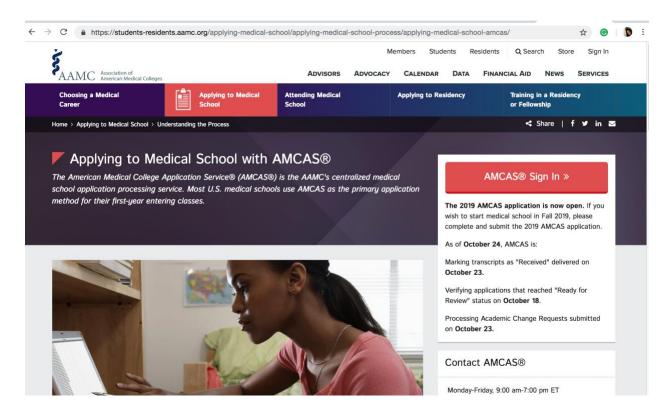
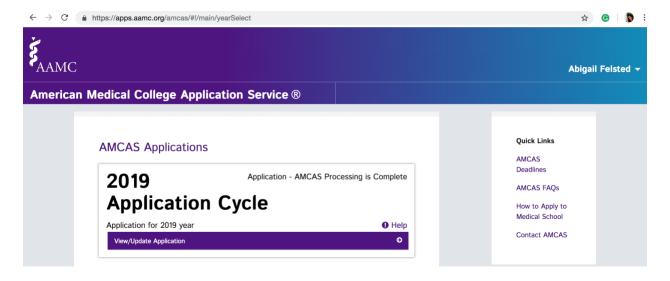
## THE PRIMARY APPLICATION

By: @abisanatomy

Step 1: Create your account. This site will open for you to register in May of the year you are applying to medical school. I recommend getting on in May to get started on your application.

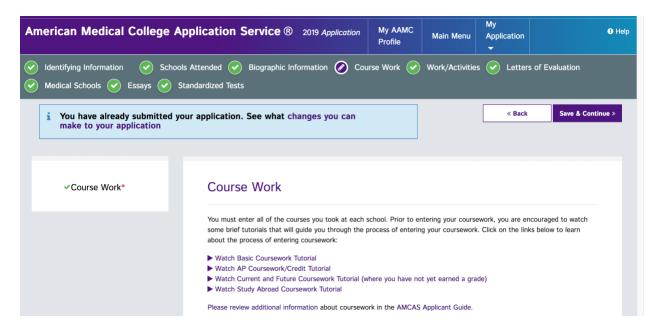


Step 2: You will pick the year you plan to apply to medical school. This is what your page will look like. Click on your application.

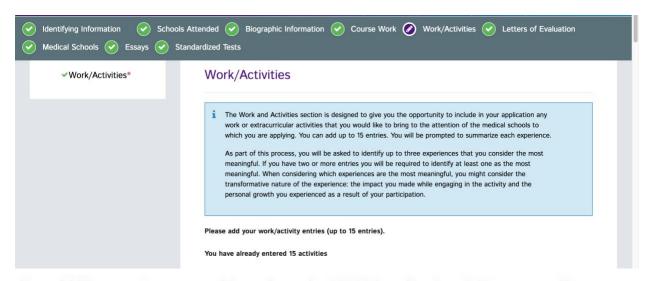


Step 3: Your main application will have each of these sections. You will fill out detailed information about your identifying information (your name, date of birth, sex, gender, etc.)

Next you will identify the universities you attended. You then fill out your biographic information which includes your ethnicity/race, family information, languages spoken, income, etc. The course work section takes the longest to fill out because you must manually input every college level course you have taken, including AP classes. You will list their credit hours and your grade. You must fill the classes out correctly otherwise AMCAS will be delayed in processing your application. You are required to list ALL classes you took including classes you re-took. In the work and activities section you will list 15 activities that you have participated. You will also list where your letters of recommendation are coming from. Finally you will list the medical schools you want to apply to and enter your personal statement.



Step 4: Your work/activities section will take some time and effort. Essentially you have 18 categories to identify your activity in. You need to describe your activities in 700 characters. You will get to pick three activities that are the "most meaningful" and you will get to write an extra essay about them in 1,225 characters. Think of these as mini personal statements. Just because this isn't your official personal statement does not mean you should take them lightly. Admissions committee members read thousands of applications and you want your activities to sound meaningful to you.



I would like to point out two things about the AMCAS application. 1. Everyone talks to premeds about getting "patient exposure, shadowing, volunteering, research, etc". These are not real categories when you enter your activities. The real categories are:

- Artistic Endeavors
- o Community Service/Volunteer Not Medical/Clinical
- Community Service/Volunteer Medical/Clinical
- o Conferences Attended
- Extracurricular Activities
- Hobbies
- o Honors/Awards/Recognitions
- o Intercollegiate Athletics
- o Leadership Not Listed Elsewhere
- Military Service
- <o Other
  - Paid Employment Medical/Clinical
  - o Paid Employment Not Medical/Clinical
  - Physician Shadowing/Clinical Observation
  - o Presentations/Posters
  - o Publications
  - Research/Lab
  - Teaching/Tutoring/Teaching Assistant

Step 5: Your personal statement. This is a highly important essay that is limited to 5,300 characters. You are essentially answering the question "why do you want to go into medicine." You need to show why they should pick you. The steps for approaching this are:

- 1. Remember why you want to go into medicine
- 2. Identify what interesting things about you stand out
- 3. Identify a story or good "hook" to open the statement
- 4. Start writing. I know it's hard when you don't know where to start. I have 18 drafts of my personal statement and it changed so much over time. Don't worry about characters or spelling just brain dump onto a page.
- 5. Spend a few nights a week looking over your personal statement and making edits until you are somewhat satisfied with a story.
- 6. Send it to every single person you know. Only send it one at a time though because people will edit an old draft.
- 7. Send it to more people. ESPECIALLY people who are English/writing professionals AND people in medicine or medical school.
- 8. If you are really struggling, take it to your school's writing center or ask advice from a writing agency.
- 9. You can do it!