

Admission Decision Notifications

The Committee aims to notify applicants as quickly as possible after admissions decisions are made. It is not possible to provide verbal status reports to the several thousand applicants to the Medical College of Georgia. Hence, the Committee notifies applicants by email when the statuses of their applications change. Please realize that after your application is complete, it may remain under consideration for a number of months. However, by April 15, every applicant should have an admission decision: accepted, not accepted, or alternate list.

Academics

What are the average GPAs and MCAT scores of the first-year class?

The average overall GPA for the entering class of 2016 was 3.8 with an average science GPA of 3.7. The average MCAT score was 509.2/31.1.

How do Medical College of Georgia students do in the Match?

The Match is the annual process where fourth-year medical students are matched through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) to residency programs across the nation. In 2017, 211 MCG Seniors obtained residency positions in 18 specialties in 38 states. 49 percent matched in primary care. Twenty-eight percent will stay in Georgia for their first post-graduate year, 17 percent at AU Health/MCG or MCG-affiliated residency programs, including Medical Partnership programs in Athens and Wellstar/Kennestone in Atlanta. Their match rate was 98 percent, higher than the national average.

How do the Medical College of Georgia students perform on the Boards?

MCG students perform very well on the United States Medical Licensing Examinations ([USMLE](#)). MCG students' first-time taker pass rates and mean scores for Step 1 and Step 2 of the USMLE are consistently at or above the national average.

Does Augusta University offer any programs to prepare me for medical school?

Yes. The [Student Educational Enrichment Program](#) (SEEP) is a seven week, academic enrichment program for Pre-College and College students who are underrepresented in the health professions. Please visit the [Office of Student and Multicultural Affairs website](#) for application information or contact the office at (706) 721-2522.

Admissions

How do you decide who to interview?

The Medical College of Georgia Admissions Committee uses a Holistic Review Process. Applicants are screened for interview based on academic metrics (MCAT, GPA and grade trends), attributes

(intellectual curiosity, leadership, maturity, perspectives, and etcetera), experiences (research, community service, life experiences, health care experience, and etcetera) and other compelling personal and experiential factors.

How many applicants are invited for interviews?

Typically, we interview between 550 and 700 applicants depending on the competitiveness of the application pool.

What is an interview like?

Interview sessions are normally scheduled from August to February. Each applicant has two individual, thirty to forty-five minute interviews with two different Admissions Committee members. Interviews at the Medical College of Georgia are a two-way exchange. We encourage applicants to use their interview experience to inquire and form opinions about the strengths of, and opportunities available at, the Medical College of Georgia.

The Admissions Committee understands that there are qualities in addition to intellectual ability and record of academic achievement that are important elements necessary to foster the development of a competent, compassionate and responsible physician. Ability to communicate and interact, learning skills and attitude toward education, social consciousness, maturity, integrity of character, tolerance, and motivation for a career in medicine are among the characteristics sought.

Can I stay with a current medical student the night before the interview?

Yes, the Medical College of Georgia's Student Hosting Program offers the opportunity for an interviewing applicant to stay in the home of an MCG student on the night prior to their interview. Student hosting availability varies dependent upon the generally busy schedules of our medical students.

On what basis are applicants invited to matriculate?

As the state of Georgia's only public medical school, the Medical College of Georgia is explicit about its commitment to excellence in improving the health needs of Georgians and the nation, particularly rural and underserved populations, through the education of highly skilled physician-leaders. Augusta University's mission and vision are the philosophy by which the Medical College of Georgia guides itself and the admissions process. Therefore, applicants must demonstrate exceptional ability to thrive in a challenging, rigorous educational environment. In addition to academic ability, successful applicants must exhibit the personal qualities necessary to interact with others in an effective and personable manner. Pre-medical advisors play an important role in helping the admissions committee assess these attributes and qualities.

How old can my course work be?

There is not an expiration date on courses and grades earned. You should consider your level of comfort with required course work. While it is not required for you to retake courses due to *expiration*, you should ensure you are familiar with and can perform proficiently in the sciences.

How old can the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) be?

The MCAT must not be more than 3 years old from the date of matriculation. For example, if you are applying for Fall 2018 entry, you must have taken the MCAT no earlier than January 2015 and no later than September 2017. Applicants are advised to take the MCAT in the spring before applying. Early Decision Program applicants must take the MCAT by the end of June 2017, and Regular applicants must take the MCAT by the end of September 2017.

After my interview, how long will it be before I will hear from the Admissions Office?

The Admissions Office strives to process applications as quickly as possible while thoroughly evaluating application files. You will be contacted via email once a status change has taken place with your application file. We will be offering interview invitations beginning in August through February of each interview cycle.

Do I need to be a resident of Georgia to be accepted to the Medical College of Georgia? Do you accept international students?

You do not have to be a resident of Georgia to be accepted into the program. You must be either a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident of the U.S. with a valid, permanent resident (green) card to be offered acceptance.

Can I upload an expired driver's license or U.S. Passport as my lawful presence document?

No. You may use a current, valid Georgia driver's license issued after 2008 and/or a valid U.S. Passport.

How do I prove that I am a Georgia resident?

In order to prove Georgia residency, you will need to provide documentation. These documents generally include a current, valid Georgia driver's license and a copy of the most recent year's Georgia tax forms. If you are a dependent student, copies of your parents' current, valid Georgia driver's licenses and a copy of their most recent year's Georgia tax forms will be required, as well.

What are the pre-required courses?

Please see the chart below. You may also find our prerequisite courses on the [MCG Admissions website](#).

Prerequisite Courses

All required courses should be taken on a graduated grading scale (e.g. A, B, C, D, F) when possible. A pass/fail type system should not be used. Advanced Placement (AP) credits are acceptable on the basis that the credits are accepted by an accredited college and appear on its official transcript. Admissions requirements will be changing in June 2017. Additional college level coursework will be required if using AP credits for biology and chemistry as defined below.

REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED	REQUIRED JUNE 2017	HHMI-AAMC COMPETENCY
<p>Biology</p> <p>One academic year of General Biology or Zoology with lab.</p>	<p>Anatomy</p> <p>Cell Biology</p> <p>Molecular Biology</p> <p>Immunology</p>	<p>Biology</p> <p>One academic year of General Biology or Zoology with lab. (Must substitute one academic year of advanced biology courses with lab irrespective of AP Biology taken in high school.)</p>	<p>E1: Apply quantitative reasoning and appropriate mathematics to describe or explain phenomena in the natural world.</p> <p>E2: Demonstrate understanding of the process of scientific inquiry, and explain how scientific knowledge is discovered and validated.</p>
<p>Chemistry</p> <p>Organic Chemistry</p> <p>One academic year of General/Inorganic Chemistry; One academic year of advanced Chemistry, two quarters or one semester of which must be Organic Chemistry with lab. The other quarter or semester may be fulfilled by any advanced Chemistry course (lab not necessary); Biochemistry is strongly recommended.</p>	<p>Biochemistry</p>	<p>Chemistry</p> <p>Organic Chemistry</p> <p>Two academic years of Chemistry during college including at least 3 semesters of lab. (Must substitute 2 academic years including 3 semesters of lab, irrespective of AP chemistry taken in high school. At least one semester must be Organic Chemistry.</p> <p>Biochemistry</p> <p>At least one semester</p>	<p>E3: Demonstrate knowledge of basic physical principles and their applications to the understanding of living systems.</p> <p>E4: Demonstrate knowledge of basic principles of chemistry and some of their applications to the understanding of living systems.</p>
<p>Physics</p> <p>One academic year of Physics with lab.</p>		<p>Physics</p> <p>One academic year of Physics with lab.</p>	<p>E5: Demonstrate knowledge of how biomolecules contribute to the structure and function of cells.</p>
<p>English</p> <p>One academic year of English or whatever portion in the academic year is required for the baccalaureate degree in an accredited college or university. (English-based composition, Writing, Literature or Communication also acceptable.)</p>	<p>Psychology</p> <p>Behavioral Sciences</p> <p>Social Sciences</p> <p>Humanities</p> <p>Physiology</p>	<p>English</p> <p>One academic year of English or whatever portion in the academic year is required for the baccalaureate degree in an accredited college or university. (English-based composition, Writing, Literature or Communication also acceptable.)</p>	<p>E6: Apply understanding of principles of how molecular and cell assemblies, organs and organisms develop structure and carry out function.</p> <p>E7: Explain how organisms sense and control their internal environment and how they respond to external change.</p> <p>E8: Demonstrate an understanding of how the organizing principle of evolution by natural selection explains the diversity of life on earth.</p>
	<p>Probability or Statistics (May choose Biostatistics)</p> <p>Research experience</p>	<p>Probability or Statistics (May choose Biostatistics)</p>	<p>Behavioral & Social Sciences: Anthropology, Communication, Narrative Sciences, Epidemiology, Education, Sociology.</p>

My university uses a different course structure (ex: General Chemistry is only offered as a one semester course). What should I do?

Request a letter from your pre-health advisor or course director describing the course and its fundamental objectives. You may upload the document to your file by logging into your online MCG account.

Do you require official transcripts?

Official transcripts should be sent directly to the AMCAS application service. Official transcripts are not to be sent to the Medical College of Georgia Admissions Office unless you are offered and accept admission to our medical program, or accept a position as an alternate. Once you accept a position, we require that you have all final, official (degree posted) transcripts from all colleges/universities attended submitted to our office directly from your university's Registrar's Office prior to matriculation to MCG.

When is matriculation?

The Medical College of Georgia matriculates students once per year usually the first week of August.

What can I do to make my file stronger while awaiting a decision?

You are encouraged to continue activities to maintain your competitiveness during the application process including maintaining strong grades, gaining additional clinical shadowing experience, and continuing volunteer/extracurricular activities. You are also encouraged to provide application updates up to the December 1st application deadline. You may upload these updates by logging into your online MCG account.

Does the Medical College of Georgia accept applicants based on the undergraduate institution they attended and earned their degree(s) from? Are GPAs and majors from different colleges or universities weighted differently?

The Medical College of Georgia Admissions Office does not rate, or favor, select undergraduate institutions. The GPAs are not weighted differently based on the college or university attended. Regardless of the undergraduate institution attended, applicants should work hard and perform well in their courses to maintain a strong GPA.

What are the deadlines for the Regular Decision Program?

Applicants must submit their primary applications for admission with AMCAS between June 1 and November 1. All applications must be received in the AMCAS office by November 1 to be considered for the Regular Decision Program. Official transcripts must be received by the AMCAS office by November 14. You should submit your Secondary Application within two weeks of receiving it from the Admissions Office. Regular Decision applicants must have taken the MCAT by the end of September.

How many students matriculate into the program each year?

The Medical College of Georgia matriculates 230 students into the M.D. program each year in August. One-hundred and ninety students are based at the main Augusta campus, and forty students attend the Augusta University / University of Georgia Medical Partnership campus in Athens, Georgia.

Clinical Shadowing Experience

I am a receptionist in a healthcare environment (ex. doctor's office, clinic, hospital). Can I count these hours as clinical shadowing hours?

Working in a clinical setting offers a great opportunity to interact with patients and sharpen valuable attributes such as communication skills. Though your experience working in a clinical setting is valuable, you are encouraged to gain shadowing experiences where you have the opportunity to observe, and perhaps participate in, the patient-doctor interaction more closely and discuss these interactions with the doctor. Working in this setting, may afford you an opportunity to develop relationships with the doctors you work with and set up shadowing opportunities.

I am a healthcare provider (ex. nurse, physician assistant, lab tech) and work closely with doctors. Can I count these hours as clinical shadowing hours?

Your experiences as a healthcare provider are valued and give you a unique perspective on patient needs and healthcare as a whole. Though there are many similarities in healthcare careers and your experience working in a clinical setting is valuable, you are encouraged to gain shadowing experiences where you have the opportunity to observe the patient-doctor interaction more closely and discuss these interactions with the doctor.

My clinical shadowing experiences have been with surgeons, and my shadowing experiences mostly have been watching surgical procedures. Are these experiences what the Admissions Committee is looking for?

The chance to view surgical procedures is definitely an exciting and valuable opportunity. The Admissions Committee feels that exposure to all aspects of a physician's role are important. The Admissions Committee encourages applicants to experience the doctor-patient relationship in other contexts, as well. Seeing the rapport between a doctor and patient, the way the doctor asks questions, and discussing the doctor's methods and thought-process in handling patients are all desired observations.

I have not shadowed a doctor, but I have shadowed a different healthcare provider (ex. physician assistant, nurse, occupational therapist). Can I count these hours as clinical shadowing?

These experiences are all wonderful and help you to see the partnership and collaboration between different healthcare careers for the well-being of the patient. Though these experiences are valuable, you are encouraged to gain shadowing experiences where you have the opportunity to observe the patient-doctor interaction more closely and discuss these interactions with the doctor.

I volunteer in a clinical setting (ex: hospital, clinic, doctor's office). Do I still need clinical shadowing hours?

Volunteering in a clinical setting offers a great opportunity to interact with patients and sharpen interpersonal skills. Though your experience volunteering in a clinical setting is valuable, you are encouraged to gain shadowing experiences where you have the opportunity to observe, and perhaps participate in, the patient-doctor interaction and discuss these interactions with the doctor.

Volunteering may afford you an opportunity to develop relationships with the doctors you interact with and set up shadowing opportunities.

I have tried but have been unable to obtain a direct MD shadowing experience. What should I do?

The committee recognizes that due to healthcare regulations, such as HIPAA, many hospitals and clinics are limiting the availability of opportunities for pre-medical clinical exposure. We encourage applicants to be creative and tenacious in gaining clinical exposure. Pre-health advisors, other pre-health students, and even your own personal physician can be good sources of information in finding these opportunities. In addition, volunteering in a clinical setting in a different context (ex: patient transport) can often allow you to build relationships that can lead to shadowing opportunities.

Is there an Early Decision Program?

Yes, Georgia residents who meet or exceed our baseline GPA and MCAT criteria may apply and be considered for the Early Decision Program. Applicants competitive for the Early Decision Program will either:

1. Have an MCAT score of 509 **and** will have a total GPA of 3.7* and above. (*total GPAs between 3.65 and 3.69 will round to 3.7), --or--
2. Seek admission to the MCG at Augusta University Certificate of Rural Community Health program with commitment to attend the Southwest Georgia clinical campus during years 3 and 4 along with other programmatic requirements. Please note that the Certificate of Rural Community Health program does **not** have a specific MCAT or GPA requirement. However, admission is competitive and based on a limited number of seats available on the Southwest Georgia clinical campus.

Early Decision applicants must submit their primary applications for admission with AMCAS between June 1 and August 1. All applications and official transcripts must be received in the AMCAS office by August 1 to be considered for the Early Decision Program. The Secondary Application and all supporting documentation must be submitted to the Admissions Office within one week of the date that the MCG Admissions Office sends your Secondary Application. Early Decision Program applicants must have taken the MCAT by the end of June.

Application Processing

When are Secondary Applications sent to applicants?

Once AMCAS has released your application information, usually beginning in late June, the Admissions Office will send you a Secondary Application via email. Generally, applicants will receive a Secondary Application within a couple of days of the Admissions Office's receipt of your AMCAS application information. Your AMCAS application does not have to be verified to receive a Secondary Application.

Do all applicants receive a Secondary Application?

All applicants who are U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents with a valid permanent residency (green) card are sent Secondary Applications.

I have not received my Secondary Application. What should I do?

Firstly, check your junk mail / spam folder. If you do not find it, please contact the Admissions Office by email at STDADMIN@augusta.edu. Applicants are encouraged to add STDADMIN@augusta.edu to their safe senders list so email correspondence from the MCG Admissions Office will not go to junk mail.

How can I tell that you have received my Secondary Application and other required documents?

You may review your application status and your received/uploaded documents by logging into your online MCG account. Once you are logged in, click on the App Status tab then click the Document Status tab to review your received documents. You will see all documents we have received including the Secondary Application and letters of reference.

Is my file complete?

If you have submitted your Secondary Application and all supporting documentation including all letters of recommendation, we most likely have what we need. Generally, our office will contact you if additional information is needed for your file; however, you are responsible for supplying the Admissions Office with required documents.

I uploaded documents to my file. How can I be sure you can see them?

If your uploaded documents are visible when you log in to your [online MCG account](#), they should be visible to the Admissions Office staff as well.

Can I send my documents to the Admissions Office by postal mail?

You are strongly encouraged to upload required documents to your application file in PDF or Word format. You can access your application file by logging in to your [online MCG account](#). Once logged in, you can use the document upload feature to add scanned documents to your file.

AMCAS has sent an email that they have received all of my LORs, but I do not see them when I check the status online?

Our office will not receive your letters of recommendation until your AMCAS application has been verified. You may check with AMCAS to be sure your application has been verified. Remember, there may be a delay in the time AMCAS verifies your application and documents before we receive them.

Community/Student Life

What is Augusta like?

Augusta, Georgia is the second-largest metropolitan area in Georgia with a population of more than 500,000. Augusta is located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian Mountains. Cultural life in Augusta includes a professional symphony orchestra, an opera company, and a national honor ballet company. There is easy access to a number of outdoor activities, including fishing, hunting, hiking, sailing, and river rafting. Major cities including Atlanta, GA, Charlotte, NC and Savannah, GA are only a 2 1/2-hour drive away from Augusta. Augusta is the home of the world-renowned Masters Tournament. There are 11 other golf courses throughout the area. You can find more information on our [website](#).

What kind of housing is available?

Some students live on campus, but many medical students opt to live off-campus. For more information regarding housing opportunities, visit the [Housing section](#) of our website or by visiting the [Housing Office's website](#).

What kind of activities do students participate in?

There is a wide variety of activities for students including social, cultural, and athletic [clubs and organizations](#). Augusta University is the home of the [Jaguars collegiate sports teams](#), which include our championship men's and women's basketball teams and men's golf team. Our [Wellness Center](#) offers intramural sports, group exercise classes, as well as personal training sessions.

Admissions Decisions

I am accepted! Now what?

Congratulations! You must sign and return your Acceptance Contract with your \$100 deposit within one week if you applied to the Early Decision Program. You must sign and return your Acceptance Contract with your \$100 deposit within two weeks if you applied to the Regular Decision Program. Also, you must request final, official copies of all transcripts from your university's Registrar's Office be sent to the MCG Admissions Office. Be sure that your final grades and degree(s) earned are listed on your final transcript(s).

When will I receive my JAG ID?

You will receive your JAG ID after you are offered acceptance and your signed acceptance contract and deposit are received in the Admissions Office but no earlier than January.

What if I don't get in the first time I apply?

If you are not offered acceptance, please talk to your advisor about how to improve your application for the next year, and then reapply. Your advisor knows what is required for you to be competitive as a medical school applicant. We do not hold multiple years of applying against you.

Also, be sure to check out our Applicant Counseling Checklist for areas to consider as you prepare to submit your application to the Medical College of Georgia. Our Checklist can be printed for your convenience and used in evaluating yourself and taken along when visiting your pre-health advisor for application evaluation before reapplication.