

UWSOM ADMISSIONS RESPONSE TO COVID-19



We are closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the admissions process for the Fall 2021 entering class. Currently, we do not anticipate any changes to our policies or timeline. We may revisit those policies as the pandemic unfolds. Any changes will be shared with applicants on our [Admissions website](#) and [Facebook](#). Below are some common concerns we have received from applicants.



ONLINE COURSES & P/F GRADING

Many colleges and universities have switched to online instruction. Our prerequisite policy has always accommodated online coursework and P/F courses. This means that:

- Online coursework from regionally accredited institutions will be accepted towards fulfilling prerequisites.
- Pass/Fail courses will also be accepted towards fulfilling prerequisites.

CANCELLED MCAT TEST DATES

The AAMC is working with their test delivery provider to add additional MCAT test dates, and they are committed to testing everyone who wants to test for the 2020 cycle. The current UWSOM deadline to take the MCAT is September 30, 2020. Please check our [admissions website](#) for any developments. We are aware of the effect of the pandemic on all our applicants. We continue to be committed to holistic review. Rest assured that the Committee will consider the activities/metrics from this year within the context of this unprecedented world event.

ONLINE LABS

UWSOM does not require labs. If you want to take online labs, that is fine by us.

SHADOWING/VOLUNTEERING

We recognize this has impacted folks' shadowing and volunteering opportunities this year. The Admissions Committee has always valued the insight and reflection that applicants gain from their experiences rather than the number of hours.

COMMITTEE LETTER

If your school is no longer able to offer a committee letter, you should know that we will accept a minimum of 3 individual letters of recommendation and a maximum of 6 letters. Please see our letters of recommendation policy for more details: uwmedicine.org/admissions (Letters of Recommendation).

TALKING ABOUT COVID-19 IN MY APPLICATION

We encourage to use the existing secondary application essays to reflect on your experience with COVID-19. Which essay(s) you should use will depend on your experience and the narrative you are sharing in your application. See our [secondary application page](#) for the available secondary essay prompts.



FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

AAMC is working to expand [Fee Assistance Program \(FAP\)](#), to help applicants financially impacted by COVID-19. Please see the [FAP webpage](#) for more information about applying. If you are not eligible for FAP but still need financial assistance, please contact the UWSOM Admissions Office. We will work with you on a potential fee waiver for our secondary application.

PASS/FAIL VS. GRADE

The Admissions Committee is generally looking for patterns and trajectories when it comes to grades. Ultimately, how you perform in one class will not make or break your application. If you know that there is room for you to demonstrate improvement in your grades, it may be worth choosing to have the course graded so that the Committee can see evidence of your improvement.



HOW CAN I STAY ENGAGED?

Follow credible news sources.

- Learn more about our health care system, patient delivery, and health related policies
- Read/watch interviews with health care providers on the front lines.

Find ways to serve in your community while staying safe and maintaining social distance.

- Pick up/drop off groceries for your elderly and/or vulnerable neighbors
- Volunteer at food banks or local schools to provide meals for individuals in need
- Provide childcare to essential workers who continue to work during the pandemic while schools are closed.

STAYING UPDATED

[COVID-19 and the MCAT](#)
[COVID-19 and AMCAS](#)
[UWSOM Admissions Website](#)
[UWSOM Admissions Facebook](#)

