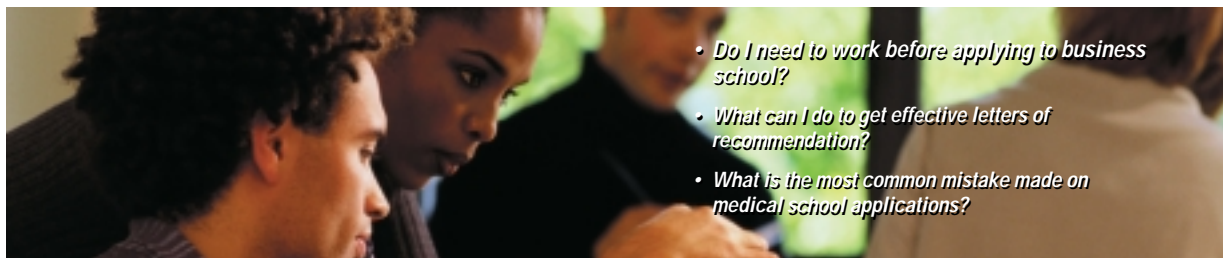


FREE Pocket Guide to Grad Admissions

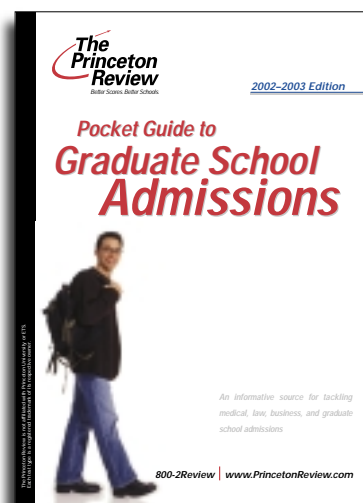


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Snapshot of Graduate School Admissions

A brief look at the requirements for Medical, Business, Law, and Grad schools

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Thinking about Medical School?

What should I know from the start?

Your college GPA is key. All medical schools have the same core requirements for undergraduate coursework: 1 year each of General Biology (w/lab), General Chemistry (w/lab), Organic Chemistry (w/lab), Physics (w/lab), and English or Literature. Some medical school programs also require Calculus.

Diversify. Philosophy, ethics, and literature classes taken in addition to the sciences make your academic record stand out. These courses also help you develop a strong set of communication skills, a must when applying to and interviewing at medical schools.

Get out there. Extracurricular activities geared toward medicine, such as volunteering in a hospital or assisting in laboratory research, are important for today's competitive medical school applicant.

Will I have to take an admission test someday?

Yes. The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is most often taken by students in the spring of their junior year. The MCAT tests your reading and critical thinking skills as much as it tests your science knowledge. If you want to avoid having to take this tough test more than once, begin to prepare several months before taking the MCAT.

How do I know what school is right for me?

Search & Compare. Taking the time to search for schools and communicate with them is key. PrincetonReview.com has many free tools and searches that allow you to match schools to your skills and preferences and learn about programs you may have not previously considered.

MCAT Vitals

Test Type: Scantron with #2 Pencil			
Question Format: (A-D) multiple choice questions; 2 scored essays			
Guessing Penalty: NONE			
Upcoming Test Dates: April 26, 2003 and August 16, 2003			
Testing Duration: 10 hours			
2002 Reg. Fee: \$175			
Testing Format:	Section	Length	Score Range
	Verbal Reasoning	65 Qs 85 minutes	1 to 13-15
	Physical Sciences	77 Qs 100 minutes	1 to 15
	Writing Samples	2 Essays 60 minutes	J to T
	Biological Sciences	77 Qs 100 minutes	1 to 15
Score Options: 1. Score and release; 2. Score and withhold; 3. Void scores			
Reg. Contact: MCAT Program Office 319.337.1357, www.aamc.org			

What is involved in applying?

Work and Planning. The medical school application process is rigorous, consisting of three rounds: the primary and secondary application, and the interview. Knowledge is power: the more you know about the process, the greater your chances of success.

Medical School Application FAQs

Application Cycle:	June – November (rolling admissions)
Competitive GPA and MCATs:	3.5+ GPA; 30+ MCATs
2001 Acceptance Rate:	12%
Personal Statement:	Yes
Letters of Recommendations:	3 Required
Interview:	Required
Centralized Application Service:	Yes—AMCAS
Average Application Fee:	\$100+ per school
Typical Total Cost of Applying:	\$1,500 to \$5,000

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Thinking about Law School?

What should I know from the start?

Your college GPA is key. Good grades are only half the battle. The difficulty level of your course load as well as the academic competitiveness of your undergraduate institution are also considered.

Major in what you want. Law school admission officers work very hard to admit applicants with diverse skills and experiences. Schools consisting of students with diverse points of view produce better attorneys. Therefore, the American Bar Association does not recommend any particular major or curriculum for law school applicants.

Learn to write now. Law school is as much about writing as it is about studying. Your standing as a law school applicant, law student, and attorney will depend heavily on your writing and analytical skills. Courses such as political science, philosophy, comparative history, literature, and ethics are invaluable.

Will I have to take an admission test someday?

Yes. Students take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) most often in late spring of their junior year or autumn of their senior year. The LSAT has nothing to do with law. Instead, it tests your verbal and critical thinking skills.

How do I know what school is right for me?

Search & Compare. Taking the time to search for schools and communicate with them is key. PrincetonReview.com has many free tools and searches that allow you to match schools to your skills and preferences and learn about programs you may have not previously considered.

Test Type: Scantron with #2 Pencil			
Question Format: (A-E) multiple choice; 1 unscored essay			
Guessing Penalty: NONE			
Upcoming Test Dates: June 10, 2002; October 5, 2002; December 7, 2002; February 8, 2003			
Testing duration: 4.5 hours			
2002 Reg. Fee: \$103			
Testing Format:	Section	Length	Score Range
	Logical Reasoning, 1	24-26 Qs	35 minutes
	Logical Reasoning, 2	24-26 Qs	35 minutes
	Reading Comprehension	27-28 Qs	35 minutes
	Analytical Reasoning	23-24 Qs	35 minutes
	Essay	—	30 minutes scored
Score Options: 1. Score and release; 2. Cancel within 5 days			
Reg. Contact: Law School Admission Council 215.968.1001, www.lsac.org			

What is involved in applying?

Timing. Applying to law school is generally a one-step process. Applications are reviewed based on LSAT score, GPA, the quality of your personal statement, and letters of recommendation. You can complete your applications online at PrincetonReview.com

Law School Application FAQs

Application Cycle:	September–February (rolling admissions)
Competitive GPA and LSATs:	3.5+ GPA; 160+ LSATs
2001 Acceptance Rate:	44%
Personal Statement:	Yes
Letters of Recommendations:	3 Required
Interview:	Uncommon
Centralized Application Service:	Yes—LSDas
Average Application Fee:	\$100 LSDAS subscription fee; ~\$50 per school
Typical Total Cost of Applying:	\$500 to \$1,500

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Thinking about Business School?

What should I know from the start?

You have to work first. Unlike other graduate schools, most business schools require that you have a minimum of 2 to 3 years of full-time work experience before you apply. Very few people go directly from high school to college to business school. Your post-collegiate employment strongly impacts the quality of your business school application. Positions with elements of management, marketing, market research, business development, accounting, or finance are most desirable. Choosing the right internship or part-time or summer job now can be invaluable in lining up a solid position once you're out of school.

Grades do matter. Your grades do carry weight, especially if you're looking to apply to a top business school. Be sure to take courses in economics, accounting, and statistics—and do well in them.

Will I have to take an admission test someday?

Yes. Students must take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), a challenging test of mathematics, verbal, and logic questions. Although many students put off taking the GMAT until after graduation, studies (from ETS) confirm that on average, students who take the GMAT while still in school score higher than those who wait.

How do I know what school is right for me?

Search & Compare. Taking the time to search for schools and communicate with them is key. PrincetonReview.com has many free tools and searches that allow you to match schools to your skills and preferences and learn about programs you may have not previously considered.

GMAT Vitals

Test Type: Computer Adaptive Test			
Question Format: (A-E) multiple choice; 2 separately scored essays			
Guessing Penalty: Always better to guess than to leave blank			
Upcoming Test Dates: Most Mondays–Saturdays			
Testing duration: 4 hours			
2002 Reg. Fee: \$200			
Testing Format:	Section	Length	Score Range
	Writing Assessment	2 Essays 60 minutes	0-6
	Quantitative	37 Qs 75 minutes	0–60 raw 200-800 composite
	Verbal	41 Qs 75 minutes	0–60 raw 200-800 composite
Score Options: 1. Score and release; 2. Cancel			
Reg. Contact: GMAT–Educational Testing Service 800.462.8669, www.gmac.com			

What is involved in applying?

Planning. The business school application process can be manageable if you plan ahead. Knowledge is power: the more you know about the process, the greater your chances of success. You can complete your applications online at PrincetonReview.com

Business School Application FAQs

Application Cycle:	September–March (rolling admissions)
Competitive GPA and GMATs:	3.4+ GPA; 600+ GMATs
2001 Acceptance Rate:	59%
Personal Statement:	Yes
Letters of Recommendations:	2 Required
Interview:	Common
Centralized Application Service:	No
Average Application Fee:	\$100+ per school
Typical Total Cost of Applying:	\$500 to \$1,500

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Thinking about Graduate School?

What should I know from the start?

Your expertise defines you. Your undergraduate major and grades will dictate whether you qualify for a specific graduate program—for example, chemistry graduate departments will accept a chemistry major with good grades over a philosophy major. Choose a major and courses that are aligned with the graduate program of your interest.

Research. Nearly all graduate programs require students to design and execute a research project and then to write a dissertation analyzing and summarizing their findings. Undergraduate experience on a research project or an apprenticeship is valuable when your application is under consideration.

Will I have to take an admission test someday?

Yes. Students must take the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE) typically in late spring of their junior year or autumn of their senior year. The general GRE is similar to the SAT, but has an additional section called analytical. Depending on your department, you may have to take an additional subject GRE such as biology or psychology.

How do I know what school is right for me?

Search & Compare. Taking the time to search for schools and communicate with them is key. PrincetonReview.com has many free tools and searches that allow you to match schools to your skills and preferences and learn about programs you may have not previously considered.

GRE Vitals

Test Type: Computer Adaptive Test			
Question Format: (A-E) multiple choice			
Guessing Penalty: Always better to guess than to leave blank			
Upcoming Test Dates: Most Mondays–Saturdays			
Testing duration: 4 hours			
2002 Reg. Fee: \$105			
Testing Format:	Section	Length	Score Range
	Verbal	30 Qs 30 minutes	200-800
	Quantitative	28 Qs 45 minutes	200-800
	*Analytical	35 Qs 60 minutes	200-800
	Experimental	variable variable	not scored
Score Options: 1. Score and release; 2. Cancel			
Reg. Contact: GRE–Educational Testing Service 800.473.2255, www.gre.org			
*Beginning 10/1/02, this section will be replaced by Writing Assessment, 2 Essays, 75 min., scored 0-6 composite.			

What is involved in applying?

Do your homework. Most graduate departments have their own ways of doing things. Figure out application requirements no later than spring/summer of your junior year. You can complete your applications online at PrincetonReview.com

Graduate School Application FAQs

Application Cycle:	September–January
Competitive GPA and GREs:	3.3+ GPA; 550+ GREs
2001 Acceptance Rate:	Highly variable 20%–80%
Personal Statement:	Usually
Letters of Recommendations:	Usually
Interview:	Uncommon
Centralized Application Service:	No
Average Application Fee:	\$30
Typical Total Cost of Applying:	\$100 to \$500

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