

Choosing Medical Schools

Forming an appropriate list of medical schools to apply to is critical to your success in gaining admission. It is important that you thoroughly research all options well in advance of submitting your primary applications. Develop a list of criteria in order to compare and contrast schools. Please remember that the criteria that national ranking lists use (i.e. *U.S. News & World Report*) have little to do with how well a school will train you or how enjoyable your experience will be. Following are considerations that may be important:

- School's Mission Statement
- Citizenship - In-state vs. out-of-state. International students options.
- Curriculum –Quarter vs. semester system? Grading system? Approach to basic sciences & clinical training (lecture based, problem-based, etc.)
- Faculty/Student Interaction
- Finances – Tuition. Cost of Living. Financial Aid.
- Student Body – Total enrollment. Diversity. Male/Female Ratio. Atmosphere. Alumni Career Paths.
- Location – Urban vs. rural. Proximity to Support Network.
- Clinical Exposure
- Focus on Primary Care or Other Specialty Areas
- Research Opportunities
- Combined Degree Programs
- Reputation
- Selection Factors – Mean GPA & MCATS. Personal qualities. Health-related and/or research experience.

Please talk to current students attending each school on your list. Names are available in Career Services and at www.dartmouth.edu/~nss. No matter what criteria are important to you, discuss your options with a Health Professions Advisor prior to submitting your primary applications.