Medical School Early Decision

Brandeis University Pre-Health Advising
Spring 2015
What is the Early Decision Program?

• The Early Decision Program (EDP) gives (AMCAS) medical school applicants the opportunity to secure an acceptance from one EDP-participating medical school by October 1.

• AACOMAS (DO) schools may have an Early Decision option, but it is not codified in the same way and applicants should contact individual schools to determine timeline and eligibility.
Guidelines

You agree to:

• Apply to **only one** U.S. medical school (MD or DO) by the stated deadline date (August 1 for schools that participate in AMCAS);

• Provide the school with all required supplemental information by the stated deadline date (August 1 for those schools that participate in AMCAS);

• Not to apply through the Early Decision Process (EDP) if you have already submitted an initial or secondary application (AMCAS or non-AMCAS) to a U.S. medical school for the current entering class.

• Attend **only** this school if offered a place under the EDP.
What is the catch??

- You may **NOT** submit additional application(s) (AMCAS or non-AMCAS) until:
  - receipt of an EDP rejection; or
  - receipt of a formal release from the EDP commitment; or
  - the October 1 notification deadline passes. *Contact your EDP school if you have not been notified of your status by October 1.*

- Attend only this school if offered a place under the EDP.

- **TLDR**: If you are **not** admitted you will not be able to apply to ANY OTHER school until you are notified of that decision or October 1st (whichever comes first). If you **are** admitted, you commit to attend that school – no backsies.
So, who *should* apply?

“Well Qualified” Applicants

- Strong GPA (average GPA of MD matriculates in 2013 was 3.67)
- Strong MCAT (median MCAT in 2013 was 33, mean was 31)
- Strong Activities (demonstrated interest in the health professions)
- Supportive Letters of Recommendation

Early Decision is best suited to: Well Qualified Applicants who are also Individuals who know with a certainty that they can commit to a particular medical school and/or those who may be abroad or may find it difficult to interview over the course of the year.
Well Qualified Applicants…

If you are unsure if you qualify as a “Well Qualified Applicant”, please schedule an appointment with a Pre-Health Advisor.

Following that conversation, applicants are encouraged to reach out the medical school that they are considering apply to through the Early Decision Program to find out if the school would encourage them to apply EDP.
Timing

• Submit your AMCAS application ASAP; ideally no later than June 15th.

• Deadline for EDP application is August 1st (your application should be verified by AMCAS, your MCAT scores need to be in, and your committee letter needs to be uploaded by this date.)

Committee Letter – If you have not already submitted your File Complete Form, you need to do so by the June 1st deadline. If you met the April 1st deadline, you are fine. For those who missed the April 1st deadline, we can submit a letter packet on your behalf until the committee letter is available.

• You will hear back regarding your admission decision no later than Oct 1st.

June 15th

August 1st

October 1st
What Happens Next?

Admitted through EDP

- You commit to enrolling at your EDP school.
- Submit your FAFSA after January 1st for financial aid purposes.
- Hang out and do your think until medical school starts in the fall.

Not Admitted through EDP

- Your application is released to other AMCAS schools.
  - You will need to go into AMCAS and designate which schools you wish to apply to.
- You are able to submit your application to AACOMAS, TMDSAS, or other medical schools.
- This means that the earliest medical schools would see your application is the notification date, which might not be until October 1st or later.
Our Professional Opinion

• Early Decision can be a good option for a very small and select group of applicants. Most people will NOT be served by applying early decision to medical school.

• For those who are already strong applicants you may want to compare your admission options at more than one school and/or your top choice school may not participate in the EDP.

• For those who are not as “well qualified,” if you are not admitted your application will not be reviewed by other medical schools until after October 1st. This makes it just like you didn’t submit your application until that late date.
Online Resources about the EDP

• Early Decision Program basics
• What is the Early Decision Program?
• What is the Early Decision Program Deadline?
• How do I designate additional schools once I’ve been released from my EDP agreement?
For appointments, call Student Financial and Academic Services at 781-736-3470 or book online here.

Questions?

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