

Admissions Requirements

Academic Requirements

It is recommended that students enter medical school after four years of study in a college of arts and sciences. It is recognized, however, that a few exceptional students may be ready to enter graduate study in medicine after somewhat less preparation than is required to attain a bachelor's degree. Students holding advanced degrees in science or other fields are also considered. These students must meet all of the premedical requirements specified below, and it is also recommended that they have taken some recent high-level science courses. International (other than Canadian) students must have completed at least one year of study in an American college prior to application, and premedical requirements must have been satisfied in the United States.

The minimum requirements for admission to the first year class are:

1. Attendance for three academic years, or the equivalent, at an approved college of arts and sciences or institute of technology.
2. Satisfactory completion of the following courses, including laboratory work:

General Biology or Zoology (2 semesters)

General Chemistry (2 semesters)

Organic Chemistry (1 semester)

General Physics (2 semesters)

Biochemistry (1 semester)

These courses should be rigorous and broad in coverage, as opposed to dealing primarily with selected aspects of a discipline. The student of medicine enters a profession closely allied to the natural sciences and must be prepared to cope with chemistry and biology at a graduate level. Students who receive college acceleration credits in basic science subjects for Advanced Placement courses taken in secondary school are may substitute more advanced science courses for the traditional requirements listed above.

The Admissions Committee has no preference concerning major fields for undergraduate study and leaves this decision to individual students, with the advice that they advance beyond the elementary level in their field(s) of choice, rather than pursue an undirected program. A liberal education is the supporting structure for graduate study and must encompass understanding of the humanities, arts, and society, as well as the scientific foundation of technology and civilization.

Recommendations

Additional credentials, which must be submitted along with the AMCAS Application and Yale Supplemental Application, are an evaluation letter from the student's Premedical Advisory Committee (if the student's undergraduate college provides such a letter) and/or individual letters of recommendation. In the latter case, MD applicants are asked to submit three individual letters, two of which should come from science teachers.

MD/PhD applicants are asked to submit at least three letters, along with the corresponding MD/PhD recommendation forms, which are provided in the Yale Supplemental Application. Letters should come from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's research potential and promise as a physician-scientist, with one coming from the laboratory with which the applicant has been most recently associated. These letters should be submitted in addition to the premedical committee evaluation.

Admission Criteria

Yale School of Medicine seeks to provide an education in the scholarly and humane aspects of medicine and to foster the development of scholars and leaders who will advance medical practice and knowledge. The program of medical study provides a sound background in basic medical science and clinical experience that forms a basis for further study and experience at a postgraduate level. The program is oriented toward the solution of problems and allows considerable freedom for planning an individual curriculum according to the ability and interests of the student. An important aspect of the program is the opportunity to engage in original research. Data from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) suggest that more than 25% of Yale graduates pursue careers in academic medicine and research, but whatever medical career is chosen, the goal of the Yale program is to enable each student to make significant contributions to his or her field.

The Admissions Committee, in general, seeks to admit students who seem best suited for the educational program and aims of the School. In particular, it looks for intelligent, mature, and highly motivated students who show the greatest promise for becoming leaders and contributors in medicine. It also attempts to insure an adequate representation of women and all minority groups and a diversity of interests and backgrounds. All applications to the Yale University School of Medicine are given careful consideration without regard to sex, race, religion, national origin, financial status, or sexual orientation.

When evaluating candidates, the Committee takes into consideration many factors, including the applicant's intellectual abilities, academic and non-academic accomplishments, personal qualities, and suitability for Yale. Committee evaluations are based on the applicant's academic record, Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) scores, research experience, activities and accomplishments, recommendations from pre-medical committees and individual science teachers, and personal interviews. The Committee selects students whose overall level of achievement is exceptional, on the assumption that these students will continue to perform in an outstanding manner. It is possible in some instances for an applicant to be somewhat weaker in a particular area and have this weakness balanced by unusual strength in another. Most admitted applicants, however, have attained a high level of academic achievement as indicated by their grades and MCAT scores. Activities and accomplishments are of considerable importance in distinguishing candidates as individuals and demonstrating an ability to make significant independent contributions. Such activities may occur in scientific or medicine-related fields and may also occur in other areas, such as the humanities, arts, athletics, journalism, and in the applicant's work experience.

The Admissions Committee also considers very carefully personal qualities necessary for the successful study and practice of medicine. These include integrity, common sense, personal stability, dedication to the ideal of service, and ability to inspire and maintain confidence. Finally, the Committee seeks to admit students who will be able to function within the Yale program of medical education and benefit from it. Students should have an awareness of the Yale program and the purpose of the dissertation. The Committee looks, therefore, for evidence of maturity, self-discipline, strong motivation, creativity, enthusiasm, and imagination. It is assumed that students are prepared to undertake serious independent study in their field of interest and that they will benefit from guidance and stimulation rather than compulsion or competition for relative standing in the group.

Admission Procedures

Application Process

Yale participates in the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). After submitting the AMCAS application, students are invited (by email) to submit an online Yale Supplemental Application. (Paper Supplemental Applications are not used.)

Admissions Committee Membership & Organization

The 2016-2017 Admissions Committee is composed of 89 members, including 75 faculty members from various departments, and 14 students – 12 MD students who are participating in a fifth year of research or joint degree program and 2 MD/PhD students in the PhD portion of their program. 78 members are divided into three interview subcommittees (Groups A, B, and C), and 11 members are assigned to Group D. In addition, 12 senior members of the Committee constitute a screening subcommittee. Responsibilities associated with these groups are given below.

Prescreening & Screening

When completed, applications are prescreened by the Chairperson of the Admissions Committee and the Director of the Office of Admissions to identify especially outstanding candidates for early interview scheduling and to reject (provisionally) the least competitive candidates. The remaining applications are screened independently by two members of the screening subcommittee to determine which candidates will be invited for interviews.

Approximately 1,250 applications will go through this screening process, which is conducted by members of an 8-person group of senior Admissions Committee members, who are also members of one of the interview subcommittees. Each application must be screened twice, which means 2,500 screenings will be conducted, and each member of the 8-person screening group will be responsible for 250-300 applications.

In screening, a rating is assigned to each application to determine the priority for interview invitations (see instructions for screening). All aspects of the applicant's record enter into the screening rating. Those applicants falling (approximately) in the top 25% of the total of the two ratings are invited for interviews.

Interviews & Interview Reports

Members of Groups A, B, and C interview applicants and meet every three weeks to discuss their interviewees and nominate the strongest candidates to be considered by Group D. Group D meets every two weeks in the fall and weekly in the spring to evaluate these nominated applicants and determine a rank order upon which final decisions will be based.

Applicants are interviewed by two members of the same subcommittee (A, B, or C). Interviews are conducted according to the preferences of individual interviewers, although all interviews should attempt to assess certain qualities (see section on the Personal Interview). Most interviewers have found that encouraging applicants to talk about themselves by asking them to discuss their interests, activities, attraction to medicine, and personal goals is a satisfactory procedure. In general, the purpose of the interview is to assess motivation and personal characteristics of the applicant not immediately apparent in the application. Following the review of the application and the interview, each Committee member submits an interview report, which includes an evaluative rating of the applicant and a recommendation regarding nomination for consideration by Group D.

Each Committee member in Groups A, B, and C is expected to interview 20-25 candidates.

Committee members provide time slots on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays when they will be available for interviews, and applicants are scheduled for these slots. Members receive an advance schedule of their interview appointments via email, as well as copies of the applications of candidates with whom they are scheduled to meet. Interview reports are submitted electronically to the admissions office.

Group Meetings

Applicants are discussed in the next subcommittee meeting (Group A, B, or C) following the interview. The interviewers briefly summarize the applicant's record and accomplishments, present their impressions of the interview, and answer questions raised by other members of the committee. After each discussion, by vote of the committee, the applicant is then nominated (or not) for consideration by Group D.