

## Essay(s)

You are required to submit an essay in the Personal Comments Essay section. You must complete two additional essays if you apply to an MD-PhD program: the MD-PhD Essay and the Significant Research Experience Essay. You also need to enter your total hours of research experience.

### Personal Comments Essay

Use the Personal Comments Essay as an opportunity to distinguish yourself from other applicants. Consider and write your Personal Comments Essay carefully; many admissions committees place significant weight on the essay. Here are some questions that you may want to consider while writing the essay:

- 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 other sections of the application?

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

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

#### Formatting Your Essay

- ! — **Medical schools receive all text entry responses as plain text. Therefore, formatting options such as bulleted lists, indented paragraphs, and bold/italic fonts do not appear for reviewers and are not available in the AMCAS application.** You may want to include an extra space between paragraphs because the essay does not permit indentation.

To avoid formatting issues, we recommend that you type your essay directly into your AMCAS application; copying formatted text into the application may result in formatting problems that cannot be edited after your application is submitted. If you do cut and paste your essay(s) into the application, you should draft your essay(s) in a plain text format, such as Microsoft Notepad or Mac TextEdit.

Please keep the following in mind:

- ! — • **Proofread carefully! No changes (including corrections to grammatical or typographical errors) may be made after you submit your application to AMCAS.**
- You cannot run a spell check in the AMCAS application, but most browsers have built-in spell checking that you may enable. Use English (United States) characters; other characters may not be accurately recognized.
  - Medical schools prefer to receive applications that follow normal writing practices regarding case. You should avoid use of all uppercase or all lowercase letters for the text responses in your application.
  - Plagiarism or misrepresentations will prompt an investigation.
  - It is not necessary to repeat information reported elsewhere on your application.
  - The essay will be sent to all the medical schools to which you have applied.
  - The space allotted for the essay is 5,300 characters, or approximately one page. Spaces are counted as characters. You will receive an error message if you exceed the space limit.