

# Admissions

## **ADMISSIONS APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School participates in the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). If you wish to apply for admission into the first year class, you may complete the application on-line at <http://www.aamc.org>. All applications will be reviewed after the Admissions Committee receives your Medical College Admissions Test scores and letters of recommendation (either a Pre-medical Advisory Committee evaluation or three academic recommendations). Interviews will be arranged at the invitation of the Admissions Committee. Applications from members of groups under-represented in medicine and applicants with disadvantaged backgrounds are encouraged.

## **SELECTION FACTORS**

Applicants must be United States citizens or permanent residents of the United States at the time the application is submitted. UMDNJ does not discriminate in admissions or access to its programs and activities on the basis of race/color, ethnicity, national origin, religion/creed, disability, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. Preference for admission is given to residents of New Jersey. However, we recognize the importance of geographic diversity among our students and we encourage out-of-state applicants with outstanding credentials to apply to our school. Typically 10-15% of the class comes from out-of-state.

We encourage students in post-baccalaureate programs to apply. We have linkage agreements with a number of post-baccalaureate programs. We also encourage applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds and careers in other disciplines.

The Admissions Committee will consider requests for deferred admissions on a case-by-case basis.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

A baccalaureate degree is normally required for admission to Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. However, the Admissions Committee may accept outstanding candidates with a minimum of three years of College (90 credit hours). Such candidates should indicate on their application forms why they believe that an earlier start on medical education would be more advantageous for them than spending their senior year at college.

The definition of an adequate foundation for medicine will vary to a large extent with the background and interests of the individual. For most students, a well-rounded curriculum which includes English, mathematics, the humanities, and the natural and social sciences is advised. Ultimately, it is up to each student to recognize and develop areas of personal inclination, and to bolster areas of weakness. Students capable of superior performance in any academic field, whether in the sciences or humanities, should feel free to pursue interests in depth, provided that they can do well in the required science courses. The following summary of courses is offered as a guide to the prospective medical student:

**PHYSICS:** One year of physics, including laboratory, is required. In addition to the classical introduction to mechanics, electricity, magnetism and optics, modern concepts of the atom, nuclear structure and isotopes should be included.

**CHEMISTRY:** Two years of chemistry, with lab, including inorganic and organic, are required. Students are expected to be thoroughly familiar with quantitative concepts and techniques which will be used in medical school.

**BIOLOGY:** One year of biology, with lab, is required.

**MATHEMATICS:** The amount of college time that should be devoted to this subject depends, in part, upon secondary school preparation. Ordinarily, one semester of college mathematics is required.

**ENGLISH:** One year of English is required. Writing-intensive courses that are recognized by the college may be substituted.

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES:** Study in the areas of psychology, sociology, anthropology is recommended.

**HUMANITIES:** Course work in the humanities (i.e., history, philosophy, religion and the arts) is recommended.

The Admissions Committee may waive or invoke specific requirements at its discretion.

### ***ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FOR ADMISSION AND MATRICULATION***

There are certain minimum essential functions for physicians and medical students which must be met by all applicants and students.

Because the MD degree signifies that the holder is a physician prepared for entry into the practice of medicine within postgraduate training programs, it follows that graduates must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care.

Candidates for the MD degree must have the use of certain sensory and motor functions to permit them to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. They must be able consistently, quickly and accurately to integrate all information received by whatever sense(s) employed, and they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize data.

A candidate for the MD degree must have abilities and skills of five varieties including: observation; communication; motor; conceptual, integrative and quantitative; and behavioral and social. Technological accommodation is available to assist with a variety of disabilities and may be permitted for disabilities in certain areas. Under all circumstances, a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary means that a candidate's judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation. Therefore, the use of an intermediary in the clinical setting is not permitted.

I. Observation: Candidates and students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments and laboratory exercises in the basic sciences. Examples are studies of microbiological cultures, identification of normal and abnormal cells, identification of anatomical structures and interpretation of radiographic images. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand.

II. Communication: Candidates and students must be able to communicate with patients and colleagues. They should be able to hear but technological accommodation is available and may be permitted for some disabilities in this area. Candidates and students must be able to read. The candidate and student must be able to communicate effectively with patients and family members and elicit a clinical history.

III. Motor: Candidates and students should have sufficient motor function such that they are able to execute movements reasonably required to perform a physical examination, provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of physicians are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the closure of simple wounds and the performance of simple obstetrical maneuvers.

IV. Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities: These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates and students should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

V. Behavioral and Social Attributes: Candidates and students must possess the emotional stability required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, non-judgmental, non-prejudiced and effective relationships with patients. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, to work within a team and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Candidates and students must maintain appropriate personal hygiene and appearance. Honesty, compassion, integrity and concern for others are all personal qualities that are essential in medical students and physicians. Throughout the clinical curriculum, students must be able to consistently perform a complete history and physical examination on any patient, regardless of the patient's race, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, age or sexual preference.

The University will, if requested, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified enrolled students and applicants with disabilities unless: (a) such accommodations impose an undue hardship to the institution, or (b) direct threats of substantial harm to the health and safety of others due to the disability cannot be eliminated by any reasonable accommodations available that would allow the student to perform the essential functions, or (c) such accommodations fundamentally alter the educational program or academic standards.

## ***STUDENT HEALTH STATUS***

Acceptance and matriculation at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School are conditioned upon the continued mental and physical well-being of the student sufficient to demonstrate the student's ability to successfully complete the program of study. In order to determine the student's standing, the school reserves the right to require a student to undergo a mental and physical examination to evaluate fitness for continued studies after acceptance and throughout the student's matriculation at the school. Such evaluation will, in most cases, be conducted external to the University's facilities and programs. Students are required to release to the medical school the results of such evaluations.

Incoming students are required to file a report of a physical examination, a medical history report and documented proof of immunity to measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, varicella and hepatitis B. The University reserves the right to revoke acceptance if the required medical information is not provided or if the immunization requirements are not satisfied.

## ***MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST***

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), administered by the Association of American Medical Colleges, is required of all applicants. Applicants may obtain information by writing to MCAT Program Office, P.O. Box 4056, Iowa City, Iowa 52243. The MCAT must be taken within the four years preceding application and no later than the fall of the year of application.

Website: <http://www.aamc.org/student/mcat>

## ***ADVANCED STANDING APPLICANTS***

Applications from students enrolled in other medical schools are reviewed for admission into the third year class and acted upon by a special committee appointed to consider each application individually. All applicants must have completed all requirements for first year enrollment. Applications are available after February and must be completed by June 1 of the same year. Priority is given to New Jersey residents.

Applicants are required to pass Step 1 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). Advanced standing applicants from foreign medical schools may request an application from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, (215) 386-5900.

Website: <http://www.ecfm.org>

Performance on this examination is one of the criteria used by the Admissions Committee in determining acceptance of transfers into Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Advanced standing applicants to the third year class must have completed the following: Gross and Developmental Anatomy, Cell Biology and Histology, Biochemistry, Physiology, Medical Genetics, Medical Ethics, Microbiology and Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Neuroscience, Behavioral Science, Pathophysiology, Nutrition and Physical Diagnosis. The Admissions Committee considers completion as having taken the final examination in each required course and having received official credit for each course from the medical school attended.

Procedures and requirements for admission to advanced standing may change annually. Applicants should write to the Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs for the latest information before submitting applications.