

Tips for preparing your application to Dalhousie Medicine

Whether you are a first time applicant or are deciding to reapply to Dalhousie Medicine it is important to note that the majority of those who apply are qualified for entry into medical school. The number of qualified candidates consistently exceeds the number of first year medical school positions. Thus, Dalhousie Medical School is both blessed and burdened with the task of having to select a limited number of individuals from a large pool of highly qualified applicants.

For those of you who are reapplying and feel strongly about pursuing a career in medicine, then you are encouraged to try again. Continue to pursue things that interest you and gather diverse experiences that can help to further develop self-directed and life-long learning skills and qualities. Along the way, you may further reaffirm your choice of medicine as a career or you may discover another career path that interests you.

In preparing an application to Dalhousie Medical School, here are some important points to remember:

- Admissions requirements are reviewed annually and may be subject to change. The Dalhousie Medicine Admissions Website and office is the source for the most current, accurate and reliable information.
- NEW for the 2017-2018 application cycle, all applicants to Dalhousie Undergraduate Medical Education program are required to complete a mandatory 90 minute computer-based test (CASPer), to assist with our selection process. Successful completion of CASPer is mandatory in order to maintain admissions eligibility.
- GPA, MCAT, full time course load requirements are indicators of an applicant's academic capability to fully participate in the rigorous, demanding undergraduate medical education curriculum
- Although the average GPA of successful applicants has been 3.8, the range has been 3.3-4.0. It is possible to be offered admission into medical school with a GPA less than 3.8.
- The Personal Statement, Supplemental Information and Multiple Mini-Interview are used as tools for assessing non-academic factors and personal qualities that are expected to contribute positively to the profession of medicine. These include factors such as, but not limited to, social values, critical thinking, communication skills, empathy, resiliency, intellectual curiosity, teamwork, leadership, etc.
- The Personal Statement and Supplemental Information is your opportunity to present yourself and describe how your life experience to date has not only brought you to choosing a career for medicine, but also how you have developed qualities which will contribute to success at Dalhousie medical school and the medical profession.
- When choosing entries to include in the Supplemental Information, be selective. Think carefully about what you choose to include and how it reflects personal qualities and skills suitable to the study of medicine.
- For activities for which a verifier is requested, be sure to inform your verifiers of your intention of applying to medical school.

- Dalhousie Medical School seeks candidates who have an accurate, informed view about the practice of medicine. Becoming a physician is no small decision. It is a long road and life-long commitment. Hence, this is why information is sought about an applicant's 'medically related experience', assessing for evidence that the applicant has explored medicine and has developed some understanding of the diverse roles and responsibilities of today's physicians. Not all medically related experience needs to be hospital-based! Medically related experience is any experience, be it educational, employment, community-based or personal, which contributes to your understanding of the medical profession and the roles of the physician.
- The Multiple Mini-Interview is an intense, high stakes process. Yet, it can also be interesting, thought-provoking and kind of fun. It is important to note – there are no scripted right or wrong answers. The MMI really is about getting to know you, the individual applicant, by how you respond to a variety of novel scenarios and situations. When approaching an MMI station, think not only about how you are going to respond to it, but reflect on your life experience. Is there anything that you have done or experienced that can relate to this scenario? Can you use knowledge or skills from any previous experience to help inform your response to the situation in front of you? Only you have your life experience – that's what makes you unique – and only you can tell or show us how that life experience helps you address new situations.