

# Application Timeline

## Medical School (MD/DO & Podiatry)

### Before You Apply—fall semester/early spring of application year

- Check with schools about any questions on coursework, for example, will they accept CHM 12901 on its own? Will they accept it with the CHM 11500 credit exam? Do you need to do something else?
- Plan for Letters
  - Verify that the letters you intend to get will meet the needs of the schools at which you intend to apply BEFORE you apply to those schools.
  - Meet with and ask letter writers for letters no later than spring break.
  - For MD and DO letters, consider using the [PPA letter service](https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8tUitIAoWSwx5Y?_ga=2.208620882.1504932845.1645021865-884794210.1629920876).
- Allow 3-4 months to prepare for the MCAT and consider taking it early if possible (see MCAT, below).
- Become familiar with the application process. Read the medical/podiatry school websites and the AMCAS Applicant Guide, the AACOMAS Help Center (application instructions) and/or the TMDAS Handbook (links below).
- Always use the same form of your name in all documents that you send for your application.
- When it comes to all application materials, read and follow all instructions. Carefully edit materials that you submit and save a copy of everything you turn in to programs.
- Research Schools
  - Go to individual school websites to research schools.
  - For MD program information, you can consider purchasing access to the [Medical School Admission Requirements](https://students-residents.aamc.org/medical-school-admission-requirements/medical-school-admission-requirements-applicants) (MSAR) <https://students-residents.aamc.org/medical-school-admission-requirements/medical-school-admission-requirements-applicants>
  - For DO program information, register for the [Choose DO Explorer](https://choosedo.org/choose-do-explorer-registration/) <https://choosedo.org/choose-do-explorer-registration/>
  - [Podiatry Colleges](https://aacpm.org/colleges/) information <https://aacpm.org/colleges/>

**AMCAS, AACOMAS and TMDAS open in early May. The exact dates for the 2023 application (the entry year for the application cycle have not yet been announced). Typically, you have several weeks to about a month to work on the application before you can submit your application. Plan to submit in June or early July. AACPMAS opens in early August. Plan to submit in August or September.**

- Learning More About the Application
  - [Applying to Medical School with AMCAS](https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school-amcas/applying-medical-school-amcas) (AMC) <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school-amcas/applying-medical-school-amcas>
  - [Applying to Osteopathic Medical College](https://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/how-to-apply-to-osteopathic-medical-college) (AACOM) <https://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/how-to-apply-to-osteopathic-medical-college>
  - [Podiatry Admissions](https://aacpm.org/becoming-a-podiatric-physician/admissions/) <https://aacpm.org/becoming-a-podiatric-physician/admissions/>
- Common Applications (AMCAS, AACOMAS, and TMDAS all open in May; AACPMAS opens )
  - AMCAS (for MD programs): The 2023 Applicant Guide (application instructions) is not yet available. The instructions do not change year to year. For now, this is the [2022 Guide](https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/11616/download). <https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/11616/download>

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- AACOMAS (for DO programs): [AACOMAS Application Instructions](#)  
<https://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/how-to-apply-to-osteopathic-medical-college/aacomas-application-instructions-and-faqs>
  - [AACOMAS Help Center](#) (the instructions on the application site)  
[https://help.liaisonedu.com/AACOMAS\\_Applicant\\_Help\\_Center](https://help.liaisonedu.com/AACOMAS_Applicant_Help_Center)
- TMDSAS (for MD and DO programs in Texas): [TMDSAS Handbook](#)  
<https://www.tmdsas.com/PLAN/references/application-handbook.html>
- [AACPMAS](#) (for podiatry programs) Help Center (application instructions)  
[https://help.liaisonedu.com/AACPMAS\\_Applicant\\_Help\\_Center](https://help.liaisonedu.com/AACPMAS_Applicant_Help_Center)

### Once the Application Opens

- Start filling out your application immediately—it is important to **send your transcripts** as early as possible since Purdue only sends PAPER transcripts which is a slower process as they need to be mailed. Purdue does not use the online distribution systems for transcripts required to send e-Transcripts.
  - On AMCAS
    - Get to the **Schools Attended Section** and enter all colleges from which you earned college credit
    - For each college/university you will then obtain from AMCAS a **Transcript Request Form**
    - The Transcript Request Form needs to be sent along with each transcript to help with matching that school's transcript to your application
    - If you need to transcripts from schools other than Purdue, contact those schools to find out how to send them the Transcript Request Form and send the transcripts following the AMCAS instructions.
    - Instructions for sending Purdue transcripts ON PAPER are attached below.
    - You will also want unofficial transcripts to work with when entering your course information on AMCAS.
  - On AACOMAS and AACPMAS
    - Get to the **Academic History** section and enter all colleges from which you earned college credit
    - For each college/university you will then obtain from AADSAS a **Transcript ID Form**
    - The Transcript ID Form needs to be sent along with each transcript to help with matching that school's transcript to your application
    - If you need to get transcripts from schools other than Purdue, contact those schools to find out how to send them the Transcript ID form and send the transcripts following the AADSAS instructions.
    - Instructions for sending Purdue transcripts ON PAPER are attached below.
    - You will also want unofficial transcripts to work with when entering your course information in AADSAS.
    - There is no need to pay extra money to have someone do this for you.
  - On TMDSAS
    - Do not send transcripts to TMDSAS.
    - When they are ready for you to send them, they will reach out to you and request them.
    - Follow directions for sending them once this occurs.

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- **Recommendation Letters—Ask early in the spring semester—ideally by spring break**
  - PPA Advisors are happy to talk to you about choosing appropriate letters
  - MD/DO (Including Texas Schools)
    - We highly recommend using the [PPA Letter Service](#)  
[https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8tUiTIAoWSwx5Y?\\_ga=2.208986450.1504932845.1645021865-884794210.1629920876](https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8tUiTIAoWSwx5Y?_ga=2.208986450.1504932845.1645021865-884794210.1629920876)
    - Be sure to ask letter writers early to provide them adequate time to write their letters
    - Research schools at which you are applying to be sure you have appropriate letters
  - Podiatry
    - Check with individual schools to make sure you have what they require
    - Meet with your letter writers and finalize your letters
    - Offer them the [PPA Letter Writer Guide](#) to provide them with tips for writing letters  
<https://www.purdue.edu/preprofessional/Documents/Letter%20Writer%20Guide.pdf>
    - You can have a maximum of 3 letters for your application, if you want to include more those will need to be sent directly to schools.

### What else do you need to do?

- Ensure all documents arrived at your application—transcripts and letters
- Thank your letter writers
- Keep up with volunteering, research, and shadowing.
- Check to see if any of your schools require the [CASPer](#) situational judgement exam and **take this during the summer/early fall**. <https://takealtus.com/casper/>
- Keep up on health news in preparation for interviews—check for [Health News Sources](#) here <https://www.purdue.edu/preprofessional/Documents/Health%20News%20Resources.pdf>
- Some MD and DO programs may also suggest the AAMC Professional Readiness Exam called [PREview](#). If you decide to participate, do this in the summer or early fall. <https://students-residents.aamc.org/aamc-preview/aamc-preview-professional-readiness-exam>
- If you are eligible for U.S. Federal Loans, submit your FAFSA even before you know you have been admitted.

### Medical College Admission Test—take as early as summer before application year to April, May or June of application year

- [Register](#) well in advance for your MCAT as dates do fill. <https://students-residents.aamc.org/register-mcat-exam/register-mcat-exam>
- Typically, registration opens in October for the Spring dates and in February for the July-September dates.
- If you need to [request accommodations](#), this will take additional time—plan ahead. <https://students-residents.aamc.org/mcat-exam-accommodations/mcat-exam-accommodations>
- The [Fee Assistance Program](#) can help with costs for both the MCAT and the application, but you must be granted assistance BEFORE registering for the exam. Again, plan ahead. <https://students-residents.aamc.org/fee-assistance-program/fee-assistance-program-fap>
- Plan on 300-400 hours of prep time and include several full-length timed practice tests as part of your preparation.

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- Do NOT blow off studying for the CARS (reading comprehension section). This section has the worst score nationwide.
- Remember that [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat) has free prep materials for the MCAT. PPA also has access to a discounted online program for Purdue students. Email us for information.  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat>
- You can take the MCAT up to 3 times in a single testing year, but we recommend talking to a PPA Advisor before retaking the MCAT.

### Ordering Transcripts from Purdue—order transcripts early in the application process (ideally in May)

- Follow instructions in the **Schools Attended (MD)/Academic History (DO/Podiatry)** section of your application to obtain the **Transcript Request Form/Transcript ID Form**—this Form ensures that your transcript will be matched with your CASPA application.
- For Purdue, you need to order an **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT** to be sent on **PAPER** and **attach a PDF of the Transcript Request Form/Transcript ID Form** to this request.
- This is all sent to AMCAS/AACOMAS/AACPMAS and the address is in the Schools Attended/Academic History section.
- **Current Purdue Students** follow these steps to order your transcript:
  - Login to MyPurdue
  - Click on Academic Tab
  - On the bottom left corner click on order OFFICIAL Transcript
  - Request that they send a PAPER COPY (do not send it electronically)
  - Attach an electronic version (PDF) of the Transcript Request Form/Transcript ID Form
- **Former Purdue Students** follow these steps to order your transcript:
  - Use this [e-transcript](https://sswis.mypurdue.purdue.edu/eTranscript/login/auth;jsessionid=C2CE2C70DAC3F265E39C2B534E2ACC1E) link to set up an account to order your OFFICIAL transcript  
<https://sswis.mypurdue.purdue.edu/eTranscript/login/auth;jsessionid=C2CE2C70DAC3F265E39C2B534E2ACC1E>
  - Be sure to attach the Transcript Request Form/Transcript ID Form
  - Request that Purdue send a PAPER copy (do not send an electronic copy of your transcript)
- You will need a separate Transcript Request Form/Transcript ID Form for any other schools at which you have college credit and will need to determine how to send these forms to the appropriate offices at those schools and how they distribute transcripts (using appropriate electronic systems or on paper).
- **Be sure to get an unofficial copy for yourself to use to enter all your coursework into your application!**

**Pre-Professional Advising is here to help you throughout your application process. We know that you have worked hard to reach the point of application and we are honored to have the opportunity to help you through this next part of your journey toward professional school.**