

May 1, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

We hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy during our current COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

As we navigate this unusual and complex situation, we have made significant and important changes to our upcoming admissions cycle. These discussions have involved the Admissions Committee and multiple internal and external stakeholders.

We have discussed the following changes for the Admissions Cycle 2020-2021:

Our previous 7 criteria will be combined into 5 criteria.

2019 Requirements

Academic:

GPA

MCAT

Activities:

Community Service

Leadership

Patient Exposure

Physician Shadowing

Research

2020 Requirements

Academic:

GPA

MCAT

Activities:

Community Engagement

Clinical Experience

Intellectual Curiosity

The admissions committee recognizes that for many future applicants, significant plans for this time period have been disrupted in preparation for the medical school application process. The committee also realizes that many applicants have built up a sustained record of activities that pre-date the COVID-19 crisis and want to be recognized for these efforts.

In an effort to balance these two considerations, the Admissions Committee has combined existing application requirements into 5 academic and activity-related criteria (detailed below), and will emphasize the holistic nature of reviewing each application in detail pre-, during-, and post-COVID-19.

The consolidation of these criteria is being done to communicate current expectations, to help simplify our admissions process, and to provide flexibility to future applicants. **Thus, there will be no minimum hour recommendations for our three (3) new activity-related criteria (Community Engagement, Clinical Experience, and Intellectual Curiosity) for the application cycle of 2020-2021.** For applicants who have already developed multiple experiences (prior to March 2020) with community service, leadership ability, patient exposure, physician shadowing, and research, their efforts will be recognized during our holistic admissions process. Applicants should still continue to record and document their hours for previous, current, and future activities and communicate these accordingly in their application.

The committee understands that an activity may be considered for more than one of our criteria (leadership position in a research lab for example); it is necessary that applicants document and explain why a singular activity may be included in multiple criteria in the secondary application.

As we collect information and data this upcoming year, we may bring back minimum hour recommendations for future application cycles.

We will maintain our GPA and MCAT thresholds for the 2020-2021 cycle, however, we will allow for MCAT deadline extensions (as permitted by the AAMC) and pass/fail grades for premedical coursework beginning with the Spring and Summer 2020 semesters. Fall 2020 and beyond are being closely monitored, and requirements will be adjusted as needed.

We look forward to your application. Please stay safe and healthy during these challenging times.

Regards,

University of Utah School of Medicine Office of Admissions