

## Frequently asked questions about admission to the MS in Medical Sciences

Q:	Do I need to have an MCAT or DAT score to apply?
A:	Yes, taken within the last 2 years (or longer ago with permission)
Q:	Why can't I find the school code for sending my MCAT or DAT scores?
A:	MUSC College of Graduate Studies does not have a school code and is unable to receive official scores. We require unofficial score reports or unofficial copies of your AMCAS/AADSAS, emailed to enrollment management <oesadmis@musc.edu> or uploaded as an attachment to your application.
Q:	Is there a minimum MCAT score for admission to your program for prospective medical students?
A:	No, but applicants with scores below the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile (score of 500) are very unlikely to be accepted.
Q:	Is there a minimum DAT score for admission to your program for prospective dental students?
A:	No, but applicants with scores below the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile (scores of 18/18) are very unlikely to be accepted.
Q:	What were the mean MCAT, DAT, and GPAs of the applicants who enrolled over the past two years?
A:	Mean MCAT 504 Mean DAT 18/20 Mean GPA 3.3 (range 2.9-3.8)
Q:	What is the deadline for applications?
A:	April 15 <sup>th</sup> , including letters and transcripts.
Q:	I am taking the MCAT/DAT in April and won't get my scores back until after the admissions deadline of April 15 <sup>th</sup> . Will you still consider my application?
A:	No. We need to have all application materials by the deadline.
Q:	I know that I need to retake the MCAT/DAT before applying to professional schools. When do you recommend that students in your program schedule their retake?
A:	During the two-week break between summer and fall classes in August. Exact dates of the break will be provided during Orientation on the first day.
Q:	I have GRE scores. Will you take those instead?
A:	No. GRE scores are not accepted.
Q:	I am applying to Physician Assistant programs. Will you consider my application?

A:	No. PA program admissions criteria (as well as other health professions) are very different from MD, DO and DMD programs. The MS in Medical Sciences will not benefit applicants to PA programs or programs in physical therapy, occupational therapy, or nursing. Individuals aspiring to these programs will not be accepted to the MS in Medical Sciences.
Q:	I want to improve my chances of admission to Pharmacy school. Will you consider my application?
A:	Maybe, but inquire first by email.
Q:	I'm interested in a research career in biomedical sciences. Should I apply?
A:	No. You would be better suited for the MUSC MS in <i>Biomedical Sciences</i> , a research intensive, thesis masters.
Q:	Is there a minimum GPA for admission to your program?
A:	Generally, 3.0. However, a lower GPA with an <i>excellent</i> MCAT or DAT score (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile or above) will be considered.
Q:	Why is there a required MCAT/DAT score for admission? Don't you offer test prep as part of your program?
A:	Our test prep is limited to biochemistry. Individuals needing overall improvement are better off enrolling in a program focused on test prep.
Q:	What percentage of graduates from your program are accepted into medical school or dental school?
A:	For the 7 years for which we have complete outcome data: 99 total students enrolled, 88 completed the degree, 84 applied to professional schools while in the program, 74 (88%) were accepted into professional school for the fall following graduation, and 79 (94%) within 1 year of graduating from our program.
Q:	Do all students need to enroll in May, or is it possible to start in the fall or spring semesters?
A:	There is only one matriculation date per year, at the end of May. We usually begin our program the day after Memorial Day.
Q:	How many students are in your program each year?
A:	A maximum of 25.
Q:	Is your program affiliated with a medical school or dental school?
A:	Yes. In fact, several of our courses are the same ones that MUSC dental students take. However, there is <i>no</i> guarantee that students in the MS in Medical Sciences program will be interviewed or accepted at MUSC. This is especially true for out-of-state applicants. <b>MUSC College of Medicine admissions strongly favor in-state residents.</b> You do <u>not</u> establish South Carolina residency while enrolled in the MS in Medical Sciences program.