UCONN | UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

June 27, 2022

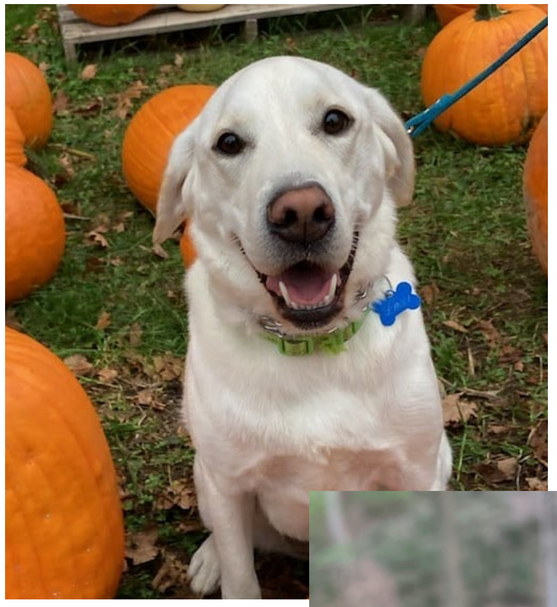
Secondaries Workshop

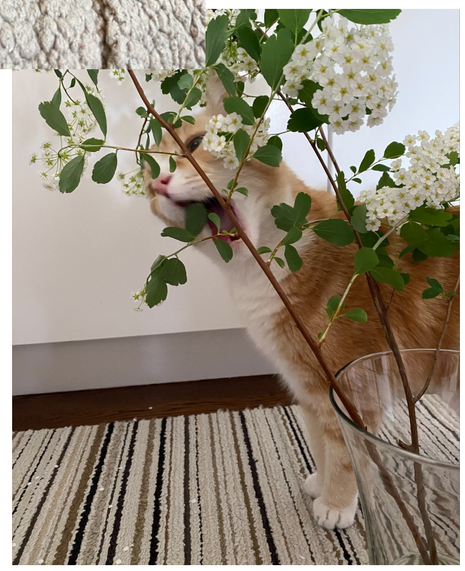
UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND
PRE-DENTAL ADVISING
OFFICE

Pet Policy

If a pet enters the camera frame of a presenter during our orientation, we will "paws" our discussion for an introduction to that pet and admiration by all.





UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND
PRE-DENTAL ADVISING
OFFICE

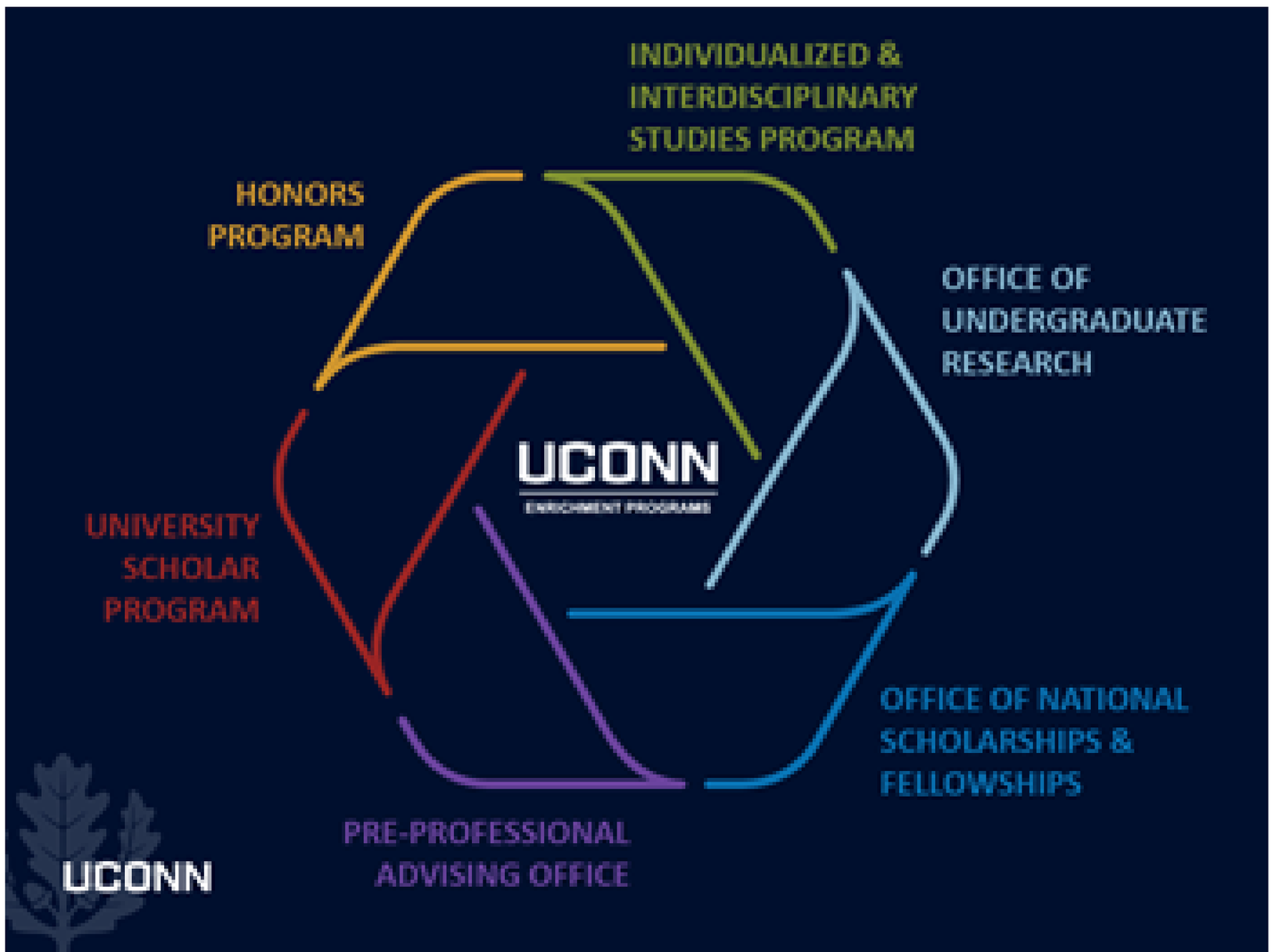
Get to Know Us

premed.uconn.edu

premed_predental@uconn.edu

Instagram: uconn_premed_predental

Rowe Building, 4th floor (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday)



UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Office links

- Secondary applications
- Application timelines
- 2023 Cycle Workshops

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND
PRE-DENTAL ADVISING
OFFICE

Agenda

I. Secondary basics

II. Secondary timelines

III. Sample questions

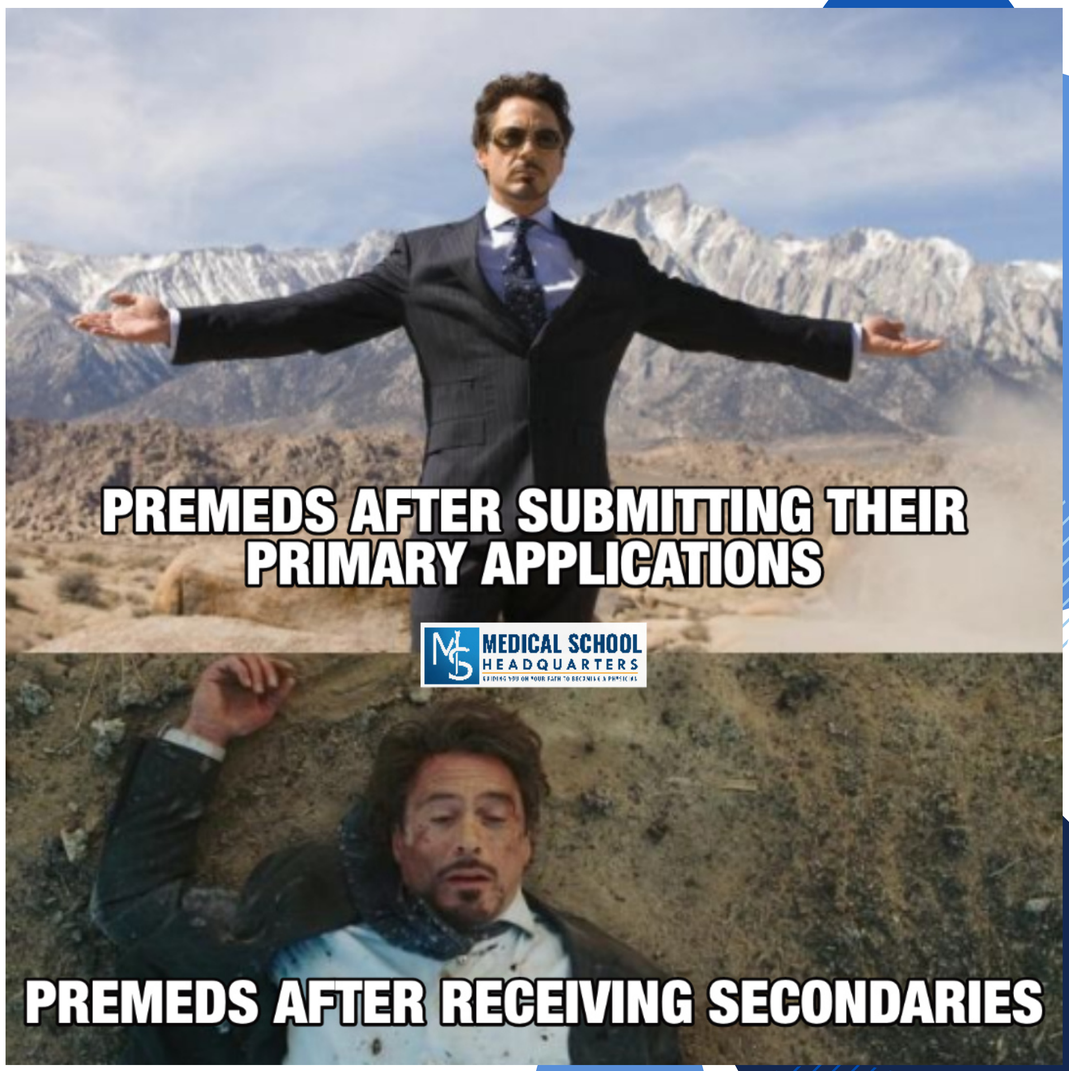
UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Basics

- **Application components:**
  - Primary application
  - Secondary application
  - Letter packet
  - Standardized test scores

- **Reviewer order:**
  - 1. Personal statement
  - 2. *Secondary essay*



UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Basics

- **What is a secondary application?**
  - "Supplemental"
  - Format varies
  - Usually 1-2 additional [school-specific] questions
  - Further chance to differentiate yourself from other applicants
  - Your responses are great fodder for things to be asked at an interview, too!

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Basics

- **Which schools require them?**
  - **MD:** Generally required
    - Free MSAR report: "Secondary Application Information"
  - **DO:** Generally required
    - Choose DO Explorer: "Admissions Process"
  - **Dental:** Varies; half-half
    - Dental Explorer

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Basics

University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine

APPLICATION PROCESS

Dental School …	Yes	No	Additional Information
Participates in ADEA AADSAS® (ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service)?	✓		
Accepts direct applicants?	✓		
Requires a secondary or supplemental application?		✓	
Has a secondary or supplemental application website?		✓	

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND
PRE-DENTAL ADVISING
OFFICE

Basics

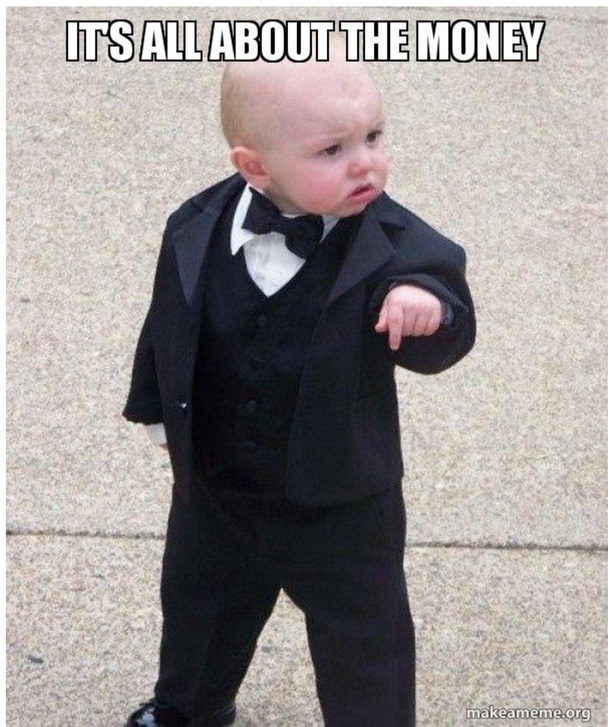
- **Which applicants receive them?**
  - Generally, all applicants
  - Some schools may only send to selected applicants ("screened applicants"
  - School will send you an invitation to complete them via email

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Basics

- **How much do they cost?**
  - Secondary fees: $30-$120/school
    - UConn SOM: $85
    - Quinnipiac SOM: $100
    - U Hawaii SOM: $150
  - Many schools will waive secondary fees if you're a recipient of a fee assistance program



UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND
PRE-DENTAL ADVISING
OFFICE

Timelines

- **When do applicants receive them?**
  - Most typical: 1-2 weeks after your primary is verified
  - Some faster, some slower
  - February-April is still possible...!

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Timelines

- **How fast should you submit them?**
  - **Top schools:** Within a few days
  - **All schools:** *No longer than two weeks after the invitation--no matter when the deadline is*

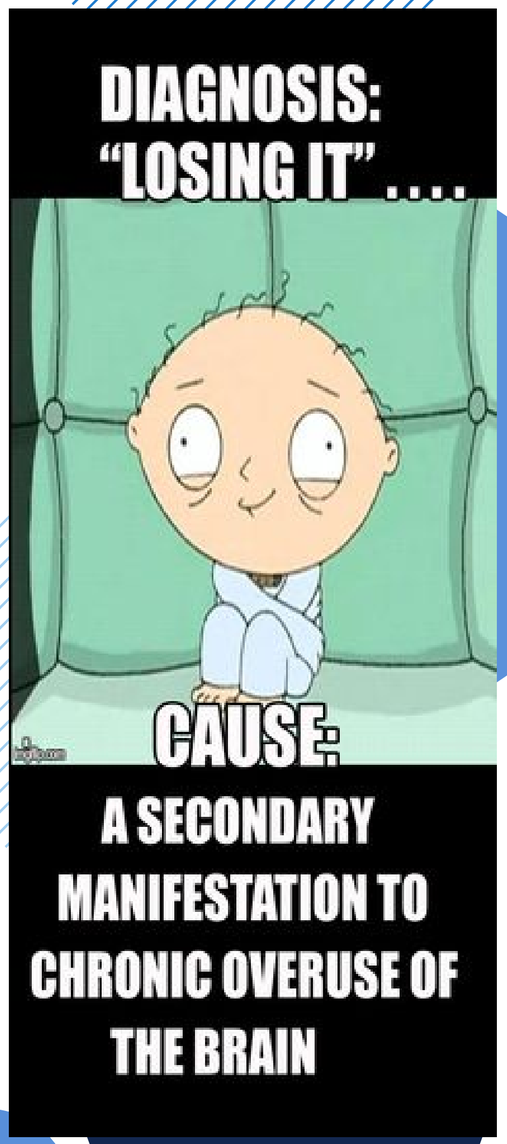
Me: "I can definitely finish all my homework tomorrow before class, I've got plenty of time."

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Timelines

- **Best practices**
  - **<u>PRE-DRAFT</u>**
  - Prioritize your most important schools
  - Refer to your own UConn HPAP responses (*winkwink*)
  - Keep a steady output and use incentives for motivation
  - Unless truly N/A, it's a good idea to answer any optional questions



UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND
PRE-DENTAL ADVISING
OFFICE

Sample Qs

- How do your unique personal characteristics and background contribute to the university's educational mission of creating a diverse entering class?

- Which points of your character would you like to highlight to the admissions committee?

- What is one non-medical activity that has had a significant impact on you?

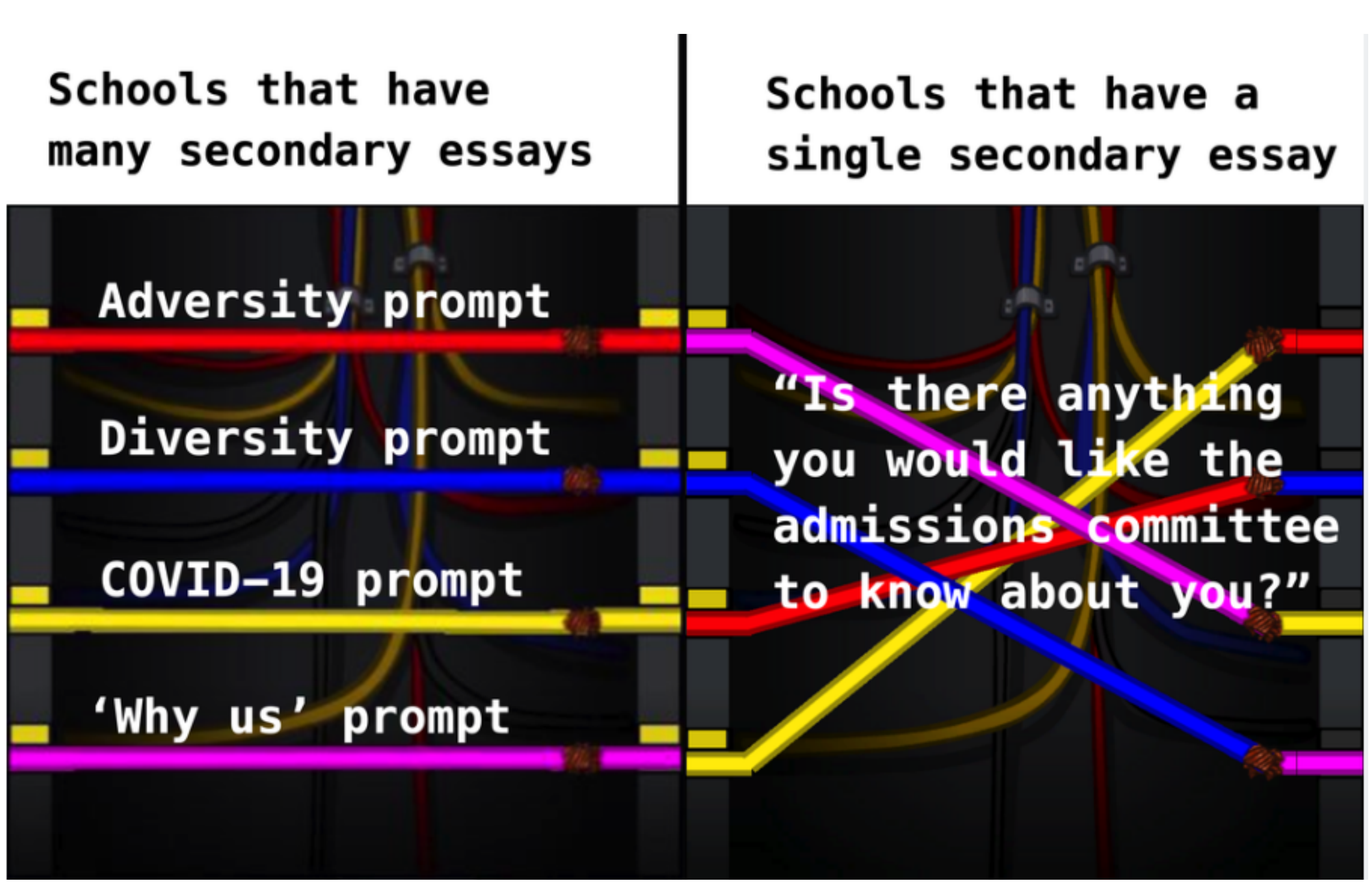
UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Sample Qs

- Describe a crisis/conflict situation in your life. How did you deal with it, and how has it affected you?

- MD programs: How has COVID-19 affected you?



UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND
PRE-DENTAL ADVISING
OFFICE

Sample Qs

- **UConn SOM Past Qs**
- **[1800 characters each including spaces]**
- Highlight your experiences in the health care field. What insights have you gained about potential problems you will face as a physician?
- How will the University of Connecticut School of Medicine best serve your needs of becoming a physician or physician scientist?
- Please take a moment to explain how the COVID-19 pandemic directly and personally affected you as it pertains to preparing for medical school. (e.g. MCAT test date delay, financial impact, research/clinical experiences, self-quarantine, etc.).

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Sample Qs

- **Quinnipiac SOM Past Qs 1**
- **[150 words each]**
- What non-academic advice would you give to your younger self?
- Describe a situation in which you did not get something you felt you deserved and how you handled it.
- What is the toughest feedback you have ever received; how did you respond to it and what did you learn from it?
- Other than work/life balance, what do you believe the biggest challenge you will face as a practicing physician will be and how do you anticipate responding to it?

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Sample Qs

- **Quinnipiac SOM Past Qs 2**
- <u>OPTIONAL</u>: If you were to have a theme song, what would it be and why? (150 words)
- And these extra questions in Demographic Information section:
    - If you will not be enrolled as a full-time student, how will you be spending/intend to spend your time during your application year? (Limit 150 Words)
    - What area of medicine do you envision yourself working in at the end of your training? What is shaping your vision? (Limit 100 Words)
- <u>OPTIONAL</u>: Is there anything not captured in your application that you would like to share? (Limit 150 Words)

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Sample Qs

- **UMass SOM Past Qs**
- Q1) We would like to learn how you developed and demonstrated core professionalism competencies that are required of entering medical students. Please respond to the first prompt (#1; Diversity). Then select three of the other six prompts (#2-#7). Each response should be 150-200 words. Use the text box below for your answer. Separate each of your four responses by writing the competency above/before your response (example: Teamwork – All teams have their struggles, but they can be overcome…).

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND
PRE-DENTAL ADVISING
OFFICE

Sample Qs

- **Texas A&M SOM Past Qs 1**
- **[3500 characters each]**
- 1. Describe briefly any experiences and/or skills that have made you more sensitive or appreciative of other cultures or the human condition.

- 2. The Texas A&M College of Medicine embraces the Aggie Core Values of Respect, Excellence, Leadership, Loyalty, Integrity and Selfless Service. Briefly discuss what activities demonstrate best that you would be a good custodian of these core values.

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Sample Qs

- **Texas A&M SOM Past Qs 2**
- 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 not mentioned in your primary application essays; OR describe any key academic, personal, or financial barriers that COVID-19 may have posed on you or your immediate family.

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Sample Qs

- **[DO]** Write an autobiographical statement in 6,000 characters. Are you acquainted with a DO physician? Tell us about your experiences working with this professional.

- **[Dental]** Discuss one activity or experience you listed in your AADSAS application as a means of providing evidence of your leadership skills or self-initiative.

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND
PRE-DENTAL ADVISING
OFFICE

Remember…

- Why *this* program? Mission, core values, special community tracks…not just for reasons of convenience

- How does *this* program 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?

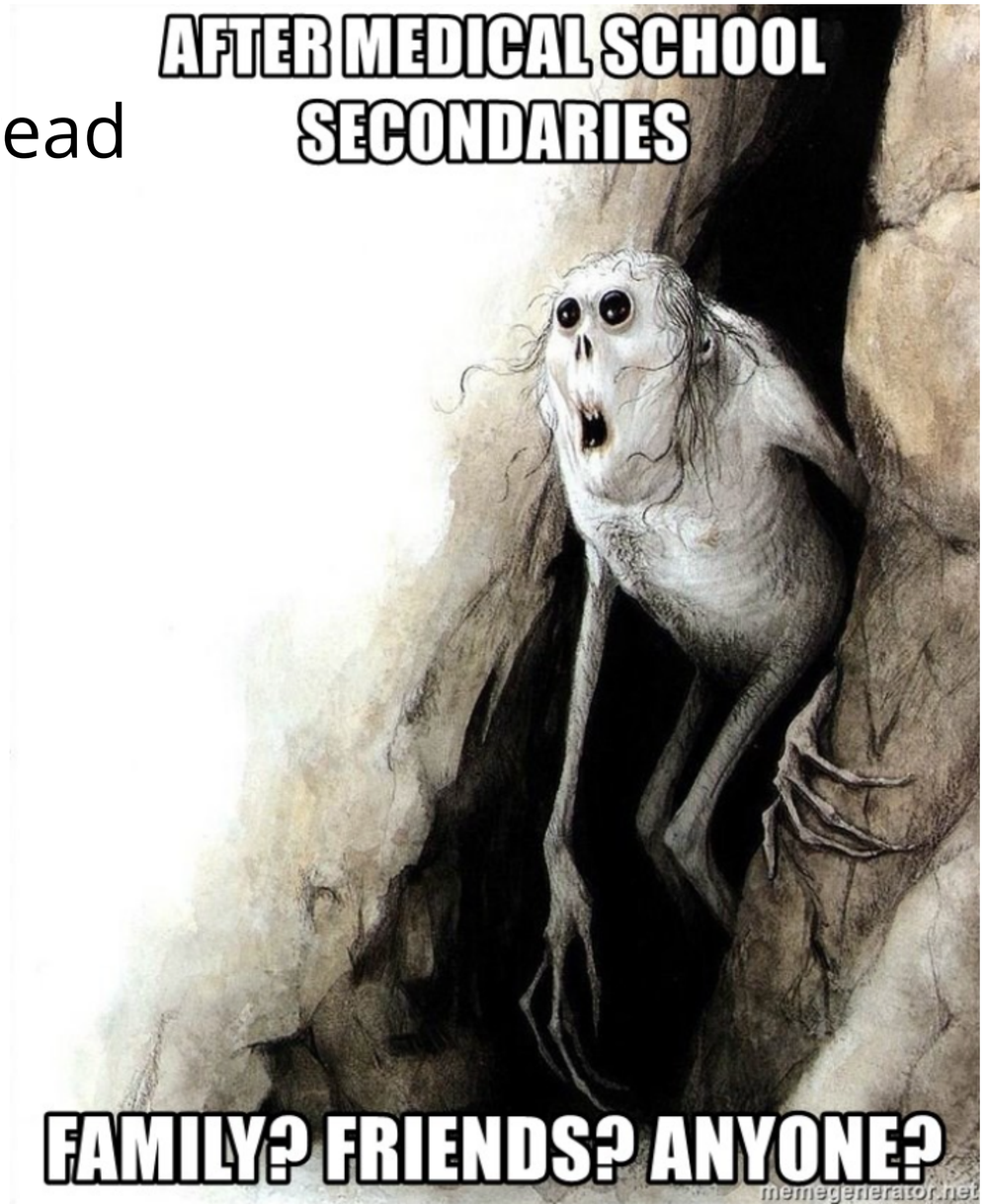
- Precisely answer *the question that's being asked*

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

Remember...

- Don't simply reiterate your resume
- Think of secondaries as the continuation of a conversation
- Have others proofread
- Time management



UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

SJTs

- **Situational Judgement Tests (SJTs)**
  - Casper exam (Altus)
  - AAMC PREview exam (AAMC)
  - Free MSAR report: "Additional Required Assessments"

UCONN

PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-DENTAL ADVISING OFFICE

What's next

- **Save the date! Wednesday, July 13**
  - Navigating the Healthcare Admissions Interview Workshop with the CCD
  - Interactive MMI session
  - Alumni panel

- **Interview Pairing Program**
  - Office link

Thanks!