References page.	3/1/20
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Confirm all letters of recommendation have been fully uploaded to your References page. Check the box that reads "Please check this box when ALL of your individual letters of recommendation have been uploaded to your References page."2. Complete the Course Grades and IDs pages of your portal	5/1/20
Composite letter will be submitted by 7/31/20 (provided all deadlines above are followed). Early submissions will be submitted as they are completed.	

What is a Secondary Application?

- A secondary is a supplemental application usually consisting of an additional one or two questions which provide you with a further chance to differentiate yourself from other applicants.
- Schools may ask you to elaborate on your secondary application during your interviews with them, so plan thoughtfully!

What is a Secondary Application?

Unlike your AMCAS application—which is standard across all the medical schools you’re applying to—secondary applications are directly sent to you by each school on an individual basis. As such, they are focused on the interests of that particular school.

Secondary applications run the gamut in terms of length and involvement: Some are only a handful of yes-or-no questions, while others require up to four full-length essays. On the more annoying side of things, some secondary applications can involve 20 short answer questions and ask you to re-enter every class you’d taken that met the prerequisite criteria. However, the “average” secondary application (if there really is such a thing) has one to two short essays and asks for a bit of additional biographical or academic data.

(AMCAS)

The UConn Supplemental Statement requests responses to several questions. The statement affords the applicant the opportunity to highlight aspects of preparation regarding research, teaching, and clinical experience. The statement also affords the opportunity to further discuss motivations for a career in medicine, and to discuss important issues facing medicine and health professionals. The intent of the Supplemental Statement is to provide the applicant with an additional opportunity to present and to amplify on relevant preparation and experience, as well as their specific interest in attending the UConn School of Medicine.

(UConn School of Medicine)

What is a Secondary Application?

- Differences between undergraduate schools vs. health professional schools
 - Submission times
- Differences between primary applications vs. secondary applications
 - Focus of questions:
 - Primaries → Personal Statement, general essays
 - Secondaries → Questions specific to a particular school

Where do you Submit Secondaries?

- MD schools
 - All but a few Texas schools require secondaries (Texas uses TMDSAS, not AMCAS)
 - California schools generally screen applicants before sending secondaries
- DO & PA schools
 - Generally similar to MD schools
- Dental schools
 - Generally require some supplemental information; some screen, some don't even have

General Secondary Application Timeline

1. Submit primary application (example: AMCAS)
 - Application opens the first week of May (2021 cycle: 5/4)
 - You may submit your application during the first week of June (2021 cycle: 5/28)
 - \$170 one-time AMCAS processing fee + \$40 per additional school (2020 cycle)
2. AMCAS reviews/verifies application
 - Verified applications are sent to designated schools (2021 cycle: 6/26)
3. Submit secondary applications
 - Approximately \$80-120 per school
4. Wait for invitations to interview...

General Secondary Application Timeline

- When should I expect schools to send me secondaries?
 - Typically within 1-3 weeks of receiving your primary
 - Almost always within 3 months
 - February-April: still possible
 - *Very occasionally may get one before your primary is verified!

General Secondary Application Timeline

- When should I expect schools to send me secondaries?
 - One or two weeks after AMCAS verification
 - AMCAS verification takes between four to six weeks in July/August
 - Generally schools give you one month to complete them
- How soon should I plan to submit secondaries after receiving them?
 - Ultimate goal: a few days after receipt
 - More realistic goal: within two weeks of submission
 - Prioritize your most important schools!

General Secondary Application Timeline

- 2017 cycle student example:
 - Early August 2016: Submitted primary application
 - 8/24: Application was verified by AMCAS
 - 8/26: Received first secondary application
 - 8/31: Received second secondary application
 - 9/08: Received third secondary application

Accepting an Offer of Acceptance

- If accepted at a school, you have to pay a deposit within two weeks due to the rolling admissions timeframe.
- You can pay a deposit at multiple schools; refunds are available for schools to which you do not eventually matriculate.
- You must commit to one school and withdraw applications to other accepted schools by April 30.
- “Passive withdrawal”: If you don’t complete a school’s secondary application due to time, money, etc.

Common/Sample Questions to Expect

- Typically one or two shorter essay questions
- Prompts database: <http://www.prospectivedoctor.com/medical-school-secondary-essay-prompts-database/>

Common/Sample Questions to Expect

- UConn School of Medicine's secondary (1800 characters each):
 1. Highlight your experiences in the health care field. What insights have you gained about potential problems you will face as a physician?
 2. How will the University of Connecticut School of Medicine best serve your needs of becoming a physician or physician scientist?

Common/Sample Questions to Expect

- Harvard Medical School's secondary (4000 characters each):

1. If you have already graduated, briefly summarize your activities since graduation.

2. If there is an important aspect of your personal background or identity, not addressed elsewhere in the application, that you would like to share with the Committee, we invite you to do so here. Many applicants will not need to answer this question. Examples might include significant challenges in access to education, unusual socioeconomic factors, identification with a minority culture, religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity. Briefly explain how such factors have influenced your motivation for a career in medicine.

Common/Sample Questions to Expect

- Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine's secondary:
 1. Describe briefly any experiences and/or skills that have made you more sensitive or appreciative of other cultures or the human condition. (3500 character maximum).
 2. The honor code for the Texas A&M College of Medicine is: "A Texas A&M medical student is a professional who exhibits leadership, honesty, integrity, compassion, respect and self-discipline." Please briefly discuss what activities or personal attributes demonstrate best that you would be a good custodian of our honor code (3500 character maximum).
 3. Describe any circumstances indicative of some hardship, such as, but not limited to, financial difficulties, personal or family illness, a medical condition, a death in the immediate family or educational disadvantage. (Do not leave blank. If not applicable, please so indicate. The character limit on this essay is 3500).
 4. OPTIONAL QUESTION: List the area (or areas) of medicine that appeals to you and briefly explain. (Limit your explanation to 50 words or 250 characters for each area of interest you list.) Do not leave blank. If not applicable, please so indicate.

Common/Sample Questions to Expect

- How do your unique personal characteristics and background contribute to the university's educational mission of creating a diverse entering class?
- What is one non-medical activity that has had a significant impact on you?
- Which points of your character would you like to highlight to the admissions committee?
- Describe a crisis/conflict situation in your life. How did you deal with it, and how has it affected you?

Common/Sample Questions to Expect

- Write an autobiographical statement in 6,000 characters.
- Are you acquainted with a DO physician? Tell us about your experiences working with this professional. [DO]
- Describe the physician assistant's role as a member of the healthcare team. [PA]
- Discuss one activity or experience you listed in your AADSAS application as a means of providing evidence of your leadership skills or self-initiative. [Dental]

Tips & Tricks

- Research, research, research!
 - Why *this* school? → Not just for reasons of convenience...
 - How does *this* school give you an opportunity to make a meaningful social, educational, and scientific contribution to the medical community in terms of patients, other medical students, and faculty?
- Distinguish yourself
- Be sure to precisely answer *the question that's being asked*

Tips & Tricks

- Don't repeat information
 - Consider secondaries as the continuation of a conversation, not the start
- Have others proofread
- Time management
- Your UConn credentials sheet answers are an excellent starting place!

Resources

- American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS): <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/applying-medical-school-amcas/>
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS): <https://aacomas.liaisoncas.com/>
- Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA): <https://caspa.liaisoncas.com/>
- Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS): <https://portal.aadsasweb.org/>
- Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS): <https://www.tmdsas.com/>

[Disclaimer]

- Student Doctor Network (SDN): <https://www.studentdoctor.net/>
- Reddit: <https://www.reddit.com/>

Questions?