

Are You Planning to Reapply to Professional School? Things to Consider!

1. Make an appointment with a Pre-Professional advisor in OITE via the link on the website: https://www.training.nih.gov/career_services/appointments.
2. Find out if your state medical school will give you any feedback on your application and/or interview.
3. Identify the any weaknesses in your application: Science GPA, MCAT scores, clinical experience (you will need more than shadowing at NIH; schools want to be certain that you know what it's like to be a physician), leadership, personal statement, or interviews. Ranges of competitive GPAs, MCAT scores, and a list of other required components of a successful application can be found in *Applying to Medical School: Assessing Your Application* (<https://videocast.nih.gov/Summary.asp?File=18020&bhcp=1>). A similar workshop entitled *Choosing and Applying to Medical School* is scheduled for January 13, 2017.
4. Did your list of medical schools match your credentials? If not, re-assess your credentials and construct a list of 15 appropriate schools for the next cycle. Be sure you can discuss the reasons that a school is on your list.
5. Spend the time between now and the next cycle addressing each of your application's weaknesses. It doesn't make sense to reapply without addressing them.
6. If your GPA is a problem, taking one FAES course or community college course per semester is not likely to remedy it. You may require a "grade repair" postbaccalaureate program. Alternatively, you could enroll in graduate-level courses at a nearby university.
7. If your MCAT score is weak, re-examine your study strategies before you begin to study for the next one. Watch the OITE-NIH YouTube video on this topic at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwiDCxj5rVo>
8. Significant clinical experience is gained as a volunteer at a hospital. Demonstrated knowledge and excitement about the clinical environment are essential to a successful application.
9. Examine your personal statement. Does it address the prompt "Why do you want to be a physician?", or is it an (unacceptable) emotional story designed to catch someone's attention? Remember, medical schools want to know about you, not about a patient or family member you watched suffer or even your own suffering.
10. Please see the many resources available concerning personal statements, interview preparation, etc., at: https://www.training.nih.gov/career_services/postbacs_summer_students/Professional%20Development%20Resources

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