

A grayscale photograph of a hand holding a pen, writing on a medical form. The form has fields for "Patient's Social Security #", "First", "Last", "Date of Birth", "Sex (check one)", "Race", "Physician's #", and "Initial". A pair of glasses is resting on the form. The background is blurred.

MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICATION FINAL STEPS CHECKLIST

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Now that it's officially May, the AMCAS submission date is inching closer. Hopefully, by now you've completed your prerequisites, received your MCAT score, and received enough shadowing and volunteering hours under your belt. However, because the process is so competitive, you never know whether you've done enough. We've prepared a checklist for you to look over as you ensure you've given it your all.

Register for an [AMCAS account](#) and fill out all aspects of your profile. Double-check to make sure you've correctly entered your address, school information, and other easily missed out details.

If you've taken the MCAT, make sure your score has been sent properly because you don't want to apply without an MCAT score!

If you haven't ordered an official transcript from all of the colleges that you've attended, make sure to do it now! These might take time to arrive so best to arrange for them as early as possible.

Double-check with your recommenders to see that they've submitted all of their letters. Your application won't be considered complete until the letters have been sent.

Put any final touches necessary on your personal statement. Make sure you've written a story that is compelling and unique to you. You must demonstrate a dedication to the field of medicine.

Double-check that if you've added all of the important details for your activities. Admissions committees will need to know that you've truly put yourself out there and worked hard.

Finalize your school list (if you haven't already).

Proofread everything. Make sure all of the information has been entered correctly and that you're sticking to the deadlines.

As you wait for your application to be verified, continue to work on your extracurriculars.

Start drafting your secondaries before they come out. There are often [prompts](#) that are repeated, so it's best to prepare beforehand.

Once your application has been verified, you will receive the secondaries for your schools. The first secondaries are released around late June and early July. You should ideally take about two weeks to turn in the secondaries, as the time you take reflects your interest in the school.

The medical school application process is getting increasingly competitive each year. More students get rejected than accepted per year, which goes to show how on top of your game you have to be in order to succeed. And a lot of it happens in filling out the AMCAS, properly editing your personal statement, and preparing secondary essays in advance. Good luck!