

## Identifying Medical Schools for Your AMCAS Application:

1. Create an AMCAS account and purchase the one year subscription to American Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) (<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar/>)
2. Look at the admission data for your in-state school(s) and confirm you are a competitive applicant. The relevant data include
  - The mean GPA, Science GPA, and MCAT scores for all applicants and matriculants.
  - Your own GPA and MCAT number should put you within the middle 75% of in-state residents who actually matriculated the previous year.
  - (Members of under-represented minorities have some leeway here, but do not over emphasize this advantage.)
3. Embark upon the time-consuming task of identifying PRIVATE medical schools and other state-supported medical schools that accept out-of-state applicants with numbers that match your own.
  - There is no short cut to this process. You simply *have* to find schools that accept out-of-state residents and will consider your application based on the numbers.
  - You should also identify a few (up to 3?) “*dream*” schools that accept 5 – 20% of their incoming classes with scores and grades similar to yours. Applying to schools that do not take any applicants within the range of your scores is foolish and a waste of your time and energy.
  - During this search, take time to read the mission statements, examine specialty education programs of interest (e.g., early patient clinic contact, research opportunities, community outreach, commitment to the underserved, etc.), and the medical specialties of a schools’ graduates. Match your interests with those of the schools and cut down your list accordingly. Be prepared to mention these specialty items of interest on secondary applications and in interviews.
4. Pare your list to 12 – 15 schools. If you re-take the MCAT and improve your scores, you can always add more schools to your list at any time. However, do not waste money and time on too many *dream* schools.

**Reminder:** OITE staff members review one draft of a personal statement and do not review or edit secondary application essays.