

FAQ FOR THE BS/MD STUDENT

MOON PREP



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At Moon Prep, our specialty is BS/MD admissions. Each counselor on the team works with numerous BS/MD applicants each year. No other counseling firm has more specialized knowledge in this niche area. This document outlines some of the key differences between BS/MD and traditional pre-med admissions.

Schedule a free call to learn how an experienced BS/MD counselor can guide your student into one of these highly competitive programs.
www.MoonPrep.com



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

TRADITIONAL PRE-MED ADMISSIONS

- Students should still be actively involved in the school and community through school clubs, community service, music, and more. The main difference is how heavily focused BS/MD must be under the "medical umbrella." A BS/MD student would need much more med experience compared to traditional premed.

BS/MD

- BS/MD candidates need to demonstrate a strong commitment to medicine to convince BS/MD admission officers they are ready to commit to a career in medicine (while only a teenager).
- Medical-focused activities that are on a BS/MD applicant's resume often include scientific research, publication in a high school research journal, hospital volunteering, physician shadowing, science fairs and competitions, community involvement, leadership positions and more.



TRANSCRIPTS

TRADITIONAL PRE-MED ADMISSIONS

Traditional undergrad programs often do not state min GPA and SAT/ACT requirements the way many BS/MD programs do.

BS/MD

Students need to check BS/MD requirements before applying to see if they at least meet the minimums.



NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

TRADITIONAL PRE-MED ADMISSIONS

- **In-state/Local:** Some states like Georgia, Florida, and Texas offer attractive scholarships that will cover almost the full cost of tuition for public universities and partial tuition for private universities. If students plan to stay in their home state, they should apply to five or six schools.
- **Out-of-state:** For those who are open to going out of state or are unsure of their area of study, they typically apply to 10-15 schools.
- **Ivy League/Top-tier Colleges:** Students who want to attend an Ivy League school or other schools with acceptance rates 10% or less will need to apply to more universities. The more “reach schools” on the college list, the more schools students must add to balance it out. To help increase the chances of getting into a top-tier college, students are recommended to apply to at least 15-20 schools.

BS/MD

- Because many BS/MD programs have so few seats (often just 5-10), with acceptance rates of 1% or less, it’s important to apply widely to BS/MD programs. Most successful BS/MD candidates will apply to 10 or more BS/MD programs in addition to 5-10 traditional undergraduate programs.
- If a student’s college list contains many Ivy League schools and other highly competitive schools, they will likely apply to 20+ schools.



ACCEPTANCE RATES AND NUMBER OF SEATS

TRADITIONAL PRE-MED ADMISSIONS

- Acceptance rates vary greatly from university to university.
- Ivy Leagues typically have accepted rates of 5% or less, while “safety” schools will often accept 50% or more of their students. Having a balanced college list is essential.

BS/MD

Many BS/MD programs have just 5-20 seats.

University	# Applicants	# Seats	Admin Rate
BS/MD: George Washington University	1,000	10	1%
BS/MD Boston University	700	25	3.57%
BS/MD: Case Western Reserve University	2,800	15-20	0.4%
BS/MD: Rice University	1,600	6	0.38%
BS/MD: Drew University	100	5-10	7%
BS/MD: College of New Jersey	400	20	5%
BS/MD: New Jersey Institute of Technology	329	13	3.95%
BS/MD Rochester Institute of Technology	500	5	1%
Harvard University	40,248	1,980	4.92%
Yale University	29,443	1,508	6.54%
Princeton University	32,838	1,823	5.6%
Duke University	39,783	3,057	7.7%
Brown University	36,794	2523	6.9%
University of Pennsylvania	42,205	3,404	8.07%



THE NUMBER OF ESSAYS

TRADITIONAL PRE-MED ADMISSIONS

- 650-word personal statement that goes to nearly every university.
- School-specific supplemental prompts; each school might require 0-3 supplemental essays.

BS/MD

- Many more essays are required - students often write 60+ essays in total.
- In addition to school-specific essays, BS/MD candidates also write BS/MD program-specific essays.
- Additional essays often include “Why medicine?” or “Why this program?”



APPLYING EARLY DECISION

TRADITIONAL PRE-MED ADMISSIONS

- Applying ED means that if accepted, the student is committing to attend that university.
- Can only apply to one school early decision and agree to withdraw their other applications if admitted by their ED school.
- Early Decision applicants have a significant advantage; for example, in 2020-21, Duke University accepted 16.7% of its ED applicants, but just 4.3% of its regular decision applications.

BS/MD

- If a student selects the ED option, they are committing to the school, regardless of whether they get into the BS/MD program. In this case, they may be forced to forego BS/MD.
- Some students might consider applying to a school early decision without a BS/MD program. For example, the only Ivy League school to offer BS/MD is Brown University.
- Because the admission decisions are released in December/January, students are required to withdraw all other applications from other universities. In this case, students will not find out if they got into a BS/MD program or not.
- Some programs with Early Decision, like Brown's Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME) do reserve some seats for ED applications. In 2018, 25% of the seats went to ED applicants.
- Each BS/MD program will have different policies regarding Early Decision applications; make sure to read the fine print and fully understand the benefits as well as drawbacks to ED.



INTERVIEW PROCESS

TRADITIONAL PRE-MED ADMISSIONS

- Often conducted via phone, Skype, or local.
- The interviewer will often be an alum.
- Some schools do not do any interviews.
- These interviews will cover basic information about the student, including their extracurricular activities, why they are interested in attending the school, their major, and more. The student can also ask the interviewer questions about their experience at the university.

BS/MD

- The interview process is rigorous and an extremely important part of the process.
- Students will typically do a first-round virtual interview with the undergraduate university.
- If the student is recommended to the medical school, they will often do a second round in-person at the medical school. The interview will typically be with med school admissions officers, faculty members, current med school students, or alum. This is often a full-day event where students (and sometimes their parents) can participate in a variety of events, including informational sessions, university tours, and meetings with different people at the school.
- While sometimes the interview is a traditional interview that covers a student's interest in the school, desire to become a doctor, and extracurricular activities, students might also encounter another interview format: The Multiple Mini Interview (MMI). During the MMI, students will participate in 6-10 problem-based stations that will typically last for about five minutes. Students will have to answer a variety of questions at each station, often related to ethical dilemmas, dealing with difficult situations, and doctor-patient interactions. The students are sometimes tested on how to navigate issues that anyone might encounter in their everyday life.
- MMI requires significant practice since this is a format new to students.



THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

BS/MD VS. TRADITIONAL

BS/MD APPLICATIONS

TRADITIONAL APPLICATIONS



TIME
COMMITMENT



NUMBER OF
AVAILABLE SEATS



AVERAGE
APPLICATIONS



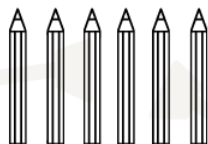
HOURS SPENT
WITH COUNSELOR



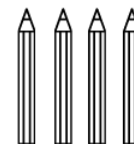
SHOULD BE FOCUSED
ON SCIENCE OR
MEDICINE

EXTRACURRICULARS

CAN BE MORE
GENERAL



ESSAYS



✓ GET INTO
UNDERGRADUATE
✗ MIGHT NOT GET
INTO BS/MD
PROGRAM

APPLYING
EARLY

✓ IMPROVED
CHANCES OF
ADMISSION

OFTEN MORE
INTENSIVE AND ON
CAMPUS, FOLLOWS A
MMI FORMAT

INTERVIEW
PROCESS

OFTEN CONDUCTED VIA
PHONE, SKYPE, OR
LOCALLY

