

SO YOU WANT TO BE A DOCTOR?

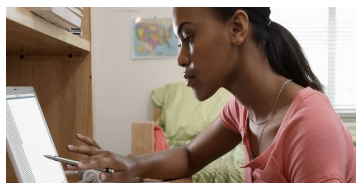
Information for Engineering Students Pursuing a Career in Medicine

In this issue:

- Med School application workshop
- Top Tips for Personal Statement
- Thoughts on the Personal Statement

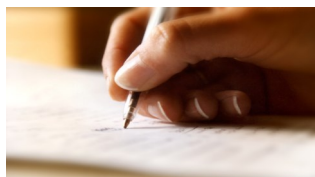
The Application Issue

On April 25th, ECS will cover the AMCAS and AACOMAS application process from start to finish! In this workshop, we will cover the top tricks and tips for completing this daunting task. Included in this workshop will be information on the AMCAS and AACOMAS applications, writing the personal statement and letters of recommendation. Don't miss this important session!



Top Tips for Writing your Personal Statement:

Tell a story : Think in terms of showing or demonstrating through concrete experience. One of the worst things you can do is to bore the admissions committee. If your statement is fresh, lively, and different, you'll be putting yourself ahead of the pack. If you distinguish yourself through your story, you will make yourself memorable.



Find an angle: If you're like most people, your life story lacks drama, so figuring out a way to make it interesting becomes the big challenge. Finding an angle or a "hook" is vital.

Concentrate on your opening paragraph: The lead or opening paragraph is generally the most important. It is here that you grab the reader's attention or lose it. This paragraph becomes the framework for the rest of the statement.

Don't include some subjects: There are certain things best left out of personal statements. For example, references to experiences or accomplishments in high school or earlier are generally not a good idea. Don't mention potentially controversial subjects (for example, controversial religious or political issues).

Write well and correctly: Be meticulous. Type and proofread your essay very carefully.

Avoid clichés : A medical school applicant who writes that he is good at science and wants to help other people is not exactly expressing an original thought. Stay away from often-

Upcoming ECS Events:

Completing the Medical School Application

Tuesday, April 25th
12:00-1:00pm
3300 DCL

Important Dates:

[AMCAS](#) Opens: May 2nd

[AACOMAS](#) Opens: May 4th

Want to Meet with the Premed Career Advisor at ECS?

Simply log into I-Link, and select "premed career advising" appointment type to schedule your appointment.

Thoughts on the Personal Statement

Dr. Daniel R. Alonso, Dean Emeritus, Cornell University Medical College

We look for some originality because nine out of ten essays leave you with a big yawn. "I like science, I like to help people and that's why I want to be a doctor." The common, uninteresting, and unoriginal statement is one that recounts the applicant's academic pursuits and basically repeats what is elsewhere in the application. You look for something different, something that will pique your interest and provide some very unique insight that will make you pay some

notice to this person who is among so many other qualified applicants. If you're screening 5,500 applications over a four- or six-month period, you want to see something that's really interesting. I would simply say: Do it yourself, be careful, edit it, go through as many drafts as necessary. And more important than anything: be yourself. Really show your personality. Tell us why you are unique, why we should admit you. The premise is that 9 out of 10 people who apply to medical school are very qualified. Do a professional job. I would consider it a mistake to attempt to cram in too much information, too many words. Use the space as judiciously as possible.