

NON-TRADITIONAL APPLICANT PREP

The medical school application process is overwhelming and stressful for all applicants. However, ARCOM recognizes the unique position of our non-traditional applicants who are preparing to make a life-changing decision for them and their partner/family. ARCOM presents here a few tips to help you get the best start to your admissions cycle!

Need to Have

Make a list of accommodations you are looking for, like good schools, job market for your partner, or affordability.

Using this list, you can compare the support each program provides its students and determine which school offers the best opportunity for you. This will curate a short list of schools to apply to!

Prerequisites

Be sure to check the admissions requirements for all schools. While ARCOM does not have an expiration date and will accept prerequisite coursework from any year, some schools do not have this policy.

If you plan to complete a Post-Bac course, try to develop a relationship with your faculty that can provide a more recent academic recommendation.

Letters of Recommendation

All schools will require different amounts/types of letters. You will want to try to get at least one science faculty letter of recommendation.

If you are unable to get a faculty letter, reach out to the schools you are interested in to ask about a substitution. ARCOM policy allows for a work or clinical supervisor to replace one or both faculty letters. These are approved on a case-by-case basis.

MCAT

Allow yourself time to study! You'll want to begin **at least 3 months** prior to your test date. Set up a study plan for yourself or utilize available, free resources. Be aware that practice tests are not timed or in a test taking environment which may skew your score 10-15 points higher.

ARCOM does not have a minimum MCAT or GPA requirement, but it will partially demonstrate to the admissions committee your ability to perform on a board style exam.

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Useful Links

One-on-One Advising Appointment (Phone Call or Teams Meeting)

- You can schedule a meeting prior to submitting an application or while actively applying.

Personal URL site

- This creates your own website with additional information on ARCOM and the ability to register for future admissions events. It is also used during the application process for submitting secondary applications and scheduling interviews.

PostBac/ Masters Program

If you have been out of school for an extended period of time, you may want to consider a graduate certificate or masters program.

These can be great for transitioning back into a student mindset, strengthening weak points of your application, or a possible bridge program.

They vary in: length, awarded degree/certificate, , and rigor.

Bridge Programs

Some graduate programs at institutions which also house a medical school will have special waivers or tracks for you to interview/be admitted into their medical program.

After creating your school list, check if any have this type of program to help boost your application and likelihood of acceptance.

See here for more on our Master of Science in Biomedicine.

Reach Out

I am sure playing email tag is not a high priority. However, having a phone call or meeting with an admissions representative can really make a difference for your application.

Take as many opportunities as you can to talk to admissions staff, faculty, or students of schools from your list. Be sure to have a list of your top priorities and ask them what resources are available or how the school addresses those concerns.

ADMISSIONS CONTACT

Email:
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Website:
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