CONSIDERATIONS FOR UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Wednesday, June 25th, 2014
Medical Sciences Building, Room 3163 | 6:30 – 7:30 pm
INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Mark Hanson
Associate Dean, Admissions and Student Finance

Jessie Metcalfe
Associate Registrar, Enrolment Management

Hana Lee
Coordinator, Admissions and Awards (Acting)
AGENDA

- Admission Requirements
- Admissions Statistics
- Case Studies: Unsuccessful Candidates
- Question and Answer Period
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
UNDERGRADUATE

- At least 3 years of undergraduate studies at a Canadian university in any discipline, or equivalent of 15 full-course equivalents (FCEs)
- Minimum GPA of 3.6 / 4.0 on the OMSAS scale
- Minimum MCAT scores of 9 in each of the three sections
- Prerequisites: (1) 2.0 FCEs in any life science; and (2) 1.0 FCE in any of social sciences, humanities, or a language
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

GRADUATE

• Completion of all program requirements, including successful defense of the thesis (if applicable) by June 30 in the proposed year of entry
• An academic Curriculum Vitae (CV)
• Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 / 4.0 on the OMSAS scale
• Minimum MCAT scores of 9 in each of the three sections
• Prerequisites: (1) 2.0 FCEs in any life science; and (2) 1.0 FCE in any of social sciences, humanities, or a language
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
ADDITIONAL

• Letters of Reference
• Autobiographical Sketch
• Brief Personal Essays

These items will be marked independently of all other materials submitted within your application and will be evaluated in terms of four clusters of attributes, activities and achievements.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
ATTRIBUTE CLUSTERS

• Maturity, reliability, perseverance and responsibility
  *(professional cluster)*

• Communication, collaboration, time management, team work and leadership
  *(communicator/collaborator/manager cluster)*

• Advocacy, community service and social responsibility
  *(advocate cluster)*

• Achievements in academic standing, leadership, research and social responsibility
  as demonstrated by (but not limited to) awards, conference presentations, publications and
  scholarships *(scholar cluster)*
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
LETTERS OF REFERENCE

• All applicants are required to submit three Letters of Reference (LOR)
• Graduate applicants are required to submit an additional LOR from their graduate supervisor
• Reference letters must not be provided by family members or long standing friends or colleagues of you or your family as we do not consider them to be objective
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

• OMSAS detailed Autobiographical Sketch (ABS) is required for consideration
• Three brief statements outlining the three activities and/or achievements from your ABS that you believe best exemplify the attributes that align with U of T’s MD program goals
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
BRIEF PERSONAL ESSAYS

• All applicants are required to submit four original Brief Personal Essays (BPE), each essay answering a specific question related to the Faculty’s Mission and Values
• BPE questions change every year, but relate to the four clusters listed previously
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
INTERVIEW

• Approximately 600 applicants will be selected for interview
• Candidate selection is based on the results of the assessment of all file components
• Interviews run over four weekends, from February to April, and follow the Multiple Personal Interview (MPI) format
ADMISSIONS STATISTICS
ADMISSIONS STATISTICS
2011-2013

Statistics for Last Three Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Applications</td>
<td>3153</td>
<td>3052</td>
<td>2956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Interviewed</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Applications (M:F)</td>
<td>49:51</td>
<td>48:52</td>
<td>48:52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Accepted (M:F)</td>
<td>49:51</td>
<td>51:49</td>
<td>46:54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Accepted GPA</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>3.90</td>
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MCAT Scores – 2013 Entering Class

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Verbal Reasoning</th>
<th>Physical Sciences</th>
<th>Biological Sciences</th>
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<td>Mean</td>
<td>10</td>
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CLASS STATISTICS
DEMOGRAPHICS

Class Composition for Last Three Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>1T7</th>
<th>1T6</th>
<th>1T5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<tr>
<th>PROVINCE OF RESIDENCE</th>
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<th>1T6</th>
<th>1T5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Canada</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</table>
# CLASS STATISTICS

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Class Composition for Last Three Years:

<table>
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<th>1T5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Ontario</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Canada</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
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*Based on location of post-secondary study, not on citizenship.
Other Notes of Interest from 2013 Application Cycle

- Non-Ontario provinces with highest number of applicants: Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia
- Top schools we received applications from: McMaster, Western, Queen’s, Ottawa, Waterloo
- Academic programs include Science, Engineering, Business, Anthropology, Art History, English, Cultural Studies
- There are no quotas for Ontario or out-of-province residents
CASE STUDIES: UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES
CASE STUDIES
UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

• Five “hypothetical” case studies
• Examples of common application flags that may lead to an unsuccessful application
• Complete scenario presented, including comments on file and interview components
• Time for discussion around case studies, as well as for questions later
APPLICANT FILE #1

HIGHLIGHTS
Excellent academic record, but lacks balance in life

FLAGS
Poorly written essays

DETAILED FEEDBACK
• Balance with Academics/ABS – definitely strong academically, but does not list much under extracurricular/volunteer
• Essay – Intro too long and many sentence fragments in the essay. Should have provided more specific examples. Also, in the essay on professionalism, the applicant does not provide a clear explanation on consequences.

DECISION: WILL NOT PROCEED TO INTERVIEW
APPLICANT FILE #2

HIGHLIGHTS
Excellent academic record
Good variety of experiences

FLAGS
Inadmissible/weak LORs

DETAILED FEEDBACK
• LORs - not appropriate, as one was from a physician who is a close friend of the family (not objective) and another was from a high school teacher and could not speak to recent experiences of the student.

DECISION: WILL NOT PROCEED TO INTERVIEW
APPLICANT FILE #3

HIGHLIGHTS
Impressive research background
Solid LORs

FLAGS
Well-written, but weak BPE
Weak interview

DECISION: NO OFFER

DETAILED FEEDBACK
• BPE – did not present a convincing argument on why they would like to pursue medicine at this time. Most of the focus was on building on his/her scholarly achievements.
• Interview – responses not very well articulated and poorly structured, the point of question often missed. Examples good, but not great.
APPLICANT FILE #4

HIGHLIGHTS
Significant and long-term commitment to community service

FLAGS
Weak LOR
Moderate interview performance

DETECTION: NO OFFER

DETAILED FEEDBACK
• LOR – one referee did not know the applicant very well and did not provide concrete examples. All referees did not provide their assessments on advocacy, communication skills and/or level of professionalism.
• Interview – definitely understood the questions, but could have been more succinct with answers.
APPLICANT FILE #5

HIGHLIGHTS
Strong interview performance

FLAGS
Moderate ABS
Moderate LOR

DECISION: NO OFFER

DETAILED FEEDBACK
• LOR – two were strong, with one that was significantly weaker; not personalized or descriptive
• ABS – showed a narrow scope of activities and not a lot of recent involvement, as most activities listed took place more than three years ago
DISCUSSION: QUESTION AND ANSWER
QUESTION AND ANSWER FORMAT

- Discussion will be moderated by Jessie Metcalfe
- Questions taken from the audience
- No personal examples, no questions regarding an individual file
- Feedback from you – this is important to us!
THANK YOU!

Further Questions?

medicine.admiss@utoronto.ca

Survey to follow!