Application Series: Secondary Applications

June 1, 2023
What is a Secondary Application?

- Following submission of your primary application, individual schools will require additional essay sets, specific to that school
  - Schools generally send secondaries to all applicants
- Schools will generally give you 2-5 essay prompts
  - Essays will have character specifications
  - Just like your primary essays, you want to be as close to the character limits possible, without going over
- Most schools also charge a secondary application fee
  - $100 per school, on average
Purpose of Secondary Applications

• Helps schools determine your fit for their mission
• Allows schools to ask questions to get at your resiliency, adaptability and ability to succeed in medical school
• Allows schools to get more insight into who you are as a person
When will I get a secondary and when should I submit it?

• First, you must submit your primary application
• Individual MD schools will not receive your application until June 30th so that would be the earliest you would receive a secondary application
  • AACOMAS and TMDSAS are quicker than AMCAS so you may receive these secondaries earlier than June 30
• Schools expect secondary essays to be turned around in about 2 weeks
• While some schools pre-screen before sending a secondary, most do not
Enough time to complete 2-5 essays per school

Remember, even though you may pre-write essays you will need to make edits and meet characters limits for each essay

Application Fees

Usually $75-$150 per school
<table>
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<th>Prompt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explain why you applied to this particular school.</td>
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<td>Is there a unique aspect of your application that should be considered by the admissions committee?</td>
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<td>Tell us about a challenging problem you faced and how you resolved it.</td>
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<td>What makes you a unique individual? How will these factors help you contribute to the diversity of the student body at our school?</td>
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<td>Have you or are you planning to take time off between college graduation and medical school matriculation? Please explain.</td>
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How to Answer "why us?"
Tips for completing secondaries

• Pre-write as much as you can
  • You know why you applied to each school
  • It will be much easier to “tweak” each essay than to write from scratch

• Do everything you can to turn them around in 2 weeks or less

• Keep track of everything in a Google doc, spreadsheet or organizational tool that works for you
  • A lot of executive functioning goes into the application process!

• Do not duplicate things you wrote about in your primary application

• Keep an eye on character versus word limits and do not go over