Navigating the 2021 AMCAS Application Cycle for Applicants

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Agenda
• Alternative Grading
• AMCAS Application
  • AMCAS Process
  • 2021 Dates and Participation
  • 2021 Application
• Verification
• After Submission
• AMCAS Letter Service
  • The Letter Writer Application
  • Letter Guidelines
• Resources
• Q&A
Working with The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), the AAMC has identified the following three common policies academic institutions are implementing:

- Maintaining their current letter grade system with no change
- Offering opt-in pass/fail
- Offering mandatory pass/fail

In the AMCAS application, all courses with credit hours and letter grades are calculated into the AMCAS GPA, regardless of whether the credit is counted towards a degree or has been counted towards a school-calculated GPA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>AMCAS GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alternative Grading

Pass/fail and other non-qualitative, binary marks (credit/no credit, satisfactory/unsatisfactory) do not have value or weight on the AMCAS GPA.
### Applicant Scenario

#### Standard Grading & AMCAS GPA impact

Below is coursework entry for an applicant who received standard letter grades during the second semester of their Senior year. The applicant took four courses, three of those courses were classified as Biology (€). The biology classification will impact their BCPM GPA.

The applicant received official transcript (£) grades of A for all their courses. Their total credit hours earned for this semester was 12. Their AMCAS Grades (¥) converted to A’s for their courses this semester. This would be a common transcript of a school that did not change their grading policies.

| STAT  | CLASS | YEAR | TERM | NAME | NU | M | TYP | LAB/LEC | OT | GRD | OT HRS | SE | MHR | S | SU | PP | HR | S | AM | GRD |
|-------|-------|------|------|------|----|---|-----|--------|----|-----|--------|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SR BIOL | 2018 | S2 | INTR BIOL ANTHRO | LEC | A | 4 | 4 | A |
| SR BIOL | 2018 | S2 | PLANTS IN HUMAN AFFAIRS | LEC | A | 3 | 3 | A ¥ |
| SR ARTS | 2018 | S2 | THE FRANKFURT SCHOOL ON MASS CULTURE & FILM | LEC | A | 3 | 3 | A |
| SR BIOL | 2018 | S2 | CRIT ANALYSIS BIO RES | LEC | A | 2 | 2 | A |

The applicant’s grading history shows in their Senior year they received a 4.0 BCPM GPA (€).

The applicant’s calculated BCPM hours for their Senior year was 17 (€). As we learned from the coursework entry, 12 of those hours were received in their senior year second semester.

The applicant’s GPA for All Other (AO) courses was 3.40 (¥). Three of the 15 awarded credit hours (§) were from the applicant’s second semester Art course.

The applicant received an AMCAS GPA of 3.72 (ß) with 32 credit hours (Ȣ) earned for their senior year.

(ᵮ) represents their cumulative undergraduate GPA report.

#### Applicant Scenario

#### Pass/Fail AMCAS GPA impact

Below is coursework entry for the same applicant who has received Pass/Fail grades during the second semester of their Senior year (Spring 2018). The applicant took four courses, three of those courses were classified as Biology (€). The biology classification will impact their BCPM GPA.

The applicant received official transcript (£) grades of P for all their courses. Their total credit hours earned for this semester was 12. Their AMCAS Grades (¥) converted to P’s for their courses this semester.

| STAT  | CLASS | YEAR | TERM | NAME | NU | M | TYP | LAB/LEC | OT | GRD | OT HRS | SE | MHR | S | SU | PP | HR | S | AM | GRD |
|-------|-------|------|------|------|----|---|-----|--------|----|-----|--------|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SR BIOL | 2018 | S2 | INTR BIOL ANTHRO | LEC | P | 4 | 4 | P |
| SR BIOL | 2018 | S2 | PLANTS IN HUMAN AFFAIRS | LEC | P | 3 | 3 | P ¥ |
| SR ARTS | 2018 | S2 | THE FRANKFURT SCHOOL ON MASS CULTURE & FILM | LEC | P | 3 | 3 | P |
| SR BIOL | 2018 | S2 | CRIT ANALYSIS BIO RES | LEC | P | 2 | 2 | P |

The applicant’s grading history shows in their Senior year they received a 4.0 BCPM GPA (€).

The applicant’s calculated BCPM hours for their Senior year was 8(£). The remaining 9 hours from their second semester is now being counted under supplemental hours (ᵶ).

The applicant’s GPA for All Other (AO) courses was 3.25 (¥). Three of the 12 (§) awarded credit hours are from the second semester coursework and counted as supplemental hours (ᵶ).

The applicant received an AMCAS GPA of 3.55 (ß) with 20 credit hours (Ȣ) earned for their senior year.

(ᵮ) represents their cumulative undergraduate GPA report. All Pass/Fail credits are recorded in Supplemental hours (ᵶ). The applicant earned 12 Pass/Fail hours in their second semester.
Standard grades compared to pass/fail

Credit hours for standard grading scales are calculated in both quality points and the GPA.

1. AMCAS Weight x Semester Hours = Quality Points
2. Total Quality Points / Total Semester Hours = GPA

In the comparison below we’re showing the cumulative undergraduate history for both scenarios, pass/fail credit hours are counted as Supplemental Hours and not included in the GPA and hour totals, resulting in 12 less semester hours which reduced BCPM hours, All Other GPA and hours, and Total GPA and hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>BCPM GPA</th>
<th>BCPM Hours</th>
<th>AO GPA</th>
<th>AO Hours</th>
<th>Total GPA</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 1</td>
<td>Standard Grading Calculation</td>
<td>3.68</td>
<td>72.00</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>57.00</td>
<td>3.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 2</td>
<td>Pass/Fail Grading Calculation</td>
<td>3.64</td>
<td>63.00</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>3.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 2</td>
<td>Supplemental Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenario 2</td>
<td>Pass/Fail - Pass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How does AMCAS work?

Application Submitted
- Applicant completes & submits AMCAS application online
- Applicant pays submission fees (or uses valid Fee Assistance Program benefits)

Application Processed
- Applicant arranges for all required official transcripts to be sent to AMCAS
- AMCAS performs verification of coursework and calculates AMCAS GPAs

Application Delivered
- AMCAS distributes verified application to designated med schools
- AMCAS delivers letters to designated med schools as they are received
2021 Application Dates

**Application Deadlines**
- Application must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. ET of the deadline date.
- Transcript deadlines must be received by AMCAS within 14 calendar days of the application deadline date.
- Must be received by August 1 for early decision applicants.
- Visit [www.aamc.org/amcasdeadlines](http://www.aamc.org/amcasdeadlines)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date*</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>2021 AMCAS resources available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>AMCAS application opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>AMCAS application submission begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Initial transmission of application data to medical schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Early Decision Program deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept.-Dec.</td>
<td>Application deadlines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dates subject to change*
2021 AMCAS Participation

Tentative 2021 Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>153 Schools/Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All MD granting schools in the United States with the exception of MD programs at Texas public schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMCAS Letters</td>
<td>153 Schools/Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>128 Schools/Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background Checks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2021 AMCAS Application Fees:

- $170 processing fee (includes one school designation)
- $41 for each additional school

aamc.org/amcas

Accessing the Application

Sign In

Create AAMC Account
Register for an AAMC account to begin accessing products and services.
AAMC Registration

You should only complete registration if you do not have an AAMC ID.

My AAMC Profile

Name
Prefix
Select Prefix
First Name (required)
Middle Name
Middle Name
Generational Suffix
Select Suffix

Legal Name
Legal First Name (required)
Legal Middle Name
Timothy
Legal Last Name (required)
Brown
Legal Generational Suffix
Select Suffix
Select “2021 Application Cycle”

AMCAS Main Menu
AMCAS Main Menu (1/2)

AMCAS Main Menu (2/2)
Application Sections

1. Identifying Information
2. Schools Attended
3. Biographic Information
4. Coursework
5. Work and Activities
6. Letters of Evaluation
7. Medical Schools
8. Essays
9. Standardized Tests

Identifying Information
Schools Attended

Add College
City:
School Category:
Program Type:
Select Program Type:
Start Date:
End Date:
Other Options:
Advisor Release:
Do you authorize AMCAS to release your applications information to the school designated advisor(s) at this institution?
Yes
No

Transcript Request

Note: One official transcript is required from each U.S., U.S. Territorial, or Canadian post-secondary institution at which you have attempted course work, regardless of whether credit was earned.

If you click Yes, you must have an official transcript sent to AMCAS by the Registrar’s Office of the institution.

If you click No, this means that you are submitting a Transcript Exception Request and does not preclude you from transcript requirements. AMCAS will review your request and notify you if your Transcript Exception is not granted. This may result in delays for processing your application.

Does AMCAS require an official transcript from this school? Generally, a transcript is required. Please review this additional information if you need assistance in determining if a transcript is required.

Yes
No
Schools Attended

Biographic Information
Course Work

You should use a personal copy of your official transcript to complete this section.
Work/Activities

- Maximum of 15 entries
  - You can enter additional date ranges for repeated activities
- Maximum of 3 “Most Meaningful” Letters of Evaluation

Letters of Evaluation

You can submit your application before AMCAS receives your letters.
Medical Schools

Applicants should be sure to select the correct program type and be mindful of program and transcript deadlines.

Essay (1/2)

Some questions you may want to consider while drafting this essay are:

- Why have you selected the field of medicine?
- What motivates you to learn more about medicine?
- What do you want medical schools to know about you that hasn’t been disclosed in another section of the application?

In addition, you may wish to include information such as:

- Special hardships, challenges or obstacles that may have influenced your educational pursuits.
- Commentary on significant fluctuations in your academic record which are not explained elsewhere in your application.

Personal Comments Essay

Use the space provided to explain why you want to go to medical school. A

I want to go to medical school.
Applicants should indicate any future MCAT testing dates.

MCAT scores are automatically released to your application.

aamc.org/mcat
MCAT Scores

Score breakdowns and confidence bands will appear in the AMCAS application.

Certification Statements

Last step of application: certify data is accurate, submit, and pay processing fee.
**AMCAS Verification Process**

**Transcripts**
- All required official transcripts are required before an application can join the verification queue
- AMCAS accepts PDF eTranscripts from approved senders

**Processing**
- From date of “Ready to Review” application status, about 6 weeks
- Find processing updates on Twitter (@AMCASinfo) and on the AMCAS application sign in page

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**AMCAS Verification**

[Graph showing average number of business days to complete verification]

- 2020AY
- 2019AY
- 2018AY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2020AY</th>
<th>2019AY</th>
<th>2018AY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Aug</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>Sept</td>
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<td>Oct</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Application Reminders**

- Criminal Background Checks
- *Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants*

**Criminal Background Checks**

- Participating schools have checks run on accepted or waitlisted applicants
- Certiphi Screening, Inc. will notify applicants when the CBC has been initiated
- Applicants have 10 calendar days to review their report
- No additional charge to the applicant for this service

**CBC Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Status</th>
<th>CBC Procured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accepted, Early Decision Program</td>
<td>Upon Acceptance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted, Regular</td>
<td>After January 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate List</td>
<td>After May 15, by school's request only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application and Acceptance Protocols for Applicants

AMCAS Tools

- AMCAS Applicant Guide
- Application and Acceptance Protocols
- Video Tutorials
- Twitter
  - @AMCASinfo

aamc.org/amcas
Agenda

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  • The Letter Writer Application
  • Letter Guidelines

Resources
Q&A

Letters of Evaluation

Submission Methods:
• AMCAS Letter Writer Application
• Interfolio

Receive letters electronically, on a rolling basis after an application is verified

www.aamc.org/amcasletters
Letters of Evaluation

Letters of Evaluation Received, 2016AY – 2020AY

AMCAS Letter Writer Application

- Use an AAMC account (or create one) to upload PDFs quickly and securely—for free!

services.aamc.org/letterwriter/
Letter Writer Guidelines

Guidelines for Writing a Letter of Evaluation for a Medical School Applicant

Thank you for agreeing to write a letter of evaluation for a medical school applicant!

The guidelines are intended to enhance the letter-writing process by providing a general framework of best practices and relevant content for letter writers to follow. They are optional and can be applied to both individual and committee letters.

Guidelines

1. Provide an accurate assessment of the applicant’s suitability for medical school rather than advocate for the applicant.

Ask your letter writer to visit aamc.org/advisors to access the Guidelines for Writing a Letter of Evaluation for a Medical School Applicant

AAMC Fee Assistance Program
Fee Assistance Program Benefits

Benefits are NOT Retroactive

Fee Assistance Program Eligibility

- U.S. citizen
- U.S. national
- Lawful permanent resident of the U.S. (also known as a green card holder)
- Granted refugee or asylee status by the U.S. government,
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient
- Awaiting refugee or asylee status approval by the U.S. government and have a U.S. Employment Authorization Document (EAD card)
Fee Assistance Program Eligibility

- Tied to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' poverty level guidelines
- Requires parental financial information and supporting tax documentation

2020 Fee Assistance Program

aamc.org/fap
Monthly e-newsletter for applicants and helpful web content.

students-residents.aamc.org/navigator

Anatomy of an Applicant

- Core Competencies
- Self-Assessment Guide
- Student Profiles
Questions?

Please fill out the survey and tell us what you thought about this webinar!

The AAMC is here to help you navigate the 2021 AMCAS® application cycle.

202-828-0600  amcas@aamc.org  fap@aamc.org  @AMCASinfo