# **Highlights from** Kaplan Test Prep's 2014 **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.

### What Medical School Admissions Officers Say About:

MCAT<sup>®</sup> 2015

Admissions Issues

School Culture

#### **On MCAT 2015**

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

Completely yes:	
Generally yes: 56%	
Generally no:	
Completely no: 0%	
Not sure:	

Based on what you know about the new exam, and assuming they have taken all the necessary pre-regs, which MCAT would you recommend prospective students take?

The current MCAT:	
The new MCAT:	
It doesn't matter:	

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

Yes: 68%	
No:	
Unsure:	

Close to half of medical school admissions officers say it makes no difference which version of the MCAT an applicant submits.

Which of the following prerequisite courses were mandatory for students who are starting at your program this fall?

Biochem	
Yes:	. 27%
No:	. 72%
Unsure:	1%
And for 2016?	
Yes:	32%
No:	. 44%
Unsure:	. 24%
Psych	
Yes:	. 14%
No:	. 83%
Unsure:	3%
And for 2016?	
Yes:	15%
No:	62%
Unsure:	23%
Sociology	
Yes:	13%
No:	
Unsure:	
And for 2016?	
Yes:	14%
No:	63%
Unsure:	23%

With the elimination of the MCAT's Writing section, are there any other sections of the application you may look at more to evaluate students?

Yes-the interview:	
Yes-the personal statement: 13%	
Yes-leadership positions in	
extracurricular activities: 5%	
Yes-letters of recommendation:1%	
Yes-all of the above: 10%	
No:	

#### **On Admissions Issues**

Which of the following is the biggest application killer?

A low MCAT score:
Unimpressive interview: 24%
A low undergraduate GPA: 23%
Lack of relevant experience:
Poor letters of recommendation: 5%

Does your school plan to expand the number of seats over the next two application cycles?

Yes:	18%
No:	74%
Unsure:	8%

## By how much? (Asked only of schools that answered "Yes" to the above)

By under 5%: 7%	
Between 5% and 10%: 36%	
Between 11% and 15%: 7%	
Between 16% and 20%: 36%	
Over 20%: 14%	

#### **On School Culture**

Is your student culture more competitive or collaborative?

Collaborative:	
Is your school more research oriente teaching oriented?	d or
Teaching:	76%
Research:	24%
Are your class sizes small or large?	
Small:	
Large:	36%
Are your instructors more strict or m	ore lenient?
Strict:	67%
Lenient:	33%

Is the environment at your school more formal or casual?

Casual:	81%	
Formal:	19%	

A plurality of medical school admissions officers say a low MCAT score is "the biggest application killer.

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\*For the 2014 survey, 78 medical school admissions officers from across the United States (64 schools accredited by the Association of American Medical Colleges and 14 schools accredited by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine) were polled by telephone in August 2014. The MCAT® is a registered trademark of the Association of American Medical Colleges. The AAMC and AACOM are not affiliated with Kaplan.