



Post-MCAT Questionnaire

2020 Report

February 2021

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2020 AAMC Post-MCAT Questionnaire Summary Report

Executive Summary

Background

The Post-MCAT Questionnaire (PMQ) is administered by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The survey collects information from individuals who have taken the Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®) for the purpose of helping medical schools and medical educators understand more about aspiring and potential medical students. The Summary Report presents data from the 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 PMQs. Copies of the Summary Report and the survey tool are publicly available on the AAMC website at www.aamc.org/data/pmq.

Methodology

The PMQ is administered online. MCAT registrants are invited via email to take the PMQ within four days of sitting for the exam. In prior years, PMQ participants had three weeks to complete the survey. Limiting the time to respond to the survey to three weeks ensured that examinees could only respond to the PMQ prior to receiving their MCAT scores. In 2020, the PMQ's administration schedule was adjusted to accommodate MCAT exams with expedited score releases. In these cases, PMQ participants had twelve days to complete the survey. MCAT registrants are invited to take the PMQ each time they take the MCAT.

Of the 85,046 individuals invited to take the PMQ, 33,339 individuals responded (for a response rate of 39.2% in 2020). While MCAT examinees are eligible to participate in the PMQ each time that they take the MCAT, the PMQ Summary Report only includes information from the first PMQ that an individual completed. Survey data for participating individuals may not be comparable to data for non-participants.

PMQ Content Changes

Content of the PMQ was changed during the 2019 PMQ cycle as a result of on-going efforts to re-engineer the AAMC Student Surveys. Therefore, data for some sections of this report are not displayed for years prior to 2020. For new survey items, comparisons to prior years cannot be made. Blank rows and columns indicate that comparable data are not available.

Selected Findings

Background Information

Respondents most often were categorized with having an AAMC SES Education Occupation (EO) indicator of EO-5, which indicates that the highest education level of any parent reported was a doctoral degree, and that parent worked in an executive, managerial, or professional occupation (25.4% in 2020). The number of respondents reporting an SES EO indicator of EO-1, which indicates that the highest education level of any parent reported was less than a college degree regardless of occupation, has decreased steadily over the past five years to 24.1% in 2020.

Premedical Experiences

Just over three-fifths of respondents each year indicated that they definitely decided to study medicine before college, either before high school or during high school (61.9% in 2020). Over half of respondents in 2020 had taken courses at a four-year college or university within the three months before their MCAT exam (59.9% in 2020). In all five years, the majority of respondents were full-time students throughout their undergraduate education (93.4% in 2020).

MCAT Preparation

PMQ respondents used a diverse set of preparation resources to prepare for the MCAT exam. The preparation resources most commonly reported by respondents were Official MCAT Practice Exams (85.4% of respondents in 2020) and MCAT preparation books published by a commercial company (72.6% of respondents in 2020). Nearly 90% of respondents took a timed online practice exam with scheduled breaks to mimic the exam day to prepare for the exam (89.7% in 2020).

Career Plans and Interest

Each year, the majority of respondents indicated that they are “Very likely” to apply to an MD-granting medical program (86.8% in 2020). In the last five years, the percentage of respondents indicating that “availability of social support in medical school” would encourage them to apply to medical school has increased from 52.4% in 2016 to 63.9% in 2020. In all five years, the most commonly cited item that would discourage respondents from applying to medical school was “Grades, MCAT scores, and other academic qualifications” (72.5% in 2020).

Financial Information

Each year, less than half of respondents indicated that they have, or will have, outstanding education loans for their college/premedical education (38.6% in 2020). For those with debt, the median education debt increased from \$26,000 in 2019 to \$27,000 in 2020. Additionally, respondents who had noneducational, consumer debt reported a median debt increase from \$7,000 in 2019 to \$8,000 in 2020.

Coursework

Just over a fifth of respondents had taken or had been taking Public Health in 2020 (23.8%), an increase from 20.8% in 2016. In all five years, about three quarters of respondents had taken or had been taking a course in molecular or cellular biology at the time of their MCAT exam (74.8% in 2020).

Providing Feedback

We encourage constituents to provide feedback regarding the PMQ report. If you would like to provide feedback, please contact pmq@aamc.org.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total number of individuals who responded to the questionnaire:	32,563	32,316	30,425	28,251	33,339
1. Sex:					
Note: This information is populated from other AAMC data sources (e.g., MCAT).					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	43.1	41.5	39.7	39.1	37.2
Female	56.9	58.5	60.3	60.9	62.8
Number of respondents	32,469	32,224	30,348	28,166	33,235
2. How do you self-identify?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. Self-identified race/ethnicity is only reported for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Self-identified race/ethnicity and citizenship/permanent residency status are populated from other AAMC data sources (e.g., MCAT).					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9
Asian	18.6	19.2	19.7	19.2	20.9
Black or African American	9.5	9.7	9.6	10.1	10.1
Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin	10.1	9.8	10.8	11.1	10.8
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
White	50.0	50.8	50.7	49.9	49.7
Other	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.4
Non-U.S. Citizen and Non-Permanent Resident	15.2	14.2	14.0	14.5	13.8
Number of respondents	31,641	31,404	29,851	27,716	32,722

3. Parental Education and Occupation

The Socioeconomic Status (SES) Education Occupation (EO) indicator classifies individuals into five ordered groups (EO-1 through EO-5) based on four aggregated categories of education (No college degree, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Doctoral degree) and two aggregated categories of occupation (Executive, managerial or professional; Service, clerical, skilled and unskilled labor). The lowest (most disadvantaged) SES group is EO-1, and the highest is EO-5. Determination of an EO indicator is based on having both education and occupation information for at least one parent. If a respondent provided complete information for two parents, the EO indicator displayed is for the parent with the higher value. The EO indicator is only reported for U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
EO-1 Less than a college degree (regardless of occupation category)	26.7	25.8	25.5	25.4	24.1
EO-2 College, master's, or doctoral degree; Service, clerical, skilled and unskilled labor occupations	8.8	8.6	8.7	8.9	8.8
EO-3 College degree; Executive, managerial or professional occupations	20.9	21.0	22.0	21.9	21.2
EO-4 Master's degree; Executive, managerial or professional occupations	19.3	20.3	20.2	20.0	20.6
EO-5 Doctoral degree; Executive, managerial or professional occupations	24.3	24.4	23.6	23.8	25.4
Number of respondents	26,454	26,725	25,248	23,263	27,742

4. When did you definitely decide that you wanted to study medicine?

	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
I have not definitely decided that I want to study medicine	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.7
Before high school	26.7	27.4	27.9	27.8	27.8
During high school/before college	31.7	31.4	31.6	32.6	34.1
During the first two years in college	18.0	18.0	17.6	17.7	17.7
During junior year in college	7.7	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.1
During senior year in college	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.0
After receiving a bachelor's degree	7.7	8.1	7.7	7.2	6.6
After receiving an advanced degree	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Number of respondents	31,326	31,057	29,278	27,194	31,906

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
5. Please indicate any experiences in which you have participated.					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Middle school premedical or science program	10.6	11.2	10.7	11.3	11.1
Magnet science/health science high school	7.9	8.2	8.7	8.9	9.5
Summer laboratory research apprenticeship for high school students	9.0	9.5	9.4	9.4	10.0
Classroom-based summer, after-school, or Saturday premedical program for high school students	9.1	9.4	9.0	9.0	10.1
Laboratory research apprenticeship for college students	49.4	51.4	51.8	51.0	50.7
Summer academic enrichment program for college students	14.6	15.6	15.6	15.8	15.2
Non-degree post-baccalaureate program to strengthen academic skills	7.6	7.2	7.7	7.7	7.5
Non-degree post-baccalaureate program to complete premedical requirements	8.6	7.9	8.4	7.8	7.4
Volunteered in the healthcare field	84.5	85.5	86.0	86.2	84.9
Volunteered in a non-healthcare field	76.6	77.3	77.0	77.4	79.9
International volunteer experience	27.0	27.4	26.9	26.2	24.8
Shadowed a physician or other healthcare professional	80.1	82.0	82.3	82.0	80.9
None of the above	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.5
Number of respondents	31,168	30,922	29,249	27,119	31,806
6. During the last three months, what describes your attendance at school or college?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
I did not attend any school in the last three months		24.1	25.1	25.7	27.6
High school		1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4
Community college		2.1	2.0	2.1	1.7
Four-year college or university		62.1	61.7	61.2	59.9
Post-baccalaureate premedical program		6.5	6.1	5.8	5.1
Graduate/professional program (e.g., MS, PhD, JD)		7.5	7.4	7.6	7.9
Number of respondents		30,701	29,068	26,952	31,622
7. What best describes your enrollment status throughout your undergraduate education?					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Full-time	93.2	93.3	93.2	93.1	93.4
Full-time during some years and part-time during others	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	4.9
Part-time	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
Number of respondents	30,925	30,692	28,913	26,799	31,440

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
8. Have you already graduated from college?					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	47.1	49.1	49.8	50.3	53.0
No	52.9	50.9	50.2	49.7	47.0
Number of respondents	30,991	30,709	29,064	26,944	31,593
9. How many years have passed since you graduated from college?					
Note: Only those who responded "Yes" to Q8 could respond to this item.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Less than 1 year	41.7	42.7	43.2	42.6	42.0
1-2 years	29.0	28.8	28.7	29.6	31.9
3-4 years	16.2	15.5	15.6	15.3	14.1
5 or more years	13.1	13.0	12.5	12.5	12.0
Number of respondents	14,562	15,056	14,370	13,481	16,671
10. How did you spend your time between college and taking the MCAT?					
Note: Those who responded "Less than 1 year" in Q9 could not respond to this item. Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Worked at another career	53.8	55.0	55.8	55.2	55.1
Worked to improve finances	43.4	44.2	44.7	45.1	45.7
Continued coursework to prepare for the MCAT exam	40.3	41.2	42.3	42.6	40.7
Continued coursework to fulfill premedical requirements	25.6	24.8	25.7	24.6	23.1
Took premedical courses for the first time	12.3	11.8	11.3	10.4	8.9
Pursued graduate studies	30.9	30.6	30.9	31.4	31.6
Worked/volunteered internationally	13.0	12.6	12.8	12.3	10.5
Worked/volunteered in research	39.3	37.8	39.2	39.6	40.4
Helped fulfill family obligations	29.4	30.7	33.9	35.7	36.4
Other	7.7	7.9	7.6	8.1	6.7
Number of respondents	8,454	8,603	8,138	7,719	9,649

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
11. What strategies did you use to structure your preparation?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Got started by finding out what is tested on the MCAT exam					81.4
Discussed the test and how to prepare with an advisor or fellow students					48.1
Created a study plan to fit my schedule					75.2
Identified my strengths and weaknesses using a practice exam					78.3
Focused study time on my weaker subject areas					74.6
Planned time for relaxation/breaks					62.0
Assessed my learning progress along the way by taking practice exam(s)					82.4
Assessed my readiness for the exam by taking a final practice exam					78.4
Other					2.3
Number of respondents					30,430

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
12. What strategies did you use to learn the concepts tested on the exam?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Tested my understanding of what I had studied					80.7
Wrote down notes about what I was learning from memory					56.5
Answered practice questions as I studied each topic					87.8
Explained why the answer choices in practice questions were correct or incorrect					74.7
Reviewed content I had already studied throughout my preparation					82.6
Mixed my review of different topics throughout studying					74.9
Explained concepts aloud or to a study partner/friend					41.9
Created or used flashcards of important details					67.4
Other					1.5
Number of respondents					30,321

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
13. What kinds of resources did you use to prepare for the MCAT exam?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
What's on the MCAT Exam? Interactive tool					25.1
The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam (print version or e-book)					37.9
The Online Practice Questions from the Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam					41.1
Official MCAT® Practice Exams					85.4
Official MCAT® Sample Test					56.4
Official MCAT® Question Packs					64.3
Official MCAT® Section Bank					60.4
Official MCAT® Flashcards					42.8
How to Create a Study Plan for the MCAT® Exam					10.0
Practice with Exam Features (free tool to simulate the MCAT® Exam test taking experience)					24.4
How I Prepared for the MCAT® Exam Testimonials					7.1
Roadmap to the MCAT® Content in Sociology and Psychology Textbooks					2.9
Roadmap to the MCAT® Content in Biochemistry Textbooks					2.7
Khan Academy					71.0
MCAT preparation book (paper version) published by a commercial company					72.6
MCAT preparation book (electronic version or e-book) published by a commercial company					22.5
MCAT practice tests published by a commercial company					62.0
Books, handouts, practice questions, or other materials from an MCAT test preparation course offered by a university, medical school, or post-baccalaureate program					20.4
MCAT-related social media sites, blogs, and online communities					43.6
Free online flashcard generators					37.3
Other free MCAT preparation resources					39.3
Other educational materials that are not specifically labeled for MCAT preparation (e.g., textbooks, course notes, online modules, journals)					21.8
Number of respondents					29,971

14. How useful were each of the following resources to prepare for the MCAT exam?**Note: Only those who selected a given resource in Q13 could respond to this item.**

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating				Count
	Not useful	Somewhat useful	Useful	Very useful	
What's on the MCAT Exam? Interactive tool					
2020	3.0	30.3	44.9	21.8	6,903
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam (print version or e-book)					
2020	3.7	29.7	42.5	24.1	10,445
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
The Online Practice Questions from the Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam					
2020	1.5	15.4	43.3	39.8	11,261
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
Official MCAT® Practice Exams					
2020	0.3	4.5	22.0	73.1	24,096
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
Official MCAT® Sample Test					
2020	1.4	10.6	32.9	55.1	15,635
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
Official MCAT® Question Packs					
2020	1.1	11.4	36.3	51.3	17,977
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
Official MCAT® Section Bank					
2020	0.7	7.2	30.5	61.7	16,856
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
Official MCAT® Flashcards					
2020	3.9	22.6	37.0	36.5	11,809
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

14. How useful were each of the following resources to prepare for the MCAT exam?**Note: Only those who selected a given resource in Q13 could respond to this item. (Continued)**

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating				Count
	Not useful	Somewhat useful	Useful	Very useful	
How to Create a Study Plan for the MCAT® Exam					
2020	8.9	34.5	35.2	21.4	2,696
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
Practice with Exam Features (free tool to simulate the MCAT® Exam test taking experience)					
2020	1.8	16.6	35.9	45.7	6,608
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
How I Prepared for the MCAT® Exam Testimonials					
2020	7.0	37.9	35.6	19.5	1,924
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
Roadmap to the MCAT® Content in Sociology and Psychology Textbooks					
2020	5.6	23.8	40.8	29.7	780
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
Roadmap to the MCAT® Content in Biochemistry Textbooks					
2020	5.1	24.7	40.9	29.4	722
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
Khan Academy					
2020	0.9	12.8	35.7	50.7	19,985
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
MCAT preparation book (paper version) published by a commercial company					
2020	2.1	14.5	38.4	45.0	20,386
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
MCAT preparation book (electronic version or e-book) published by a commercial company					
2020	2.5	15.4	40.1	42.1	6,199
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

14. How useful were each of the following resources to prepare for the MCAT exam?**Note: Only those who selected a given resource in Q13 could respond to this item. (Continued)**

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating				Count
	Not useful	Somewhat useful	Useful	Very useful	
<hr/>					
MCAT practice tests published by a commercial company					
2020	2.2	18.9	39.7	39.2	17,515
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
<hr/>					
Books, handouts, practice questions, or other materials from an MCAT test preparation course offered by a university, medical school, or post-baccalaureate program					
2020	3.0	17.8	43.4	35.8	5,616
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
<hr/>					
MCAT-related social media sites, blogs, and online communities					
2020	2.8	25.8	36.2	35.3	12,246
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
<hr/>					
Free online flashcard generators					
2020	2.2	21.6	35.0	41.2	10,451
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
<hr/>					
Other free MCAT preparation resources					
2020	1.3	22.0	46.2	30.4	10,888
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					
<hr/>					
Other educational materials that are not specifically labeled for MCAT preparation (e.g., textbooks, course notes, online modules, journals)					
2020	1.2	23.6	44.7	30.4	6,104
2019					
2018					
2017					
2016					

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
15. What did you do to prepare for the exam day?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Learned about the testing day by reading the MCAT Essentials bulletin					67.2
Took a timed online practice exam with scheduled breaks to mimic the exam day					89.7
Practiced pacing myself so I could get through all the questions in each section without running out of time					85.0
Practiced strategies for dealing with challenging questions to make sure I could finish the exam on time					69.9
Planned how to make the best use of breaks on exam day					62.8
Practiced ways to reduce my anxiety during the exam (e.g., deep breathing)					66.4
Went to the test site in advance to make sure I knew how to get there					55.9
Got plenty of sleep the night before the exam					79.0
Other (please specify)					2.3
					27,583

- 16. What kinds of challenges, if any, have you had getting ready for the MCAT exam?**
- Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.**

	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Difficulty learning new material for which I lacked relevant coursework					47.8
Difficulty relearning material I learned a while ago					49.4
Difficulty getting concrete and detailed information about the MCAT exam					22.3
Difficulty affording preparation courses and materials					38.7
Difficulty balancing my time between studying for the MCAT and my job					51.3
Difficulty balancing my time between studying for the MCAT and family obligations					50.5
Difficulty balancing my time between studying for the MCAT and school					49.9
Difficulty getting through the amount of material to be learned					60.0
Difficulty finding a place to study without distraction					51.1
Difficulty minimizing social media use during studying					33.8
Difficulty obtaining reliable/affordable internet access to use online preparation resources					12.3
Difficulty finding a mentor to provide resources, support, guidance, and/or role modeling					26.3
Difficulty preparing myself mentally and/or physically for the exam day					34.7
Difficulty staying confident that I could do well on the MCAT exam					67.6
Difficulty sticking to my study plan					39.7
Other (please specify)					2.9
None of the above					1.0
					27,257

17. How likely are you to apply to the following graduate or professional programs?

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating				Count
	Not likely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very likely	
MD-granting medical program					
2020	1.5	2.9	8.8	86.8	27,219
2019	1.6	3.5	9.5	85.4	23,311
2018	1.5	3.3	8.7	86.5	26,755
2017	1.6	2.9	7.8	87.8	27,500
2016	1.7	2.8	8.5	86.9	28,095
DO-granting medical program					
2020	30.7	22.8	14.2	32.4	26,281
2019	28.6	23.0	15.7	32.7	22,413
2018	29.3	22.8	15.4	32.4	25,403
2017	30.0	22.1	15.7	32.3	25,896
2016	31.0	22.1	15.3	31.5	26,473
Other health program (e.g., Veterinary, Dental, Physician Assistant, Pharmacy)					
2020	75.6	17.2	4.9	2.4	25,676
2019	72.2	19.0	5.9	2.9	21,892
2018	71.3	19.6	6.1	3.0	24,659
2017	68.5	20.6	7.2	3.7	25,012
2016	66.7	21.6	7.6	4.1	25,589
Graduate program in science, technology, or math					
2020	59.3	22.9	10.1	7.7	25,825
2019	57.5	23.9	10.9	7.7	22,011
2018	56.6	24.3	10.9	8.3	24,783
2017	55.8	24.1	11.8	8.3	25,086
2016	54.8	24.8	12.3	8.1	25,681
Non-health professional program (e.g., law, MBA)					
2020	86.0	9.7	2.9	1.3	25,569
2019	85.5	10.4	2.8	1.3	21,755
2018	84.9	10.6	3.1	1.4	24,448
2017	84.0	11.2	3.4	1.5	24,749
2016	84.4	10.9	3.3	1.3	25,290
Graduate program in behavioral or social sciences (e.g., psychology, sociology)					
2020	80.8	14.0	3.7	1.5	25,638
2019	81.9	13.0	3.5	1.5	21,826
2018	81.6	13.5	3.6	1.3	24,491
2017	80.8	13.8	3.9	1.4	24,851
2016	81.0	13.4	4.0	1.5	25,435
Graduate program in the humanities (e.g., history, English)					
2020	95.2	3.6	0.8	0.4	25,492
2019	95.4	3.5	0.8	0.3	21,693
2018	95.6	3.3	0.7	0.3	24,324
2017	95.1	3.8	0.8	0.4	24,609
2016	95.2	3.6	0.7	0.4	25,196

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
18. What type of medicine are you interested in pursuing?					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Primary care medicine (e.g., family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics)	29.0	27.7	27.8	28.5	27.3
Medical specialty (e.g., allergy/immunology, cardiology, dermatology)	29.3	30.8	31.8	31.5	31.2
Surgical specialty (e.g., general surgery, orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery)	23.3	23.0	23.1	22.6	22.2
Not sure/undecided	18.4	18.6	17.3	17.5	19.4
Number of respondents	28,089	27,487	26,846	23,391	27,298
19. Which of the following items would encourage you to apply to medical school?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Finding a medical school where I will feel comfortable	85.1	85.4	86.3	88.3	88.9
Fit between my personal interests/goals and a medical school's mission	78.5	79.3	80.3	81.5	83.4
Availability of academic support in medical school	63.2	64.0	65.5	70.0	71.0
Availability of financial support in medical school	72.1	72.2	73.9	76.4	75.0
Availability of social support in medical school	52.4	54.3	56.7	61.5	63.9
Grades, MCAT scores, and other academic qualifications	72.6	72.5	72.0	72.3	70.1
Number of respondents	28,062	27,452	26,730	23,358	27,230
20. Which of the following items would discourage you from applying to medical school?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Amount of current debt	28.8	27.3	28.6	32.1	31.5
Cost of applying to medical school	46.6	45.9	47.4	52.7	53.1
Cost of medical school	62.8	62.9	64.2	68.0	68.9
Grades, MCAT scores, and other academic qualifications	71.1	71.5	72.0	73.1	72.5
Family obligations	21.9	21.2	20.9	22.0	22.1
Number of respondents	25,619	25,102	24,716	21,827	25,429

21. Please indicate the extent to which the following individuals have positively or negatively influenced your decision to pursue a career in medicine.

	Percentage of Respondents Selecting Each Rating					Count
	Very negative	Somewhat negative	Somewhat positive	Very positive	Not applicable	
Prehealth advisor						
2020	5.4	10.1	29.4	24.5	30.6	26,870
2019	4.8	10.1	29.2	25.9	30.1	23,001
2018	4.0	9.7	28.8	24.3	33.1	26,171
2017	4.0	9.7	29.1	25.7	31.5	26,795
2016	4.1	9.6	28.8	24.8	32.8	27,325
Research advisor or faculty member (not a prehealth advisor)						
2020	1.2	3.7	27.4	42.5	25.1	26,809
2019	1.3	3.8	27.4	43.7	23.8	22,954
2018	1.0	3.5	27.2	40.3	28.0	26,061
2017	1.2	3.8	27.6	39.8	27.6	26,506
2016	1.2	3.9	27.9	38.5	28.5	27,032
Career guidance counselor (not a prehealth advisor)						
2020	2.4	4.8	19.9	13.2	59.8	26,637
2019	2.0	4.7	21.0	15.6	56.7	22,793
2018	1.7	4.1	18.9	13.1	62.2	25,846
2017	1.8	4.2	19.8	15.4	58.8	26,292
2016	1.9	4.3	19.7	14.6	59.5	26,829
Physician						
2020	0.4	2.1	18.5	67.8	11.1	26,808
2019	0.6	2.4	18.9	66.9	11.3	22,978
2018	0.6	2.5	18.2	65.0	13.8	26,139
2017	0.6	2.5	18.3	64.9	13.7	26,813
2016	0.9	2.8	19.2	63.0	14.1	27,312
Family member						
2020	0.9	3.3	19.8	69.0	7.0	26,850
2019	0.9	3.0	18.8	71.2	6.1	23,019
2018	0.9	2.9	19.4	68.9	7.9	26,213
2017	0.9	3.2	19.1	68.6	8.2	26,868
2016	0.9	3.0	18.5	69.4	8.2	27,401
A college student						
2020	1.0	4.4	27.7	47.6	19.2	26,772
2019	1.1	4.7	27.7	48.6	17.8	22,913
2018	1.1	4.0	27.1	44.2	23.6	26,033
2017	1.0	4.3	26.2	44.1	24.4	26,665
2016	1.1	4.3	26.3	43.5	24.7	27,195
A medical student						
2020	0.6	2.8	22.5	45.9	28.2	26,748
2019	0.8	3.4	23.8	46.1	25.8	22,908
2018	0.7	2.9	22.8	42.6	31.0	26,023
2017	0.8	3.3	22.4	42.9	30.6	26,660
2016	0.9	3.2	22.9	41.5	31.5	27,215

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
22. How are (or were) your college/premedical education costs paid?					
Note: The percentage is the average of the percentages for the category. Responses needed to total 100%.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Scholarships or awards	34.1	35.2	35.9	36.6	36.5
Scholarships or awards with a service commitment (NHSC, Military, etc.)	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.7
Loans	18.8	18.1	18.6	17.9	17.0
Work-study program	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3
Personal income and savings	7.5	7.1	7.6	7.7	7.6
Money from parents, guardians, or other relatives	34.4	34.7	33.2	33.0	34.1
Money from spouse or partner	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
Other	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5
Number of respondents	24,662	24,040	22,798	19,741	22,700
23. Do you (or will you) have any outstanding education loans for your college/premedical education?					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	41.8	40.6	41.0	40.3	38.6
No	58.2	59.4	59.0	59.7	61.4
Number of respondents	27,146	26,581	25,712	22,797	26,492
24. What is, or will be, the total amount of outstanding education loans for your college/premedical education?					
Note: Amounts totaling > \$500,000 were treated as invalid. Only those who responded "Yes" to Q23 could respond to this item.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No debt (\$0)	60.3	61.5	61.2	62.3	64.2
\$1 to \$4,999	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.5
\$5,000 to \$9,999	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.2	2.7
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.5
\$15,000 to \$19,999	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	2.9
\$20,000 to \$24,999	5.5	5.2	5.6	4.8	4.9
\$25,000 to \$29,999	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.1
\$30,000 to \$49,999	9.1	8.6	8.0	8.0	7.2
\$50,000 to \$74,999	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.1
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.2
\$100,000 to \$500,000	3.0	2.7	3.3	3.4	3.7
Number of respondents	26,213	25,675	24,784	21,847	25,332
Median premedical debt of those reporting premedical debt	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$25,000	\$26,000	\$27,000

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
25. Do you have any noneducational, consumer debt that you are legally required to repay? (This includes credit card debt, car loans, home mortgages, or other consumer debt.)					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	17.6	17.8	18.4	18.6	16.0
No	82.4	82.2	81.6	81.4	84.0
Number of respondents	27,056	26,454	25,597	22,677	26,396
26. Please list the amount of your noneducational, consumer debt.					
Note: Amounts totaling > \$500,000 for credit cards, car loans, and other debt were treated as invalid, and amounts totaling > \$10,000,000 for mortgage and total debt were treated as invalid. Only those who responded "Yes" to Q25 could respond to this item.					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
No debt (\$0)	83.4	83.3	83.8	83.7	86.1
\$1 to \$4,999	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.7	5.4
\$5,000 to \$9,999	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.2
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.8
\$15,000 to \$19,999	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0
\$20,000 to \$24,999	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
\$25,000 to \$29,999	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
\$30,000 to \$49,999	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
\$75,000 to \$99,999	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
\$100,000 or more	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.6
Number of respondents	26,713	26,109	24,924	22,039	25,736
Median noneducational debt of those reporting noneducational debt	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
27. Please list the amount of your noneducational, consumer debt for each category listed below.					
Note: The number shown in each category is the median of those providing valid figures. Amounts totaling greater than \$500,000 for credit cards, car loans, and other debt were treated as invalid, and amounts totaling greater than \$10,000,000 for mortgage and total debt were treated as invalid. Only those who responded "Yes" to Q25 could respond to this item.					
Credit Cards					
Median	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Number of respondents	3,452	3,414	3,138	2,793	2,573
Car Loans					
Median	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$11,000
Number of respondents	1,828	1,848	1,735	1,586	1,711
Mortgage					
Median	\$150,000	\$155,000	\$176,000	\$180,000	\$180,000
Number of respondents	611	575	522	471	494
Other Consumer Loans					
Median	\$3,650	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,400	\$4,000
Number of respondents	424	413	352	317	296
Total Amount					
Median	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000
Number of respondents	4,432	4,362	4,044	3,587	3,565

28. Which of the following courses have you taken or are you currently taking?

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. Blank cells indicate the course was not a response option in the corresponding year.

	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Introductory biology	95.5	93.1	94.1	93.5	93.4
Molecular or cellular biology	74.5	73.5	74.7	74.5	74.8
Anatomy or physiology	69.1	67.7	69.5	69.2	69.5
Genetics	71.5	70.1	71.8	71.8	71.9
Introductory (inorganic) chemistry	93.0	90.6	91.7	91.3	91.2
Biochemistry	87.7	87.6	90.4	91.0	91.7
Organic chemistry	96.8	94.6	96.4	96.6	96.2
Introductory physics	94.8	92.6	94.6	94.1	93.8
Calculus	88.0	85.8	87.1	86.4	86.9
Research methods	41.8	40.8	40.1	41.7	42.7
Statistics	83.3	82.9	85.5	86.4	87.6
Public health	20.8	21.6	21.8	22.3	23.8
Ethics or philosophy	49.7	48.9	48.9	48.7	50.1
English composition/writing	85.9	84.2	84.2	84.0	83.8
English literature or other humanities	77.3	75.1	75.9	75.2	75.8
Introductory psychology	84.6	83.6	85.8	85.9	85.6
Other psychology	42.3	42.2	43.4	42.8	43.7
Introductory sociology	51.5	51.7	53.4	53.9	53.2
Other sociology	18.0	17.4	17.7	17.4	18.4
Cultural anthropology, urban studies, or other courses about different cultures	35.0	33.5	33.7	32.7	33.3

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
28. Which of the following courses have you taken or are you currently taking?					
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% as multiple responses are allowed. Blank cells indicate the course was not a response option in the corresponding year. (Continued)					
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Course that combined two natural science subject areas	25.7	25.7	26.5	25.9	26.4
Course that combined two behavioral or social science subject areas	16.1	15.8	15.4	15.7	16.4
Course that combined one natural and one behavioral or social science subject areas	35.1	35.9	36.7	36.1	37.5
Course that focuses on critical thinking, reasoning, or problem-solving		33.2	34.5	32.7	32.5
Course that focuses on improving study skills				10.2	9.8
Course that focuses on improving reading skills				9.9	9.5
Number of respondents	27,017	26,937	25,570	22,625	26,349