

FAQs from Faculty and Staff Advisors of Pre-Health Students

Key Point: The pre-health advising office is happy to help students to self-assess their preparedness, to map out realistic timelines, and to discuss any questions about Wyoming residency. Please send them our way! <http://www.uwyo.edu/preprof/schedule-an-appointment/>

Why did my student with high GPA & entrance exam scores + great research experience not even get interviews?

- Only 89% of applicants who have over a 3.79 GPA & an MCAT over 517 are admitted to med school.
- This often has to do with something they have not shared with you as their advisor:
 - Missed deadlines (certification of Wyoming residency or application to medical school)
 - Legal issues – often alcohol or other substance abuse issues
 - Failure to follow directions
- Issues that raise concerns about their maturity, commitment or professionalism:
 - Lack of effort
 - Immaturity
 - Letters of evaluation that wipe them out
 - Insufficient experience in REQUIRED non-academic activities such as community service, shadowing, leadership & communication, research, or patient experience

When should students apply and/or take the MCAT/DAT/OAT/GRE?

- ONLY when they are READY! (Taking it at the end of the junior year does not work for everyone.)
- Why wait?
 - It can be very expensive to prepare for an entrance exam, easily costing more than \$1,000, with \$3,000 to \$5,000 being common if the applicant pays for a prep program.
 - It takes a lot of time to prepare. What are they NOT doing while preparing to apply?
 - 300 to 400 hours for MCAT/DAT/OAT prep
 - 50 to 100 hours to fill out the AMCAS / AACOMAS / AADSAS / OptCAS or other application
 - People get their hopes up and get hurt by “failure”
- Gap years are common and even recommended / necessary for some candidates
 - Some students use applying as a reason not to plan for gap years. This can result in limited professional development, which can then compromise any future applications.

How does eligibility for Wyoming Residency for WWAMI / WYDENT / WICHE work?

- Basic rule for WWAMI and WYDENT is that a parent OR the student must have been a resident of Wyoming for 5 years before the applicant enters medical school.
- Rules for WICHE are different: A student or spouse has one year of residency before the applicant enters medical school.
- Applicants might qualify for one program and not the other.
- Wyoming residency certification applications are available from June 1 to October 15 in the year they *apply*, which is the year *before* they begin professional school (located at the bottom of this site between June and October: <http://www.uwyo.edu/certwy>).
- The criteria is legislated, so we are not able to negotiate or make exceptions. We do try to be inclusive, but not to the point of ignoring legislative mandates.

Summary (for the sake of reiteration):

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