

Medical School Application Year Timeline and FAQs

***Note:** All information below is subject to change at any time. It is provided for your information only, and is not authoritative. Some information obtained from <https://www.premedroadmap.com/pages/amcas-medical-school-application>.*

Approximate Annual Dates:

May 1 – AMCAS medical school application system opens.

June 1 – AMCAS medical school application open for submission.

June 1 - CASPer opens. This test is for some out-of-state schools. UNMC does not require the CASPer test at this time.

June 30 – Processed AMCAS medical school applications sent to medical schools.

*Many medical schools will give access to their secondary application automatically once a processed application is received. Submission of supplemental applications is often expected within 10-14 days from the date of request. Pre-writing secondary essays is **HIGHLY** recommended.*

August 1 – AMCAS medical school application Early Decision Program (EDP) Deadline.

August - March – Medical school interviews

September 10- Last MCAT test date for the year (scores post 31 days after exam)

October 1- Final acceptance day for EDP

October 15 – The earliest date a school can offer acceptance to regular applicant.

November 1 – Nationwide last day to submit AMCAS. Last day for transcripts to arrive at AMCAS.

April 15- Students requested to narrow to top 3 schools

April 30 – Accepted applicants must notify only one school of their intent to matriculate.

Ideal timeline for application year:

The following dates are compatible with Early Decision, but are also recommended for all students.

Jan – April: Study for MCAT.

Early May: Finish requesting letters of recommendation to be sent to the UNO Pre-medical Committee.

April – May: Take the MCAT.

Early June: Begin to fill out the AMCAS application. Request official transcript(s) be submitted to AMCAS *as soon as* you open your AMCAS application.

Mid June (before the 1st letter request due date): Receive MCAT score, and if sufficient, submit a Letter Request Form along with your draft AMCAS application. Remember to immediately submit your MCAT score to premed@unomaha.edu.

If MCAT score is insufficient, consider taking it once more during the summer if time permits additional studying sufficient to significantly increase your score.

If unsure of your entry chances, you should strongly consider meeting with your pre-med mentor or Dr. Davis to determine if your combined application & MCAT score are sufficient.

Before submitting your AMCAS: Check to see if your school(s) require CASPer, an online ethics training module, or similar (for DO schools). See <https://takecasper.com/test-dates/> as these are administered only occasionally, and take weeks to be accepted.

Late June- late July: Officially submit your AMCAS application. Also, provide your submitted document in a personal information-redacted form to premed@unomaha.edu (needed to have your Committee letter sent).

August/September: Respond to Secondary applications from schools, typically within 14 days or less of request.

Early Fall: Attend one or more mock interviews hosted by Dr. Davis

Late Fall: Begin preparing your D.O. applications.

FAQS about Application Season

Q: When do medical schools begin accepting applications? Is there an advantage to submitting early?

A: Typically AMCAS allows applications in early June of each year. There appears to be a considerable disadvantage to students who submit their application after October 1st. However, *there is never an advantage* to students who submit an incomplete, erroneous, or poorly worded application.

Q: What is the Early Decision Program (EDP)? Does it increase your likelihood of getting it?

A: The EDP is a program designed for students who know where they want to go to medical school. If you apply as an EDP student, you must submit your applications by late summer (each school is different), and you commit that you will apply to no other school until your chosen school indicates whether you have been accepted or not. Most schools, including UNMC and Creighton, simply move their EDP applicants into the normal pool if they are not selected for EDP.

Application to EDP does not often grant any advantage to getting in, unless you have a situation where it is useful for you to demonstrate that you are willing to stay in Nebraska for schooling. This usually only applies to people who have left the state or who have traveled extensively. In addition, applicants considering EDP who have a less-than-robust application and could benefit from a few more months of shadowing, volunteering, etc. should NOT consider EDP, as this will guarantee two reviews of a less-than-stellar application. Instead, students should consider EDP only if they have a robust, complete application by the time that they apply.

Q: When should I submit my application?

A: You should submit only when your application is completely ready, and has been reviewed by others. The key here is that a rejection from your first application will increase the difficulty of all subsequent applications, so your first application should truly be your best. You should have sufficient shadowing hours, clinical experience, etc. documented AND completed on your application. You should NOT rely on predicted/anticipated any volunteering, shadowing, or clinical hours to push you past a minimum expectation for these hours. Finally, *you should never submit your application without knowing your latest MCAT score.*

We advise you to submit your AMCAS application as soon as you receive your MCAT scores, assuming you are satisfied with the score. If ambivalent about your score, you are urged to check with your faculty mentor or Dr. Davis before proceeding. We encourage you to submit your transcript to AMCAS, even prior to submitting the remainder of your AMCAS application. This will allow for processing to occur, which sometimes takes 1-2 weeks. Once they have these three components (transcript, MCAT score, and AMCAS application), most medical schools (including UNMC) will begin to schedule interviews.

Please note that some schools do not consider your application complete until all documentation is received, including the Committee Letter. Please be aware of this when applying to out-of-state medical schools, and coordinate your Committee Letter Request submission date appropriately.

Q: Is there a penalty in submitting an application that is below average or contains multiple errors?

A: Yes. You are advised to submit only your best application. For instance, it should contain necessary shadowing and volunteering hours *already completed* and relevant clinical experience. It should also contain a good MCAT score. Lastly, it should be rigorously proof-read and grammatically correct. Of note, many pre-med students indicate that family members are very often insufficiently critical or corrective in reviewing applications.

Students who submit an application which is lackluster or missing key elements often assume that their application will be viewed “holistically.” This often is not the case; rather, your application will be rigorously compared to other applications, and those with the key elements all intact will most often be

selected (MCAT, GPA, solid volunteering, clinical experience, shadowing, scholarship or extracurricular engagement, etc.).

Further, students who submit incomplete or lackluster applications find that their second and possibly third attempts to apply to medical school have an even harder acceptance bar than first-time applicants. Thus, you don't want to "use up" your first application with a mediocre or incomplete attempt.

Q: Should I submit applications to DO schools?

A: Why not? Indeed, we strongly urge students to apply for DO schools based on the nationwide agreement that all residencies will view DO and MD degrees as synonymous. DO schools tend to be more holistic in their review compared to MD schools (even those MD schools who claim they are holistic). However, DO schools will insist on your shadowing of a DO prior to application. Please note that DO schools use an application system different from AMCAS, so there will be some duplication of effort involved.

Q: Can I submit my AMCAS application and then choose to add another school after submission?

A: Yes, as long it is before the November 1st AMCAS deadline.

Q: Is the UNO Pre-medical Committee letter always submitted by the anticipated date?

A: Submission by the anticipated date is not guaranteed, but is best-effort. If you don't see your Committee letter received by the anticipated date, e-mail premed@unomaha.edu for an update.

If the Committee does not receive your submitted+redacted MD or DO application by the anticipated submission date, this will delay your Committee letter submission. The submitted+redacted application should contain redaction boxes AND have a listed submission date, like this:

| AMCAS REPORT - 2025 ENTERING CLASS | | Applicant Copy |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| REPORT DATE: 09/26/2024 09:42 PM | SUBMISSION DATE: 09/04/2024 01:41 AM | PROCESSED DATE: 09/04/2024 10:14 AM |
| Applicant's Legal Name: [REDACTED] | AAMC ID: [REDACTED] | Page: 1 |
| IDENTIFYING INFORMATION | | |
| ID Type: Number(s): | [REDACTED] | |
| School ID: | [REDACTED] | |
| Name Type: | Name (Salutation First Middle Last, Suffix) | |
| Legal: | [REDACTED] | |
| Preferred: | [REDACTED] | |
| DOB: [REDACTED] | Birthplace: [REDACTED] | Citizenship: United States of America (the) |
| Legal Residence: | Douglas (U), NE | Visa Status: |
| CONTACT INFORMATION | | |
| Preferred: | [REDACTED] | |
| Address: | [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] |
| City, State Zip, Country: | [REDACTED] | Day: [REDACTED] |
| County: | [REDACTED] | Eve: [REDACTED] |

Q: How many hours of shadowing or volunteering should I have by the time I submit my application?

A: No less than 20 hours of shadowing, ideally from two providers. For volunteering, there is no defined minimum- rather, the commitment over a range of time is important. Medical schools do not like to see that someone started volunteering less than a year before applying, as this indicates that caring for others may not be a natural part of who you are. At least 24 months of some type of volunteering with/among people (as opposed to with animals or without human interaction) is expected.

Q: What is CASPer and when should I take it?

A: CASPer is an online test that screens medical school applicants for the following skills: collaboration, communication, empathy, equity, ethics, motivation, problem solving, professionalism, resilience, and self-awareness. The test consists of 12 problem-based scenarios (in either video format or written format) in which you are given 5 minutes to answer a total of 3 questions. The test can take anywhere between 60-90 minutes.

Further, the test should be taken at approximately the same time that the AMCAS application is submitted as it takes three weeks to score. Scores are not sent to test-takers and are limited access to schools in which you select and pay for. There are very few test dates offered each month, so it is best to register early. Most schools consider CASPer a component of the secondary application and will not review the application for interview invites until CASPer scores are received.