How to Choose Where to Apply

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Agenda

• Your Goals
• Considerations
• Practical Limitations
• Resources
Your Goals

• Gain admission to medical school
• Identify schools where you have likelihood of being admitted
Considerations

- Your state of residence
- Your competitiveness
- The school’s competitiveness, reputation, and rank
- The school’s curriculum and program
Your State of Residence

• In general, your best chance of acceptance is at state-supported institutions in your state of residence
• Private schools in your state or region
• “National” schools
Your Competitiveness

• Six Factors
  – Academic record
  – The application itself
  – Standardized test score
  – Letter of evaluation and letters of recommendation
  – Life experiences
  – The interview
The School’s Competitiveness, Reputation, Rank

• Data Reported in MSAR: Number of applicants per matriculant

• Ranking information (focus on quartile, not absolute position)
The School’s Curriculum, Program, and Fit

- Philosophy, values, mission
- Special features or programs
- Modes of instruction
- Grading system
- Location
- Class composition
- Family (or other) connections
How Many?

- National average \( \approx 14 \) AMCAS schools
- Cornell average \( \approx 20 \) AMCAS schools
- Start with a list of no more than 30 schools
  - Pare down
Practical Limitations

- Limited chances of admission at some medical schools
- Time for secondary applications and travel for interviews is extensive
- Cost of applications, secondaries, and travel
- Cost of attending medical school
Print Resources

- **ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools**
- **Admission Requirements to Canadian Faculties of Medicine**
- **Medical School Admission Requirements**
  - See chapter on *Choosing the School That’s Right for You*
- **Osteopathy & Podiatry Notebook**
- **Professional School Surveys Notebook**
- **The Complete Guide to the MD/PhD Degree**
Web Resources

- Individual Schools’ Websites
- aamc.org
- MDapplicants.com
- The Princeton Review Advanced Med School Search
- US News & World Report
- AdviseStream School Selector
People Resources

• Health Careers Advisors
  – 103 Barnes Hall
  – HCAN members
• Faculty Advisor
• Students/recent graduates in medical school
• Other students
• Doctors/dentists
Your Questions?