# Highlights from Kaplan Test Prep's 2011 Survey of Medical School Admissions Officers

To ensure that aspiring doctors receive accurate and up-to-date information on the medical school admissions process and other relevant issues, Kaplan Test Prep annually surveys admissions officers from Association of American Medical Colleges-accredited medical schools across the United States. The survey data collected helps guide the tens of thousands of pre-med students Kaplan works with each year.

## What Medical School Admissions Officers Say On:

▶ The MCAT\* Changes (MR5 Study) ▶ General Admissions Trends

Seat Expansion

**About the survey methodology:** For the 2011 survey, admissions officers from 69 of the 135 AAMC-approved U.S. medical schools were polled by telephone in July and August 2011. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

#### On the MCAT Changes (MR5 Study)

Based on what you know, do you support the recommended changes to the MCAT set for 2015?

Completely yes 18%	
Generally yes 52%	
Generally no	
Completely no0%	
Not sure	

Do you think the changes to the test will better prepare students for medical school?

Completely yes11%	
Generally yes62%	
Generally no9%	
Completely no0%	
Not sure17%	

Should pre-med programs revise their curricula in order to sufficiently prepare students for the new MCAT?

Yes	
No	
Not sure	

(If Yes) Given the proposed implementation date of 2015 for changes to the MCAT, do pre-med programs have enough time to adequately revise their curricula?

Yes	J
No	
Not sure	

How do you think the changes will affect the difficulty of the MCAT? Will the test become ...

More difficult 17%	
Remain about the same	
Less difficult	
Not sure	

Medical school admissions officers express largely positive opinions on the proposed MCAT changes. 60% support the changes overall and 73% believe the changes will better prepare pre-meds for medical school. How do you think changes to the MCAT will affect the course load of pre-med students? Will the course load ...

Increase25%	
Stay about the same 45%	
Decrease0%	
Not sure	

## **On General Admissions Trends**

Which would you say is the most important admissions factor?

MCAT score 43	%
Undergraduate GPA	%
Relevant experience19	%
Interview	%
Letters of recommendation 2"	%
Personal statement0	%

#### Which would you most consider to be an application killer?

A low MCAT score	
An unimpressive interview 27%	
A low undergraduate GPA24%	
Poor letters of recommendation 11%	
A poorly written personal statement 2%	
Lack of relevant experience 0%	

Do you use the traditional interview process or have you adopted the MMI process ?

Traditional interview process	
MMI process 6%	
Other12%	

Is transitioning to the MMI process something your program is considering?

Yes		
No		J
Not sure		

Does your school have an accelerated medical degree program with an undergraduate institution?

Yes	
No74%	

(If No) Does your school have plans to develop an accelerated program?

Yes 4%	
No	
Not sure	

### **On Seat Expansion**

In the past 5 years, has your medical school expanded the number os seats for its entering class?

#### (If Yes) By how many seats have you expanded?

25% or more5%	
15% to less than 25%8%	
5% to less than 15%	
Less than 5%	

(If Yes) Is your school planning any further seat expansion?

Yes	6	
No 599	6	
Not sure79	6	

(If the school has not expanded its number of seats) Is your school planning any seat expansion?

Yes	10%	
No	72%	
Not sure	17%	

43% of medical school admissions officers say that an applicant's MCAT score is the most important admission factor. Undergraduate GPA was listed as the second most important admissions factor, coming in at 28%.



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