Highlights from Kaplan Test Prep's 2013 Medical School Admissions Officers Survey

To ensure that aspiring doctors receive accurate and up-to-date information on trends in the medical school admissions process, Kaplan Test Prep annually surveys admissions officers from accredited medical schools across the United States.^{*} The survey data helps Kaplan provide informed guidance to tens of thousands of medical school applicants each year. (The numbers in parentheses are the results from identically worded questions asked in Kaplan's 2012 survey.)

What Medical School Admissions Officers Say About:

The 2015 MCAT[®]

• General Admissions Trends and Curriculum

Social Media Issues

On the 2015 MCAT

How familiar are you with the upcoming changes to the MCAT?

Very familiar:	
Somewhat familiar:	
Not too familiar:	
Not at all familiar:6%	

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

Completely yes:	
Generally yes: 55% (46%)	
Generally no:	
Completely no:	
Not sure:	

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

Yes:	
No:	
Not sure: 0% (22%)	

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

Yes:	
No:	
Not sure:0% (17%)	

How do you think changes to the MCAT will affect the course load for pre-med students?

Increase the course load: 33% (40%)	
The course load will stay	
about the same:67% (46%)	
Decrease the course load: 0% (0%)	
Not sure:	

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

Yes:75% (74%)	
No:	
Not sure:	

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

More difficult: 43% (22%)
Less difficult:
The level of difficulty will
remain about the same: 55% (50%)
Not sure:0% (25%)



On General Admissions Trends and Curriculum

Compared to three years ago, have you seen an increase or decrease in the number of applicants who have enrolled in post-bacc programs?

Increase:71%	
Decrease:0%	
No change: 29%	

Does strong performance in a post-bacc program improve an applicant's chances of acceptance?

Yes:	0%	
No:	0%	

Which of the following would better improve an average candidate's admissions chances?

Enrolling and succeeding	
in a post-bacc program:	
Doing clinical volunteer work	
for a year:14%	
Both are equal:	

When evaluating applications, how significant of a factor is clinical experience in deciding whether or not to admit a candidate?



More than 7 out of 10 admissions officers say they have seen an increase in the number of applicants who have enrolled in post-bacc programs.

On Social Media Issues

When it comes to visiting applicants' social networking pages and factoring what you find into the admissions process, does your school have official guidelines or policies?

Yes:	
No:	

Is your school considering developing any kind of policy or guidelines concerning social networking sites in the near future?

Yes:	19%	
No:	81%	

Have you ever Googled an applicant to learn more about them?

Yes:	
No:	

Have you ever visited an applicant's social networking page like Facebook to learn more about them?

Yes:	
No:	

Have you ever discovered something online about an applicant that negatively impacted their application?

Yes:	
No:	

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*For the 2013 survey, admissions officers from 79 medical schools (72 Association of American Medical Colleges-accredited; 7 American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine-accredited) were polled by telephone between July and September. MCAT® is a registered trademark of the Association of American Medical Colleges.