

13 Changes Medical School Admissions/AAMC Should Make for 2020-2021

		Admissions committee work will be a low priority for doctors/ faculty members this year.
Rolling Admissions	Suspend rolling admissions	Eliminates applicants' pressure to submit so early in the summer to get an edge.
Academic Grading	Accept all pass/fail grades, mandatory or optional	Students are experiencing varying social conditions that may impact their ability to fully engage in their studies.
Transcripts	Accept unofficial transcripts for initial screening	Ease the need to submit applications so early, by eliminating the delay between primary submission and verification.
MCAT	Accept late MCAT scores with equanimity	Later testing due to cancelled administrations should not put applicants at a disadvantage, another reason to suspend rolling admissions.
CASPer	AAMC should post information about CASPer test requirements	The AAMC should disseminate CASPer requirements widely.
		Advisors are inundated with questions from pre-meds in this uncertain time. They should not be burdened with writing committee letters.
Letters of Recommendation	Screen applications without letters of recommendation	While letters of recommendation are important parts of the vetting process, they will not be the priority for doctors and other healthcare professionals.
Clinical	Relax shadowing expectations	Premeds are non-essential personnel and are not allowed or needed in clinical environments at this time.
Service	Place a greater emphasis on service to the community	Reward applicants who are finding ways to support those who are ill or on the front lines.
Research	Relax expectations for research in 2020	Many students have had to abandon their research posts due to dislocation or have seen their summer research internships canceled.
Leadership	Define and interpret leadership skills more broadly	When people cannot convene physically, it becomes harder to evaluate leadership.
		Admissions offices will be running on skeleton staffing will lose staff members to illness or family leave needs.
Secondaries	Eliminate or minimize secondary essays/ fees and add question on COVID-19 challenges	Medical students and doctors, who have priorities and responsibilities related to the pandemic, will not be available for reviewing secondary essays.
		Interviews can take place later in the cycle if rolling admissions is suspended.
Interviews	Reconsider the requirement for on-campus interviews	In addition to being a financial burden on students, interviewing in person violates physical distancing protocols.
Costs	The Fee Assistance Program should increase its staffing, streamline its application process, change the income requirement	Many applicants are economically compromised at this time and may need to drop out of the cycle due to family financial limitations.

This list is the collaborative creation of Janet Snoyer from [The Mentoring Alliance](#), and Rob Humbracht from [Passport Admissions/Savvy Premed](#).