

**Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Office of Admissions
Policies and Procedures**

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I. Mission

Since 1843, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (CWRU SOM), based in Cleveland, Ohio, has been at the forefront of medical education, dedicated to enhancing human health, and a leader and innovator in healthcare education and biomedical research.

The CWRU SOM recognizes that admitting a broadly diverse cohort of students, both in the context of life experiences as well as individual perspectives, will bring a richness of experience and thought that will help to enrich the educational experiences of their fellow medical students and the overall learning and practice environment, which will also translate to stronger patient care and better understanding of the socioeconomic determinants of disease. The Medical Student Admissions Committee (MSAC) is guided in many ways by the Diversity Statement put forth by the University:

“Case Western Reserve University aspires to be an inclusive environment, believing that the creative energy and variety of insights that result from diversity are a vital component of the intellectual rigor and social fabric of the university.

As a scholarly community, Case Western Reserve is inclusive of people of all racial, ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, national and international backgrounds, welcoming diversity of thought, pedagogy, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, political affiliation and disability.

We believe in a culture of inclusion that encourages relationships and interactions among people of different backgrounds, a culture that enhances human dignity, actively diminishes prejudice and discrimination and improves the quality of life for everyone in our community.”

The MSAC is also guided by its own Diversity Statement:

“The goal of our admissions process is to further the mission of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, “to improve global health by linking research to populations in a superb educational

environment.” To best meet the needs of the diverse populations in Ohio and beyond, and to achieve the goals of the institution, the School of Medicine’s admissions process uses a balanced and holistic approach that considers an applicant’s academic metrics, experiences, and personal attributes in order to achieve the educational benefits of a diverse student body and future physician work force.”

The CWRU SOM admissions process is governed by the Medical Student Admissions Committee (MSAC) of the CWRU SOM which sets procedures and makes admissions decisions.

II. Charge, Composition and Role of the Admissions Committee

Charge:

The Medical Student Admissions Committee (MSAC) has final authority in annual decision-making regarding individual applicants and in the establishment of admissions policy and procedure. The committee defines standards of Medical School admission for renders acceptance decisions for all MD programs of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine which include 1) the CWRU MD program (“the WR2/University Program”), 2) the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of CWRU program (“the Lerner College Program”), and 3) the Medical Scientist Training program (“the MSTP”) for admission.

III. Pre-requisite Coursework and Other Requirements

1. Our premedical requirements are reviewed annually by the MSAC. Current pre-requisite course include:

Required for all programs:

- General chemistry: 2 semesters/3 quarters with 2 semesters of lab. AP/IB credit accepted.
- Organic chemistry: 1 semester with 1 semester of lab. AP/IB not accepted.
- Biochemistry (must include metabolism): 1 semester course, lab not required. One quarter of biochemistry is acceptable to meet the biochemistry requirement, however, a second quarter is recommended in preparation for the MCAT and to have a solid foundation for our curriculum.
- Writing/college English: 1 semester. This can also be fulfilled with other expository writing courses in the humanities. Science courses with extensive writing components can also fulfill this requirement. AP/IB credit not accepted.

MSTP also requires

- Advanced Biology or Biology Subfield: 1 semester, lab not required. AP/IB credit not accepted.
- Calculus or Statistics: 2 semesters/3 quarters. AP/IB credit accepted.

Recommended for all programs:

- Cellular Biology
- Physics
- Genetics
- Biostatistics

- Social and Behavioral Sciences (Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, etc.)
2. Letters of recommendation: we require three to five letters of recommendation, with at least two from recommenders who can comment on academic abilities (e.g. course professor) OR a committee letter that includes letters from other recommenders; given the research focus of CP and MSTP, an additional letter from a research mentor is required for both programs.
 3. For international students (UP and CP only), at least one year of graded coursework in an accredited US or Canadian four-year college or university.

IV: Competencies for our students

Personal attributes of applicants that we consider during our admissions process are based on the American Association of Medical Colleges' (AAMC) 17 core competencies for entering medical students. These competencies include Professional Competencies (commitment to learning and growth, cultural awareness, cultural humility, empathy and compassion, ethical responsibility for self and others, interpersonal skills, oral communication, reliability and dependability, resilience and adaptability, service orientation, teamwork and collaboration), Science Competencies (human behavior, living systems), and Thinking and Reasoning Competencies (critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, scientific inquiry, written communication). Assessment of these competencies is contextualized within the framework of holistic review.

V. Application Process

Applicants apply to the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine via the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS), and indicate via our secondary application to which program they will be applying. Candidates may apply to one, both, or all three of the programs of the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, and will be considered separately for each; program-specific essays will also be generated depending on the program selections. Note that given the similarities and differences among our three programs, applicants should think carefully about where their interests lie as a guide for which programs to apply to. Our MCAT threshold score is 495 and all candidates who apply with a score above the threshold will receive our secondary application.

VI. Selection for Interviews

Candidates may apply to one, both, or all three of the programs of the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, and will be evaluated separately by each program. Each program has a screening committee that functions under the approval and oversight of the MSAC. Applicants are evaluated holistically, with interview decisions based on a variety of different factors, including the competencies described in section IV and on other components of the application including individual attributes; academic credentials; letters of recommendation; extracurricular activities; exposures to medicine; essay responses; potential contributions to the learning environment, student body, institution, and to medicine; and other meaningful life experiences, including personal hardships and/or life challenges. The candidate's goals and alignment with program outcomes are also weighed in the decision-making process. Given the research focus of the CP and MSTP, sustained and productive research experience as well as potential for future research excellence are considered. Interview offers are made on a rolling basis.

VII. Interviews

Interviews are conducted virtually via Zoom. Candidates may interview with, and be considered separately for the University Program and College Program. University Program interviews are built into the MSTP interview process, and as a result, candidates may be considered for both of these programs if they so choose. All interviewers are blinded to MCAT and GPA. The program-specific interview processes are described below:

University Program: Interviewees for the University Program receive two interviews. One is the HEP (Health/Educational Professional) interview and the other, an interview with a current medical student.

College Program: Interviewees for the College Program receive two faculty interviews and one medical student interview.

MSTP: The MSTP interview spans two days and includes University Program interviews (with both HEP and medical student interviewers for the University Program with the same procedures as for University program candidates) plus three MSTP Steering subcommittee interviews and several additional interviews by faculty whose research is of interest.

Interview days for each program also include tours and relevant informational sessions.

VIII. Acceptance Processes

All acceptance decisions are made by the MSAC which convenes approximately every two weeks during interview season. During each committee meeting, candidates are presented to the Admissions Committee who, after relevant discussion, make individual, anonymous votes, the average of which will dictate whether a candidate is immediately accepted or held for further consideration.

Applicants are notified of their post-interview status on a “rolling admissions basis,” with notification occurring via iApply updates and only after October 15th, per AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) traffic rules.

IX. Transfer Policy

Given the timelines of our curricula, transfer students are not accepted.

X. Technical Standards

The technical standards were developed by a collaborative of faculty and administration in the School of Medicine with extensive consultation from the University’s Educational Services for Students (ESS) Disability Resources department.

The technical standards are distributed to accepted applicants with their acceptance offer. Prospective students, faculty, and others who wish to view the technical standards may view them online at <https://case.edu/medicine/md/admission/admission-requirements/technical-standards>

Accepted students review the technical standards with their acceptance notification materials and as part of confirming their acceptance, are asked to attest to their ability to comply with them, either with or without accommodations. The technical standards also include instructions and contact information

regarding how to request accommodations through the University's Office of Disability Resources in the Office of Student Affairs. Matriculated students will sign an annual attestation regarding the technical standards.

XI. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) program, Advanced Standing

The OMFS Program is a five-year program which enables dental school graduates to attend medical school with advanced standing while concurrently completing a dental graduate degree. Candidates apply for the OMFS program through the ADEA Postdoctoral **Application** Support Service (ADEA **PASS**). Information regarding application for the combined degree program can be obtained by visiting the OMFS website <https://case.edu/dental/departments-programs/oral-and-maxillofacial-surgery-omfs>

Approved by the Medical Student Admissions Committee (MSAC) of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine on October 27, 2016.