Highlights from Kaplan Test Prep's 2012 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 accredited medical schools across the United States. The survey data collected helps guide the tens of thousands of medical school applicants Kaplan works with annually. (Numbers in parentheses reflect the findings of identically-worded questions from Kaplan's 2011 survey of medical school admissions officers.)

What Medical School Admissions Officers Say On:

- ▶ The 2015 MCAT®
- ▶ General Admissions Trends and Curriculum
- **▶** Getting to Know Applicants

About the survey methodology: Admissions officers from 75 Association of American Medical Colleges-accredited medical schools – including 18 of the top 25 programs as ranked by U.S. News & World Report – were polled by telephone in August and September 2012.

On the 2015 MCAT

1. Based on what you know about the new MCAT, do you support the approved changes?

Completely yes	41% (18%)	
Generally yes	46% (52%)	
Generally no	1% (3%)	
Completely no	0% (0%)	
Not sure	12% (27%)	

2. In order to sufficiently prepare students for the new MCAT, do pre-med programs need to revise their curricula?

Yes47% (67%)	
No	
Not sure	

3. (Asked only of those who answered "Yes") Given the implementation date of 2015 for the additional content, do you think pre-med programs have enough time to adequately revise their curricula?

Yes67% (52%)	
No	
Not sure	

4. How do you think the MCAT changes will affect the test's difficulty?

More difficult	22% (17%)
Less difficult	3% (3%)
Level of difficulty will remain	
about the same	50% (46%)
Not sure	25% (34%)

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

Yes74% (70%)	
No	
Not sure	

Nearly 75% of medical school admissions officers surveyed say the new MCAT will better prepare pre-med students for medical school.

6. How do you think changes to the MCAT will affect the courseload for pre-med students?

It will increase the courseload 40% (25%) It will decrease the courseload 0% (0%)	
The courseload will stay	
about the same	
Not sure	

7. Based on what you know of the 2015 MCAT, how might your program change the level of importance it places on an applicant's MCAT score.

Place more importance on an applicant's	
score in the admissions process12%	
Place less importance on an applicant's	
score in the admissions process1%	
No change in importance87%	

On General Admissions Trends and Curriculum

8. Which would you say is the most important admissions factor?

MCAT score	51% (43%)	
Undergraduate GPA	23% (28%)	
Relevant experience	14% (19%)	
Interview	6% (9%)	
Letters of recommendation	4% (2%)	
Personal statement		

9. Which would you consider to be the biggest application killer?

Unimpressive Interview
A low MCAT score
A low undergraduate GPA18% (24%)
Poor letters of recommendation17% (11%)
A poorly written personal statement1% (2%)
Lack of relevant experience

• 51% of medical school admissions officer say an applicant's MCAT score is the most important admissions factor, an increase from Kaplan's 2011 survey.

10. Does your school follow more of a course-specific requirement model or a course-competency model?

Course-specific requirement model61%	
Course-competency model38%	
Not sure	

11. (Only asked of those who answered "Course-specific requirement model"): Do you think your school will switch to a course-competency model?

Yes	
No	
Not sure	

On Getting to Know Applicants

12. Suppose the AAMC implemented a standardized policy regarding letters of recommendation in which all references had to address the same questions about an applicant, across all medical schools. Would you be in support of such a policy?

Yes43%	
No	
Not sure	

13. Do you use the traditional interview process or have you adopted the Multiple Mini Interview process?

Traditional interview process	76% (82%)	
MMI process	17% (6%)	
Other	7% (12%)	

14. (Asked only of those who answered "Traditional interview process") Is transitioning to the MMI process something your program is considering?

Yes31% (10%	%)
No62% (72%)	%)
Not sure	%)



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