

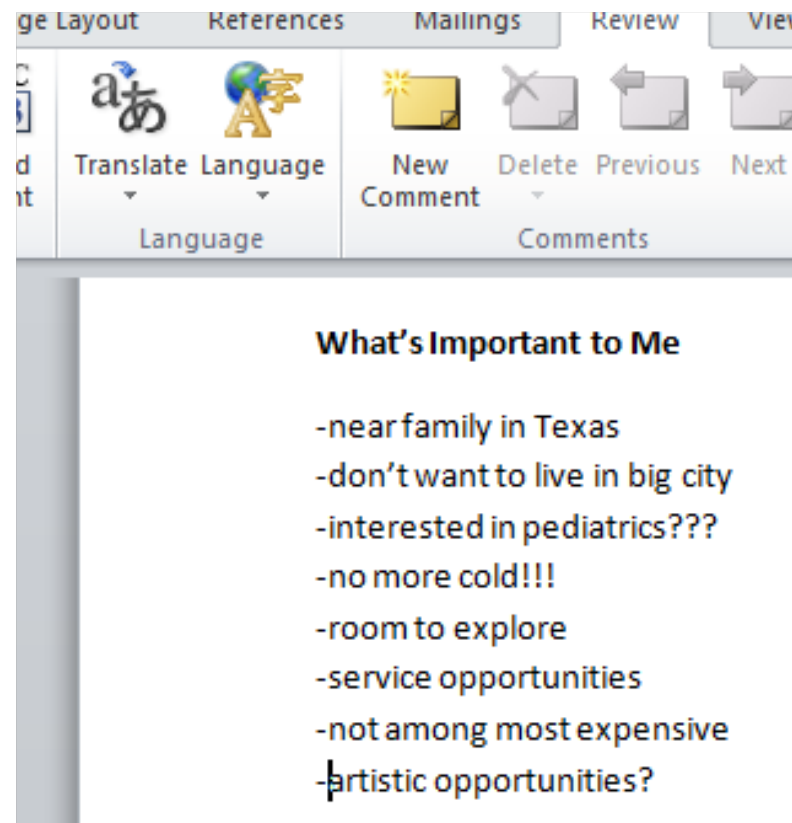
# This presentation will explore:

- Research strategies
- Criteria to consider
- What factors are most important to you!



# First, get your thoughts on paper

## What's important to YOU in a medical school?



# Organize your research using a spreadsheet:

SCHOOL	PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE	LOCATION & NEIGHBORHOOD	CLASS SIZE	AVERAGE MCAT RANGE/MEDIAN SCORE	AVERAGE GPA/MEDIAN GPA	CURRICULUM	DUAL DEG
Boston University	Private	Boston, MA (South End)	181	Range: 30-38/Median: 34	Range: 3.5-4.0/Median: 3.8	Flexible, integrated; Integrated Problems, a clinically based seminar	MD/PHD, MD/MBA, MD/MPH, in Medical Sciences
Columbia University	Private	New York, NY (Washington Heights)	167	Range: 32-40/Median: 36	Range: 3.6-4.0/Median: 3.8	3 major areas: Fundamentals, Major Clinical Year, Differentiation & Integration	MD/PHD, MD/MBA, MD/MPH
Dartmouth Medical School	Private	Hanover, NH	87	Range: 30-38/Median: 34	Range: 3.5-4.0/Median: 3.8	Integrates basic science and clinical experiences, early intro to patient care, small-group instruction	MD/PHD, MD/MBA, MD/MS in Engineerin

# How many schools should I apply to?

## 2017 MIT Cohort:

- Medical School Applications Submitted Average: **25**
- Medical School Applications Median: **24** (Highest - 69, Lowest - 4)

**National: 830,016** applications from **53,042** applicants were submitted for 2016. An average of **14** per applicant.<sup>[1]</sup>

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## Cost:

AMCAS fee: **\$160<sup>2</sup>**

Additional School: **\$38**

School Application Fees: **~\$75 - \$150 per school** (Payable at the secondary stage)

Every applicant should have a “core group” of wisely-chosen schools – a mixture of schools that are in-state and out-of-state for which you are competitive and also have a strong and lesser shot of acceptance.

<sup>1</sup>Table A-1: U.S. Medical School Applications and Matriculants by School, State of Legal Residence, and Sex, 2016-2017

<sup>2</sup>AAMC Fee Assistance Program

# Effective Approaches to a Successful School Selection Process

## Research Strategies

- MSAR
- Schools' Websites
- Social Media
- Informational Interviews
- MIT Alumni
- Personal Network
- StartClass

## Criteria to Consider

- School's Mission
- MIT Alumni
- Faculty
- Residency Match
- Financial Costs
- Special Programs
- Public vs Private

# Ways to conduct your research online: Medical School Admissions Requirements

## MSAR

An online database that gives you the most accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date information, including:

- GPA and MCAT scores for accepted students
- Tuition information and financial aid information
- Data on applicant volunteer and research experiences
- Research Opportunities
- MD/PhD and other combined degrees
- Graduates' specialty choices
- Schools mission statement

- Available online: <https://services.aamc.org/msar/home>

- Costs **\$27** and is valid for one year

# MSAR

## 1. Using MSAR's data can be helpful to assess whether or not you will be a competitive candidate at a specific school and if it will be a good fit.

### • Summary Tab >

- Percentage of Accepted Applicants w/ Relevant Medical, Volunteer, and/or Research Experience
- MCAT Applicant Data for the 2016 Entering Class
- Data for Accepted Applicants to the 2015 Entering Class
- Matriculation Data for 1<sup>st</sup> Year Class

### • Selection Factors Tab >

- GPA for Accepted Applicants
- MCAT Scores for Accepted Applicants

## 2. MSAR provides additional information on:

- Education/Curricular Highlights
- Financial Information
- Matriculant Demographics
- Application Deadlines & Requirements
- Student Life
- Facilities
- Specialty Choice
- Research
- Combined Degrees
- Acceptance Data

# Ways to conduct your research online: School Website & Social Media Search

- More detailed information than the MSAR (e.g. prerequisite policies, recommendation guidelines, MCAT requirements, faculty bio, etc.)
  - Tufts 2020 Class Profile

- Social Media 

- YouTube Channel – “What Drexel Looks For in a Medical Student”



- View online or request information - Brochures, fact sheets, viewbooks, etc.



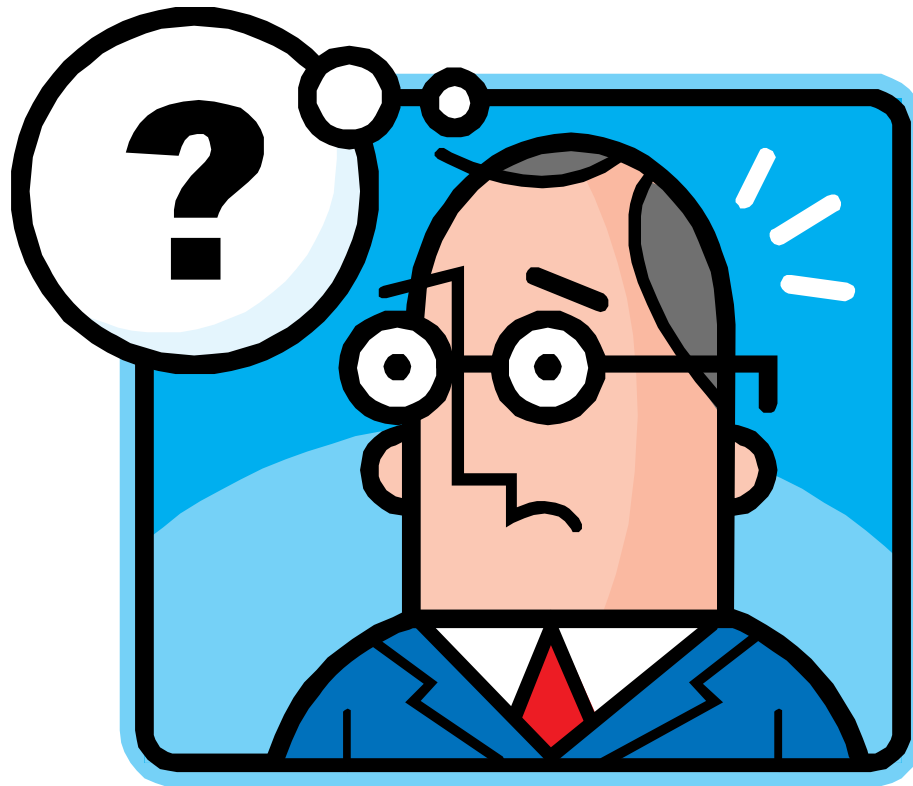
Ohio State College of Medicine



Warren Alpert Medical School – Brown Univ.



Now that I know how to conduct my research, what factors should I consider?



# Location

Where you live can play a big factor on your quality of life or it may not be a major priority for you while in medical school. Keep in mind, many students do their residencies in the state in which the attended medial school.



*UMass Medical School*



*Stanford School of Medicine*

- 
- Rural vs Suburban vs City
  - Diversity in larger community
  - Recreational Opportunities
  - Northeast, South, West, etc.
  - Access to public transportation
  - Proximity to family and friends
  - Cost of living
  - Climate
  - Local Attractions

***Your medical school's location will be your home for at least 4 years, so make sure all the schools you apply to are in places you can see your self living!***

# Public vs. Private

## Cost

- Public schools are heavily subsidized by the state, and generally offer less expensive tuition to all students, with greatest discounts given to state residents.

## Applicant Preference

- Public schools do prefer applicants from the states in which they're located. Yet, there are a number of public schools that are "friendly" to out-of-state applicants. Read the [Prospectivedoctor.com](http://Prospectivedoctor.com) article for more information.

Matriculation Data for First Year Class <sup>?</sup>		University of Vermont College of Medicine			
Category	In-state	Out-of-state	International	Total	
Verified Applications	76	5,970	8	6054	
Interviewed	70	492	0	562	
Matriculated	37	77	0	114	

## Top Medical Schools

- In the US New and World report, private medical schools make up 7 of the top 10 and 15 of the top 25 in research.

e.g. University of Michigan Medical School – 5<sup>th</sup> for primary care, 9<sup>th</sup> for research, top tier in five specialties

# Research Experience



*Keck School of Medicine of USC*

If you would like to conduct research, be sure to explore available opportunities.

Some schools focus on research more than others and some even have a research requirement.

**For MD/PhD Applicants, choosing a program is a highly individualized process.**

**Suggestions for consideration include:**

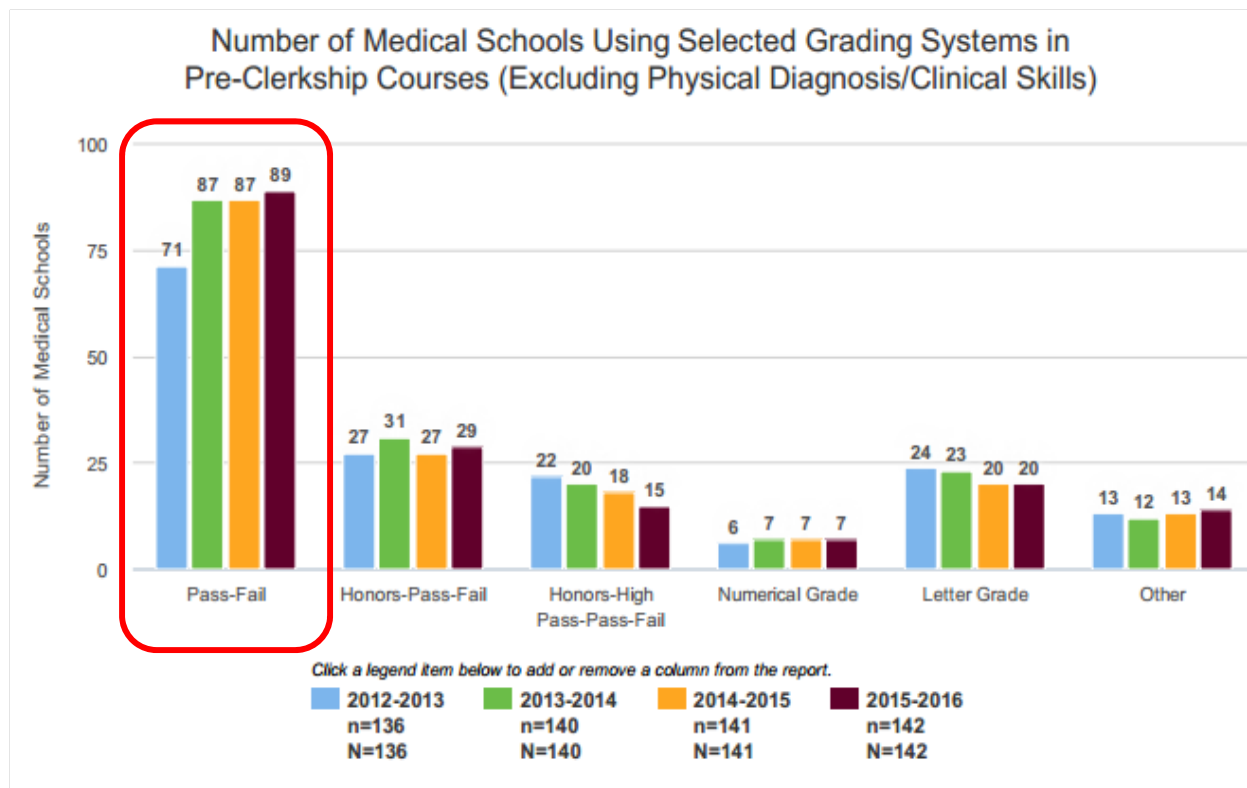
- Research Infrastructure
- Curriculum Integration
- Program size
- Faculty Accessibility
- Presence of an appropriate Ph.D. program
- Training Support
- Perceived competitiveness of an institution
- Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) grant

*Click [here](#) for more information on the MD/PhD school selection process.*

# Grades

Grading policies can be important for applicants to take into consideration as they evaluate different opportunities.

A school's grading policy can highlight their culture and community, potentially informing an applicant of it's competitiveness and one's own stress levels.



## Medical Schools w/ Pass-Fail Grading

Case Western SOM

Albert Einstein COM

Rochester SOM

Univ. of Virginia SOM

Yale SOM

# Clinical Experience & Associated Hospitals



College Station  
Medical Center



Family Medicine  
Residency



Scott & White Clinic



St. Joseph Health  
System



Driscoll Children's  
Hospital



Baylor University  
Medical Center

Not all your learning will happen in class. It's important to know the hospitals and medical centers, and where and when you'll gain clinical experience.

# Curriculum & Joint Degree

Most medical schools offer 2 years of basic science courses followed by 2 years of clinical instruction, while many schools have diversified their curriculum allowing students to begin clinical clerkships in the 1<sup>st</sup> (Univ. of Vermont) or 2<sup>nd</sup> year (Duke University).



*Duke University SOM*



*Johns Hopkins SOM*

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**If you're considering a joint/dual degree, it's important to know:**

- 1) if the school offers your program of interest – MD/PhD, MD/JD, MD/MBA, MD/MPH.
- 2) the process for applying to this program.
- 3) at what point during medical school will you start and complete this added degree.

# Reputation

- Medical schools are **highly** regulated by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), and ultimately all medical schools will prepare you for residency and the USMLE.



- ✓ Brand names may open doors, but you will also pay for the brand.
- ✓ Rankings can be a good way to get a sense of a school, but be wary!
- ✓ Consider the rankings of schools within a specialty of interest.

## Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (New York, NY)

**#3**  
Tie in **Geriatrics**

<b>#22</b>	<b>Best Medical Schools: Research</b>
<b>#55</b> Tie	<b>Best Medical Schools: Primary Care</b>



# Student Life & Demographics

It's important to remember, you're choosing the place where—and the people with whom—you'll spend at least four years of your life.

## What do students do for FUN?

- Is there an office for Student Life?
- Look up Student Organizations
- Reach out to MIT alumni who are there now



*Wellness-Inspired Student Enrichment (WISE)  
Program at the Univ. of Wisconsin SOM*

## Demographics

Consider the student body, both size and diversity:

- Do you prefer a smaller class of **50** (Hofstra SOM) **versus 200** (Tufts SOM)?
- Are you seeking a more diverse faculty & student body? (Duke SOM)

## Other factors to consider in the school selection process:

- School's Mission
- Faculty
- MIT Alumni (ICAN)
- Residency Match
- Financial Cost
- Special Programs
- Interstate Agreements
- Academic Focus

**Any other factors you're considering not mentioned?**



# Further questions?

## Prehealth Advising

Room E17-294

To schedule an appointment, call 617-715-5328

We can help, but come prepared with your list and after you've done a bit of research!

Book1 - Microsoft Excel

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	School	Location	Residency Requirement	Tuition/Fin Aid	Size	Specialties	Research	Notes
2	U Alabama	Birmingham/elsewhere	US citizen/perm resident	\$58,590/yr (out-of-state)	176	AIDS, 2 rural medicine	some students cc	AL physician shortage
3	Med College of GA	Augusta	US citizen/perm resident	out of state: \$22,377 (M1-f	230	Alzheimer's, gerantolo	minimal NIH func	recently merged with A
4	Tufts	Boston	A strong preference is given to US citi	\$53,902/yr	190	epilepsy center, stroke	classified as "ver	close to grandma's hou
5	SUNY Downstate	Brooklyn	Non-citizens without green cards are	\$27,325/semester (out of	185	standard curriculum	learning and mer	merged w/ Long Island
6	UTSA	San Antonio	US citizen/perm resident	unlisted	200	border health, infectio	children's cancer,	some programs in Harl

# Where will you go from here?

