

Applying as a URM (Under Represented Minority)? Here's your need-to-know...

But First, A Few FAQ:

Q: What exactly is a URM?

A: Currently, the definition of URM includes African American, Mexican-American, Native Americans (American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians), Pacific Islanders, and mainland Puerto Ricans.

Q: Is it like Affirmative Action?

A: No. There's no quota that medical schools must fill regarding admission of URM.

Q: Why do medical schools care?

A: As the institution of medical education has recognized the importance of Patient Centered Care, it has similarly recognized that having a workforce of medical professionals that accurately reflect our diverse patient population is integral to developing cultural competence. Learning in such an environment increases exposure to different viewpoints and ultimately results in more effective doctor-patient alliances.

Q: Should I identify myself as a URM?

A: Yes! Although there's no URM box to check. By identifying your ethnicity, medical schools will decide whether or not you're a URM (using the above mentioned criteria).

Resources for URM:

SNMA: The **Student National Medical Association** in their own words "is the oldest and largest student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color." The undergraduate and post-bac students within SNMA are represented by **MAPS (Minority Association of Pre-medical Students)**. Being a member can give you access to **scholarships, discounts** on exam prep materials, **leadership** opportunities, and immense **networking**. Check out www.snma.org/premedical.php for information regarding the chapter nearest your university.

There are also plenty of scholarship opportunities for URM: You should utilize your university's Office of Career Services/ Office of Continuing Education and/or Online resources (Like www.Scholarship.com) to identify appropriate scholarships.

Identifying as an SES "Disadvantaged Student": Identifying as a disadvantaged student is different than identifying as an underrepresented minority. It is a tool used by AMCAS (developed by AAMC) to help medical schools view your application in the right context. Definitions regarding this status are offered on the AAMC website: https://services.aamc.org/AMCAS2_2010/WebApp/Help/WebHelp/Disadvantaged_Status.htm

Once you're accepted!

Many medical schools have various offices that focus on culture and diversity in academic medicine. Check out their respective Diversity Office, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Cultural Affairs, Student Groups, and of course, the local SNMA chapter.