

College of Graduate Studies Master of Science in Medical Sciences Program

Program overview and
frequently asked questions

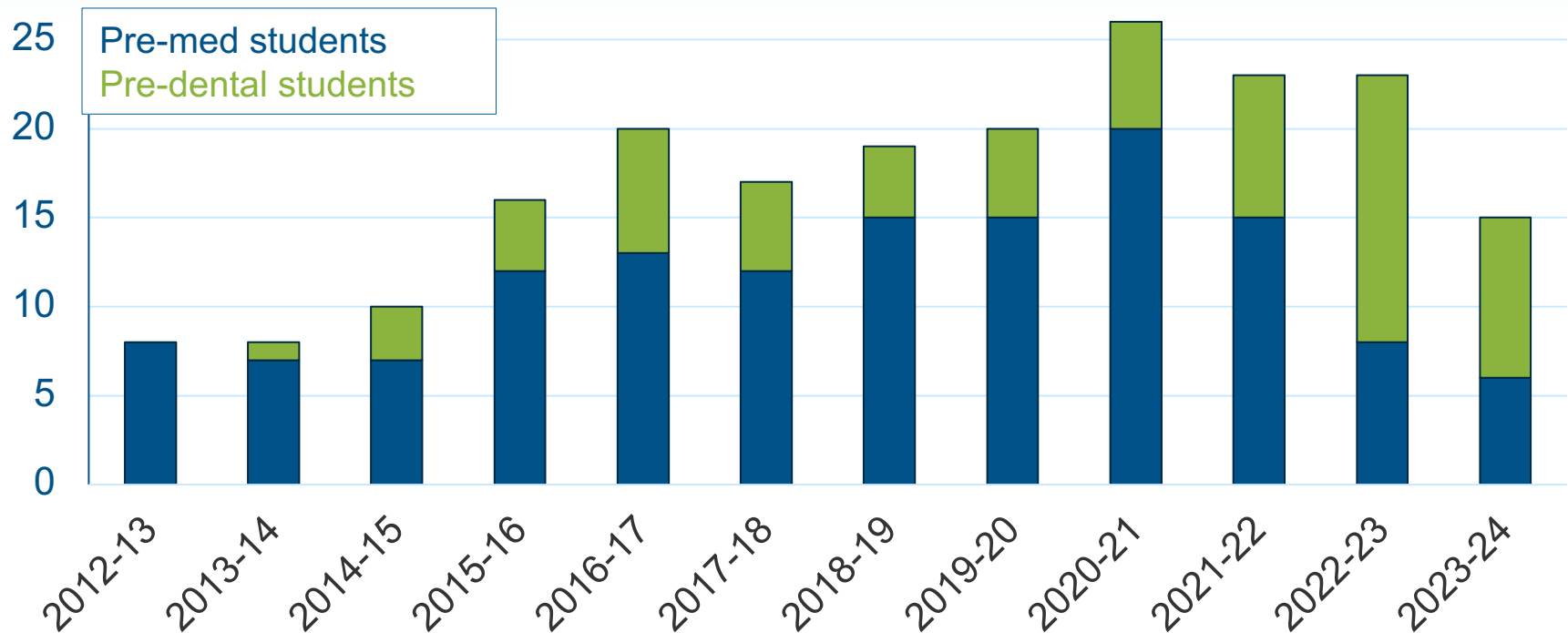


MS in Medical Sciences Program in brief

- Started as a certificate program in 2012. Approved as a master's program in 2015.
- Begins once per year, on the Tuesday after Memorial Day
- 3 semester, 31 credits (27 credits graded on a 0-4.0 scale)
- Lock-step, 11-month, structured curriculum
- Maximum enrollment of 25
- Combination of face-to-face, asynchronous online and hybrid courses
- Federal financial aid available for eligible students
- No formal linkage with MUSC, but 78% of graduate who were accepted to a professional school were accepted at MUSC



Pre-dental and pre-medical enrollment by year

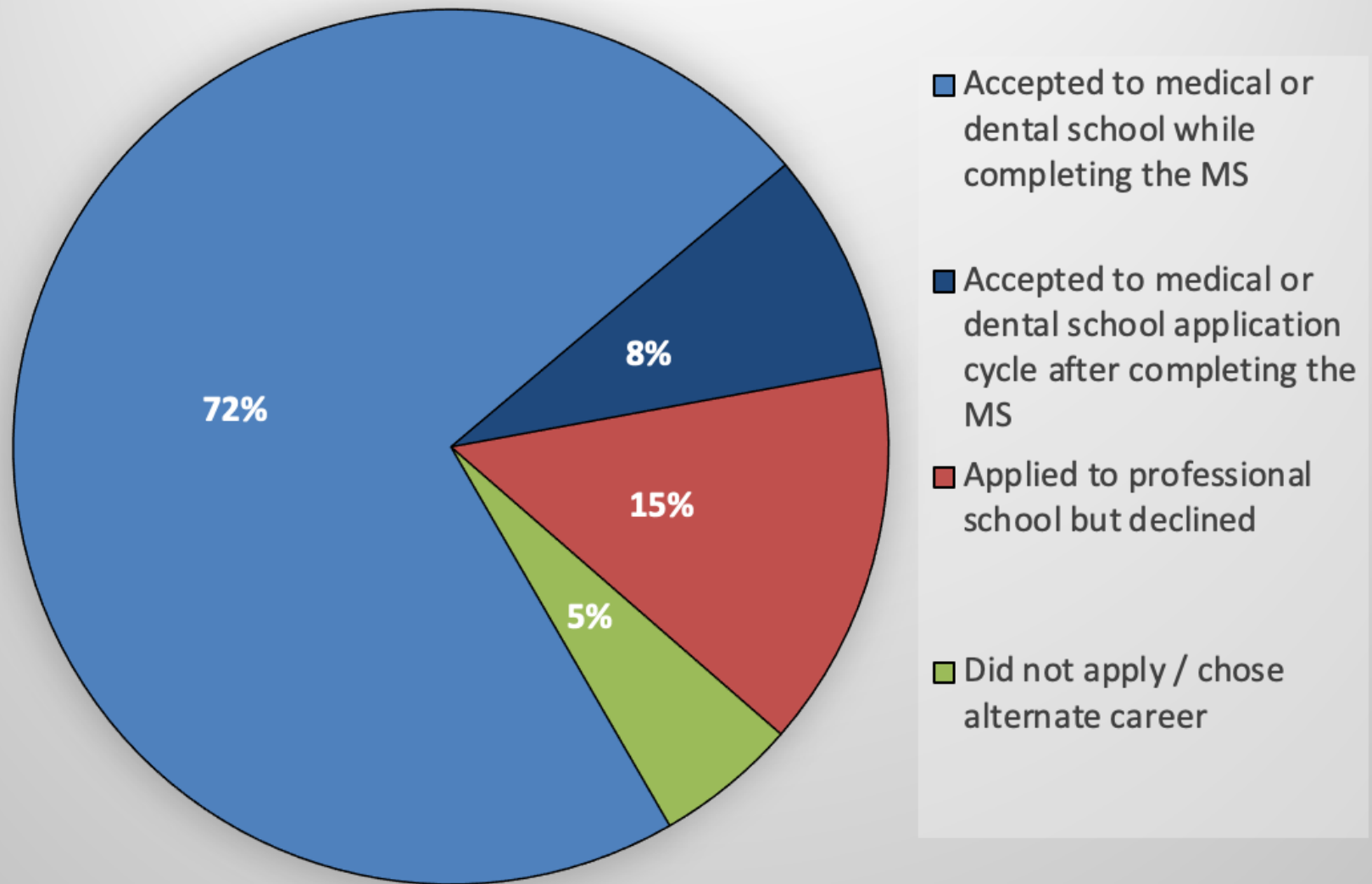


Certificate in
Biomedical Sciences

MS in Medical Sciences



MSMS Graduate outcomes



What are you looking for in applicants for this program?

- Evidence of interest in medical or dental school as demonstrated by shadowing, employment or volunteering
- Test scores above the national average
 - MCAT of 500 or higher
 - DAT of 18/18 or higher
- An undergraduate GPA of 2.9 - 3.6



Are there any prerequisite courses to apply?

- No, not for MS in Medical Sciences admission
- However, the professional schools you plan to apply to may have prerequisites
- Graduate courses do not usually count toward undergraduate prerequisites



Percentage of total possible points earned in the course	Merit grade for the course that is recorded on the transcript
≥ 90%	4.0
89%	3.9
88%	3.8
87%	3.7
86%	3.6
85%	3.5
84%	3.4
83%	3.3
82%	3.2
81%	3.1
80%	3.0
79%	2.9
78%	2.8
77%	2.7
76%	2.6
75%	2.5



MUSC Grading system

≥ 90% = 4.0

80% = 3.0

Your final cumulative
GPA must be 3.0 or above to earn the degree

And you must pass all
H/P/NP courses



What do we do for you?

- Chance to prove you can succeed in professional level coursework
- Exposure to many faculty who teach medical and dental students at MUSC
- Access to Grand Rounds, shadowing, and research opportunities
- Personalized counseling to improve your AMCAS/AADSAS
 - Advice on personal statement
 - Advice on letters (and a Program letter if requested)
 - Mock interviews



Free Student Resources

- Center for Academic Excellence/Writing center
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Wellness Center
- Library/Learning commons
- Help with housing (www.musc.edu/housing)
- Free citywide CARTA bus service
- Volunteer opportunities



MUSC Library has many online resources that are free for students

www.library.musc.edu

The screenshot displays the MUSC Library website interface. At the top, the browser address bar shows 'musclibguides.com/comstudents'. The header features the MUSC logo and the word 'Libraries'. A navigation bar includes links for 'Discover', 'Books', 'eJournals', 'Guides', and 'PubMed'. A search bar prompts users to 'Search for articles, ebooks, journals, videos...'. Below the header, a 'Resources' dropdown menu is open, listing categories for 'STUDENTS' and 'HEALTH PROFESSIONALS'. The 'STUDENTS' list includes: College of Dental Medicine, College of Graduate Studies, College of Health Professions, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, and College of Pharmacy. The 'HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' list includes: Clinicians, Researchers, Alumni, and Physician's Virtual Library. The main content area displays a grid of logos for various databases and services: PubMed, UpToDate, DynaMed, ProQuest Healthcare Administration Database, ACCESS Medicine, ACCESS Pharmacy, PsycINFO, Scopus, CINAHL Complete, Lexicomp, ClinicalKey, ClinicalKey for Nursing, SCI FINDER, and Cochrane Library.

MUSC Medical University of South Carolina Libraries

Discover Books eJournals Guides PubMed

Search for articles, ebooks, journals, videos... Search

Chat is Offline

Collections Resources Services About MUSC Links Help

STUDENTS

- College of Dental Medicine
- College of Graduate Studies
- College of Health Professions
- College of Medicine
- College of Nursing
- College of Pharmacy

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

- Clinicians
- Researchers
- Alumni
- Physician's Virtual Library

PubMed

UpToDate®

DynaMed®

ProQuest Healthcare Administration Database

ACCESS Medicine Trusted Content. Instant Answers.

ACCESS Pharmacy Current Practices. Patient-focused Care.

PsycINFO

Scopus®

CINAHL® Complete EBSCO Health

Lexicomp®

ClinicalKey®

ClinicalKey® for Nursing

SCI FINDER® A CAS SOLUTION

Cochrane Library

Volunteer opportunities

The Caring for the Community course will connect you with free clinics in the area and other community organizations, e.g.:

- › CARES Clinic
- › Shifa Clinic
- › Sea Island Clinic
- › Lowcountry Food Bank
- › My Sister's House
- › People Against Rape
- › One 80 Place
- › Charleston Association for the Blind
- › GSA Grows and SC PEACH





Program Overview and FAQ

Frequently asked questions 1

Question	Answer
Do I need to have an MCAT or DAT score to apply?	Yes, taken within the last 2 years (or longer ago with permission)
Why can't I find the school code for sending my MCAT or DAT scores?	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 or uploaded as an attachment to your application.



Frequently asked questions 2

Question	Answer
Is there a minimum MCAT score for admission to your program for prospective medical students?	No, but applicants with scores below the 50th percentile (score of 500) are very unlikely to be accepted.
Is there a minimum DAT score for admission to your program for prospective dental students?	No, but applicants with scores below the 50th percentile (scores of 18/18) are very unlikely to be accepted.
I have GRE scores. Will you take those instead?	No. GRE scores are not accepted.



Frequently asked questions 3

Question	Answer
What is the deadline for applications?	April 15th, including letters and transcripts.
I am taking the MCAT/DAT in April and won't get my scores back until after the admissions deadline of April 15th. Will you still consider my application?	We need to have all application materials by the deadline. However, waitlisting is possible if you notify us of pending scores.
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?	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.



Frequently asked questions 4

Question	Answer
I am applying to Physician Assistant programs. Will you consider my application?	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.
I want to improve my chances of admission to Pharmacy school. Will you consider my application?	Maybe, but inquire first by email.



Frequently asked questions 5

Question	Answer
Is there a minimum GPA for admission to your program?	Generally, 3.0. However, a lower GPA with an excellent MCAT or DAT score (80th percentile or above) will be considered.
Why is an MCAT/DAT score required for admission? Don't you offer test prep as part of your program?	Yes, but there is insufficient time. Individuals needing overall MCAT/DAT prep are better off enrolling in a program focused on test prep.
Do all students need to enroll in the summer, or is it possible to start in the fall or spring semesters?	There is only one start date per year, the day after Memorial Day.



Frequently asked questions 6

Question	Answer
<p>Is your program affiliated with a medical school or dental school?</p>	<p>Yes. In fact, most of our faculty also teach courses in the MUSC College of Medicine and College of Dental Medicine. However, there is no 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. MUSC College of Medicine admissions policies strongly favor in-state residents. You do not establish South Carolina residency while enrolled in the MS in Medical Sciences program.</p>



Frequently asked questions 7

Question	Answer
I'm interested in a research career in biomedical sciences. Should I apply?	<p>No. You would be better suited for the MUSC MS in Biomedical Sciences, a research intensive, thesis masters.</p> <p>For more information https://gradstudies.musc.edu/programs/masters/biomedical-science</p>

For any additional questions contact Dr. Laura Kasman, PhD
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