Advice for Re-applicants

Do an honest self-assessment:

Less than fifty percent of applicants to U.S. medical schools are accepted every year. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) collects statistics on all students who take the MCAT test and who apply to medical school. These statistics are organized into various tables and are available on their AAMC Facts webpages.

If you want to see how your academic grades and standardized scores measure up to all other applicants, it is useful to review the AAMC Facts Table 24.

Table 24 takes a look at a rolling three-year window of applicants (currently 2012-2014). It is updated each year with the most recent year’s statistics. Total MCAT scores are displayed in groupings horizontally, with lower score groups on the left and higher score groups on the right. Total GPA scores are displayed vertically, with lower score groups on the bottom of the page and higher score groups at the top of the page.

In this version of Table 24, you will see the totals of all acceptees (61,005), all applicants (140,045), and the acceptance rate (46%) at the lower right of the table.

To evaluate your own competitiveness, find the grouping that matches your MCAT score and undergraduate GPA. For example, if you had a 30 MCAT and 3.5 GPA, you would go to the grouping that shows 30-32 MCATs and 3.40-3.59 GPAs. This grouping shows that there were 7,455 applicants with similar scores, and 3,600 were accepted to medical school during that three-year period, yielding an acceptance rate of 48.3%.

If you look at combinations of MCAT scores and GPAs that are higher, the acceptance rate improves. If you look at combinations of MCAT scores and GPAs that are lower, the acceptance rate declines. You will also note that there is NO combination of MCAT score and GPA scores that yields a 100% acceptance rate.