June 27, 2022
Secondaries Workshop
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.
Get to Know Us

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

- Secondary applications
- Application timelines
- 2023 Cycle Workshops
I. Secondary basics

II. Secondary timelines

III. Sample questions

Feeling pretty good having submitted my primary application:

Realizing that means that soon I'll have to start writing my secondaries:
Basics

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

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

## University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine

### APPLICATION PROCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dental School …</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participates in ADEA AADSAS® (ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service)?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepts direct applicants?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requires a secondary or supplemental application?</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has a secondary or supplemental application website?</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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</table>
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
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.
When do applicants receive them?

- Most typical: 1-2 weeks after your primary is verified
- Some faster, some slower
- February-April is still possible...!

BRACE YOURSELVES

HEARING BACK FROM SECONDARIES TAKES FOREVER
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."

Maybe your gift is being in denial.
Timelines

• Best practices
  ○ **PRE-DRAFT**
  ○ 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
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?
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools that have many secondary essays</th>
<th>Schools that have a single secondary essay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adversity prompt</td>
<td>“Is there anything you would like the admissions committee to know about you?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity prompt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 prompt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Why us’ prompt</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.).
Sample Qs

- 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?
Sample Qs

• **Quinnipiac SOM Past Qs 2**

  • **OPTIONAL:** 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)

  • **OPTIONAL:** Is there anything not captured in your application that you would like to share? (Limit 150 Words)
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...).
• **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.
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.
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.
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
Remember...

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

- SituationalJudgement Tests (SJT's)
  - Casper exam (Altus)
  - AAMC PREview exam (AAMC)
  - Free MSAR report: "Additional Required Assessments"
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!