

## Selecting Medical Schools

Spring 2009  
Office of Career Services  
Harvard College



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## Selecting Medical Schools

- “I can’t distinguish between them.”
- “What are the top medical schools?”
- “I’ll just apply to a lot and decide after I’m accepted.”



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## Understanding Rankings



***“Meaningless statistics were up 1.5 percent this month over last month.”***

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## Understanding Rankings



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## Understanding Rankings

Assessment methods appropriate?

- Research dollars
- Total faculty

Factors measured relevant to you?

Real-life value?

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## Self-Assessment

- What are your interests and needs in and out of school?
- What is your learning style?
- What are your priorities?
- In what kind of environment do you thrive?

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Medical School Characteristics

Mission

- Caring for underserved rural or inner-city population?
- Training primary care physicians?
- Religious focus?
- Preparing academic physicians?

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Medical School Characteristics

Science Curriculum

- Teaching Methods
  - Problem-Based Learning
  - Traditional Lecture Teaching
- Grading System
- Flexibility




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Medical School Characteristics

Science Curriculum

- Course structure
- Technology used
- Research required?
- Faculty

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## Medical School Characteristics

### Clinical Experience

- Timing and choices; flexibility of rotation schedule
- Diversity of patient population
- Number and diversity of affiliated hospitals
- Teachers
- Level of autonomy

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## Medical School Characteristics

- Combined Programs
- International Opportunities
- Research Opportunities
- Family Support
- Location and Environment



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## Medical School Characteristics

### State of Residency

- Interstate agreements
- Residency definitions



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## Medical School Characteristics

- **Students**
- **Selectivity**



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## Medical School Characteristics

### **Cost**

- Types of assistance
- Annual budget
- Housing assistance?
- In-state vs. out-of state tuition
- Financial aid office – aid package given after admission.

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## Gathering Information

### **Resources**

- Mission statements/school websites
- Medical School Admissions Data Report for Harvard Students
- *Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR)*
- Alumni evaluations

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## Gathering Information



- Application procedures and deadlines
- Selection factors such as MCAT & GPA data
- Medical school class profiles
- Costs and financial aid packages
- MD/PhD and other combined degrees
- Graduates' specialty choices

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## Gathering Information

### More Resources

- School visits during interview
- AAMC Curriculum Directory  
<http://services.aamc.org/currdir/start.cfm>
- Residency match statistics
- Student Doctor Network Forum  
<http://forums.studentdoctor.net>

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## Gathering Information

The screenshot shows the AAMC Curriculum Directory website. On the left, there is a search interface with a 'Search for Institutions' field and a 'GO' button. Below the search field, there is a section titled 'Curriculum Innovations for select American Colleges of Medicine of Interest' with a list of institutions and their curriculum details. On the right, there is a table titled 'Table 12: ERAC Residency Applicants and Applications of U.S. Medical School Graduates by Specialty, 2012'. The table has multiple columns including 'Specialty', 'Applicants', 'Applications', and 'Match Rate'. The table contains data for various specialties such as Anesthesiology, Cardiology, and Family Medicine.

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### Practical Matters

- Number of schools
- Early decision
- Deferral policies
- International students



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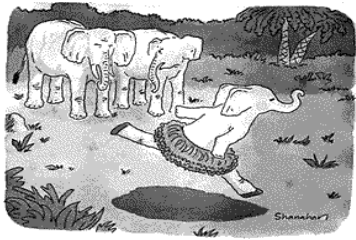
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### Selecting Medical Schools



***“Don’t trample on a young girl’s hopes and dreams, Roy.”***

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