

Additional Application Essay Information

These essays are optional unless otherwise noted.

Last Updated for the 2023-2024 Cycle

Please utilize this document as a helpful guide to review the essay prompts used in the most recent application cycle; however, keep in mind that the essays, character counts, and/or prompts provided may differ annually. It is the **student's/applicant's responsibility** to ensure that you carefully review the specific requirements for the application cycle you are applying to.

	Application Service Essay Name(s)	Maximum Character Count	Prompt
DENTAL	AADSAS COVID-19 Impact/ Manual Dexterity	2500	COVID-19 has broadly impacted the world. If you want, you can use this space to describe how COVID-19 has impacted your preparation for the application to dental school up to this point. Each program will determine how a response to this question will be considered as part of the admissions process. You might consider these questions as you formulate your response: <u>Academic:</u> Did your school move to offering only online coursework? Did you have to leave an academic program? Were the grades for your coursework, especially prerequisites, affected? Was your Dental Admission Test (DAT) exam cancelled or delayed? Did you lose the ability to interact with professors or advisors? <u>Professional:</u> Was your job, paid or volunteer, affected? Did you lose a job or seek new opportunities? Was your shadowing experience shortened or modified? Were your financial responsibilities shifted or increased? <u>Personal:</u> Did you have to move out of a house or dorm? Were you impacted by travel out of the country? Did you seek out volunteer opportunities that arose from the crisis? Did you help family members who were affected?
		600	Describe any activities requiring manual dexterity (e.g. activities requiring hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills such as cross-stitching, sewing, art, crafts, playing musical instruments, auto repair, etc.) at which you are proficient. Be sure to enter your response as a narrative list; do not use bullet points.
	TMDSAS Personal Characteristics/ Optional Essay	2500	Learning from others is enhanced in educational settings that include individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Please describe your personal characteristics (background, talents, skills, etc.) or experiences that would add to the educational experience of others.
		2500	Briefly discuss any unique circumstances or life experiences that are relevant to your application which have not previously been presented.

MEDICAL	AMCAS Other Impactful Experiences	1325	Have you overcome challenges or obstacles in your life that you would like to describe in more detail? This could include lived experiences related to your family background, financial background, community setting, educational experiences, and/or other life circumstances.
	AACOMAS COVID-19 Impacts	2500	<p>Please describe how COVID-19 has impacted your pathway to medical school. Items to consider incorporating into your response may include but are not limited to:</p> <p><u>Academic</u>: Were you able to interact with your professors? Did you have to leave an academic program stateside or abroad? Did your school require you to move to pass/fail grading systems? Did your MCAT exam get cancelled, delayed? Other academic barriers?</p> <p><u>Professional</u>: Did you hold a job? Did you have to go out and seek new job opportunities? Did you lose a job? Other financial or professional barriers that you faced?</p> <p><u>Personal</u>: Did you have to move out of a house or dorm? Did you have to cancel travel plans? Did you modify your planned experiences related to healthcare or volunteer opportunities? Did you seek out volunteer opportunities that arose from the crisis? Did you assist any family or community members that were affected?</p>
	TMDSAS Personal Characteristics/ Optional Essay	2500	Learning from others is enhanced in educational settings that include individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Please describe your personal characteristics (background, talents, skills, etc.) or experiences that would add to the educational experience of others.
		2500	Briefly discuss any unique circumstances or life experiences that are relevant to your application which have not previously been presented.
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	OTCAS COVID-19 Impact	2500	<p>If you feel as though your pathway to an occupational therapy program has been educationally, personally, or professionally impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, please describe the impact you experienced.</p> <p>Potential impacts may include:</p> <p><u>Educational</u>: Interruption to coursework, support from faculty/staff, courses converted to pass/fail, GRE testing cancellation, etc.</p> <p><u>Personal</u>: Interruption to living situation, financial hardship, family, etc.</p> <p><u>Professional</u>: Interruption to shadowing/volunteering experiences, employment, certification, etc.</p>

OPTOMETRY	OptomCAS COVID-19 Essays	2500	<i>Did your institution move to offering only an online curriculum during the COVID-19 crisis? If yes, what classes/labs were affected? Please include what semesters.</i>
		2500	<i>Did you have an opportunity to receive a letter grade for any of your courses taken during the COVID-19 crisis? If yes, please include courses.</i>
		2500	How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your pathway to optometry school through your academic, professional and personal life? How have you responded to these changes?
PHARMACY	PharmCAS Special Life Circumstances/ COVID-19 Impacts	2000	Please describe any special life circumstances. These include but are not limited to overcoming adversity and cultural background.
		2500	<p>Please describe how COVID-19 has impacted your pathway to pharmacy school?</p> <p>Prompts that may help you get started but shouldn't limit your responses include:</p> <p><u>Academic:</u> Were you able to interact with your professors? Did you have to leave an academic program stateside or abroad? Did your school require you to move to Pass/Fail systems? Did your original PCAT exam get cancelled, delayed? Other academic barriers?</p> <p><u>Professional:</u> Did you hold a job? Did you have to go out and seek new job opportunities? Did you lose a job? Other financial or professional barriers that you faced?</p> <p><u>Personal:</u> Did you have to move out of a house or dorm? Did you have to cancel travel plans? Did you modify your planned experiences related to healthcare or volunteer opportunities? Did you seek out volunteer opportunities that arose from the crisis? Did you help family members that were affected?</p>
PHYSICAL THERAPY	PTCAS COVID-19	2500	<p>If you feel as though your pathway to a physical therapist education program was educationally, personally, or professionally impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, please describe for your programs the impact you experienced. Some impacts you may want to consider when responding include:</p> <p><u>Educational:</u> Did your institution move to requiring online or distance coursework? Were you able to effectively interact with your program faculty and professional staff and receive the support needed to succeed? Were you required to move to a Pass/Fail grading system? Did your GRE testing date get canceled or delayed?</p> <p><u>Personal:</u> Did you unexpectedly have to change your living situation? Did you need to care for yourself or a loved one who was directly impacted? Did you seek out new volunteer opportunities that arose from the crisis?</p> <p><u>Professional:</u> Did you have a change in employment status, a change in available shadowing experiences, or other professional or financial changes?</p>

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT	CASPA COVID-19 Essay	2500	<p>Please describe how COVID-19 has impacted your pathway to becoming a Physician Assistant. The questions below will help you get started, but do not limit your responses to only these considerations.</p> <p><u>Academic</u>: Did your school move to an online-only curriculum? Were you able to interact with your professors? Did you have to leave an academic program stateside or abroad? Did your school require you to move to the Pass/Fail grading system? Did your original GRE exam get canceled or delayed? Were there Other academic barriers?</p> <p><u>Professional</u>: Did you hold a job? Did you have to go out and seek new job opportunities? Did you lose a job? Were there other financial or professional barriers that you faced?</p> <p><u>Personal</u>: Did you have to move out of a house or dorm? Did you have to cancel travel plans? Did you modify your planned experiences related to healthcare or volunteer opportunities? Did you seek out volunteer opportunities that arose from the crisis?</p>
PODIATRY	AACPMAS COVID-19 Impact	2500	COVID-19 has broadly impacted the world in 2020. If you choose, use this space to describe how COVID-19 has impacted your pathway to the schools and colleges of podiatric medicine through your academic, personal or professional life. How have you responded to these changes?
	TMDSAS Personal Characteristics/ Optional Essay	2500	Learning from others is enhanced in educational settings that include individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Please describe your personal characteristics (background, talents, skills, etc.) or experiences that would add to the educational experience of others.
		2500	Briefly discuss any unique circumstances or life experiences that are relevant to your application which have not previously been presented.
VETERINARY MEDICINE	VMCAS Explanation Statement	3000	Use this section to enter information that isn't listed elsewhere in the application, such as missing parental information or disciplinary action(s) that require detailed explanation. This section can also be used to provide the admissions committee(s) with additional information that you consider vital to your application (i.e., COVID-19 impact, interruptions in your studies or experiences, unique circumstances you faced, reasons for decisions you made). Your explanation statement should be clearly and succinctly written and limited to 3,000 characters (including spaces).
	TMDSAS Personal Characteristics/ Optional Essay*	2500	Learning from others is enhanced in educational settings that include individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Please describe your personal characteristics (background, talents, skills, etc.) or experiences that would add to the educational experience of others.
		2500	*NOTE: THIS ESSAY IS REQUIRED FOR TMDSAS VET APPLICANTS* Briefly discuss any unique circumstances or life experiences that are relevant to your application which have not previously been presented.