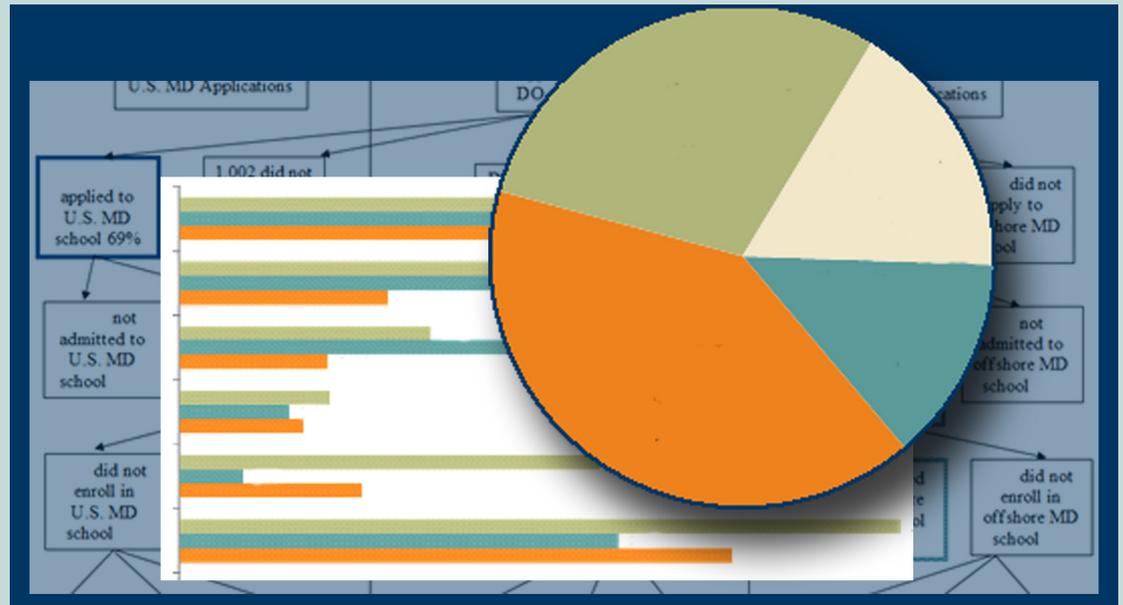


2012

Applicants to U.S. and Offshore Medical Schools

A survey analysis of the 2012 AACOMAS applicant pool



aacom[®]

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Executive Summary

In July 2012, a brief online survey was sent to all 14,943¹ applicants who completed an AACOMAS application to any of the 25 AACOMAS participating colleges of osteopathic medicine or their four branch campuses. The same survey was sent out twice before to the 2009 and 2010 AACOMAS applicant. The response rate for the survey was 21.5 percent (3,215 respondents). Sixty-five percent of respondents received at least one offer of admission from a DO-granting medical college, and 53 percent of respondents enrolled in a DO-granting medical college. Sixty-nine percent of respondents also applied to a U.S. MD-granting medical school, and 14 percent matriculated in a U.S. MD-granting medical school and did not enroll in the DO-granting medical school to which they were admitted.

The mean total MCAT score of those respondents who were offered admission to a DO-granting medical school was 27.4; higher than the mean total score of 24.9 for those respondents who were not admitted. Mean undergraduate GPA was 3.52 for those applicants who were offered admission to DO-granting medical schools; slightly lower than the mean GPA (3.58) of respondents who were offered admission to MD-granting medical schools.

Among matriculants, the geographic location was the top reason given by both aspiring DO physicians (58 percent) and aspiring U.S. MD physicians (53 percent) for choosing the school in which they enrolled, whereas the top reason given by offshore MD matriculants (59 percent) was the college's reputation. The college's approach to learning and teaching (52 percent) and the college's reputation (45 percent) were highly ranked by respondents attending a DO-granting medical school. Forty-four percent of respondents attending a U.S. MD-granting medical school considered the cost of their education to be a key factor in choosing their school.

¹ A completed AACOMAS application is one for which all materials have been submitted, including MCAT scores and transcripts.

Almost half of respondents (49 percent) had decided by the end of high school that they definitely wanted to study medicine— 24 percent had decided before high school, and 25 percent had decided during high school.

Survey Methodology

In July 2012, at the conclusion of the 2012 AACOMAS application cycle, a brief online survey was sent out to all 14,945 applicants who completed a verified AACOMAS application to any of the 25 AACOMAS-participating, DO-granting medical colleges or their four branch campuses.³ This survey repeats similar surveys sent out in 2010 and 2009 to all respective AACOMAS applicants. The survey was sent to email addresses supplied by applicants through the AACOMAS application using an email manager program to ensure delivery. Applicants who did not respond to the initial survey invitation received three reminder emails at weekly intervals. After the initial invitation and three follow-up reminders, the response rate for the survey was 21.5 percent⁴ (3,215 out of 14,945).

The survey asked applicants if they received one or more offers of admission from the DO-granting medical schools to which they applied, and whether they actually enrolled. In addition, applicants reported whether they also applied to U.S. MD-granting medical schools or to offshore medical schools. Those respondents who enrolled in a medical school chose the three top reasons for having selected a particular school, while all others were asked whether they intended to reapply in 2013. The survey also asked when an applicant first considered studying medicine. The survey used branching and skip patterns; respondents only reached questions that were relevant, depending on their previous answers.

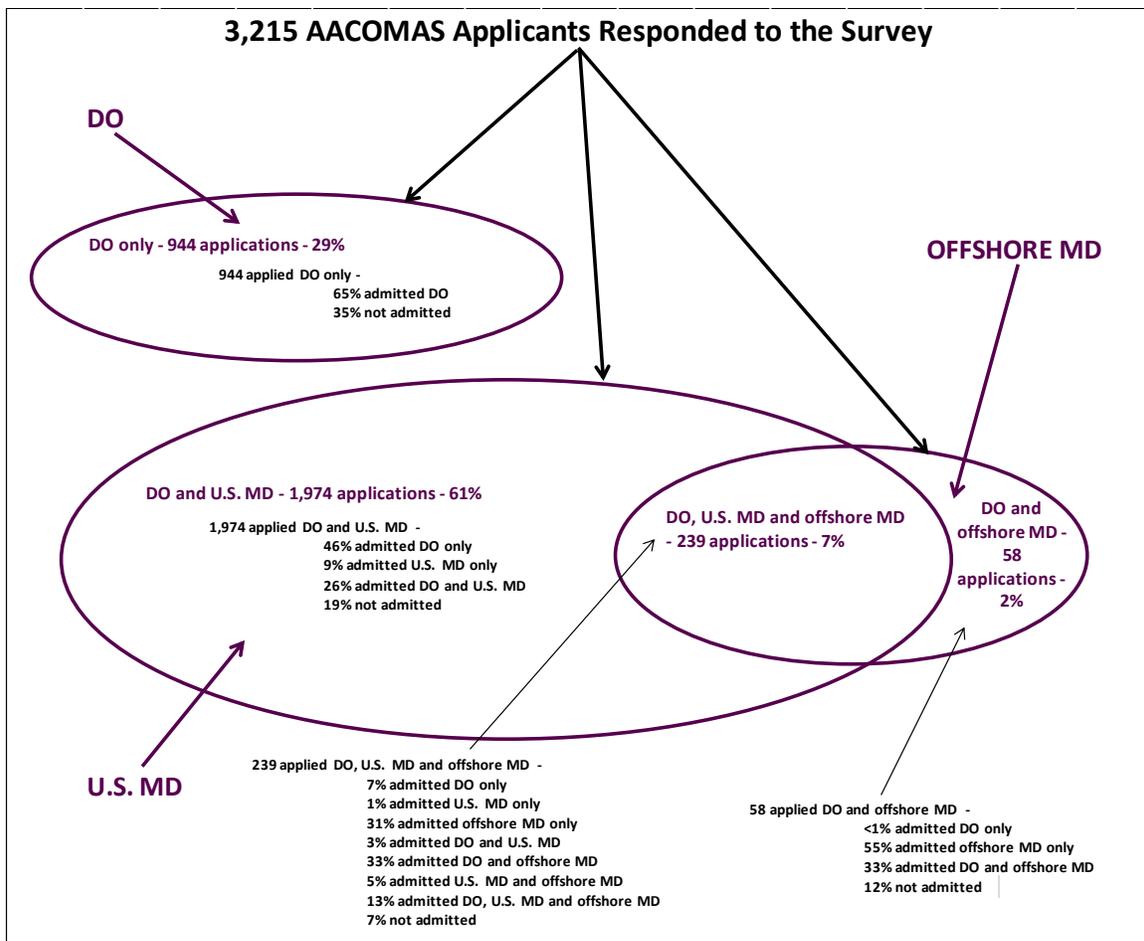
Respondent data from the survey were matched with the AACOMAS applicant database, allowing for full access to applicant demographic data as well as GPA and MCAT scores.

³ The University of North Texas Health Science Center College of Osteopathic Medicine does not participate in AACOMAS.

⁴ Bounce-back rate was no more than 1 percent.

Applications

Of the 3,215 applicants who responded to the survey, 29 percent applied only to DO-granting medical schools. Sixty-one percent of respondents applied to DO and U.S. MD schools only and 2 percent applied to DO and offshore MD⁵ schools only. The remaining 7 percent of respondents applied to all three types of schools: DO, U.S. MD and offshore MD⁶. The Flow-Venn diagram below shows the four groups of respondents and lists the percentage of each group of respondents who were admitted to each type of medical school.



⁵ The survey asked applicants if they had completed an application to one or more offshore MD medical schools (Caribbean, European or other).

⁶ Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

The table below details the number of applications submitted, by respondents, to all three types of medical schools. Nine percent of respondents who applied to DO-granting medical schools applied to only one DO school, compared with 4 percent of respondents applying to U.S. MD schools who applied to only one U.S. MD school and 5 percent of respondents applying to offshore MD schools who applied to only one offshore MD school. Thirty-one percent of respondents did not apply to any U.S. MD schools.

Number of Applications 2012	DO School	U.S. MD School	Offshore MD School
0	-	31%	91%
1	9%	4%	5%
2-5	35%	19%	4%
6-10	34%	20%	<1%
>10	23%	26%	-
Total	100%	100%	100%

Note: Category percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Osteopathic Designations

On average, each respondent designated 7.45⁷ DO-granting medical schools on the AACOMAS application. Applicants who also applied to U.S. MD-granting schools designated 7.01 schools, whereas applicants who also applied to offshore MD medical schools designated 8.64 DO-granting medical schools.

2011 Applications

The AACOMAS application includes a feature that enables the database to identify repeat applicants. Ten percent of respondents also applied to AACOMAS in the 2011 application cycle. 2012 applicants who applied only to DO-granting medical schools

⁷ The mean number of designations among all AACOMAS applicants was 7.52 and is different from this mean (7.11), which represents only those applicants who responded to the survey.

were slightly less likely to have also applied in 2011 than 2012 applicants who applied to both DO- and U.S. MD-granting medical schools.

Admissions

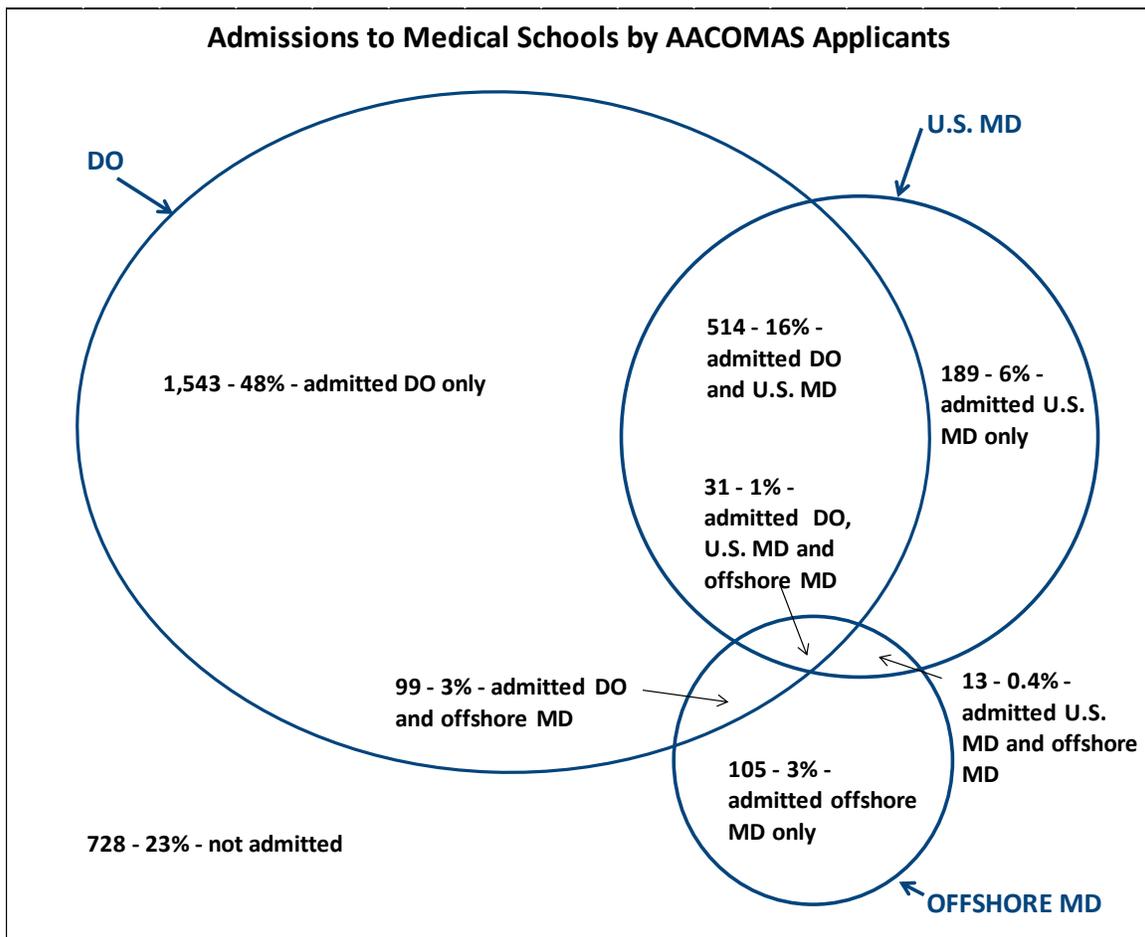
Seventy-eight percent (2,494) of respondents were admitted to one or more medical schools and 22 percent (721) of respondents were not admitted to any medical schools. The mean number of offers of admission to respondents offered admission to a DO-granting medical college was 1.65. Forty-eight percent of respondents were admitted only to DO-granting medical schools. Respondents receiving at least one offer of admission to a DO-granting medical college applied, on average, to 7.7 DO-granting medical schools, whereas respondents who did not receive any offers of admission from DO-granting medical schools applied, on average, to 6.8 DO schools. The difference between these means is statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.

The table below details the number of offers of admission received by respondents who applied to medical schools. Sixty-eight percent of respondents received at least one offer of admission from a DO-granting medical school. Thirty-four percent of respondents who applied to a U.S MD school received at least one offer of admission to a U.S. MD-granting medical school, whereas 81 percent of respondents who applied to an offshore MD school received at least one offer of admission to an offshore MD school.

Number of Offers of Admission 2012	DO School	U.S. MD School	Offshore MD School
0	32%	66%	19%
1	41%	20%	52%
2-5	27%	13%	29%
>5	<1%	1%	-
Total	100%	100%	100%

Note: Category percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

The following Venn diagram maps the admissions decisions of all 3,215 respondents. The majority of respondents (57 percent) were admitted to only one type of medical school. Forty-eight percent of respondents were admitted only to DO schools, 6 percent of respondents were admitted only to U.S. MD schools and 3 percent of respondents were admitted only to offshore MD schools. Twenty-one percent of respondents were admitted to more than one type of medical school. Twenty percent of respondents were not admitted to any medical schools.



Note: Category percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

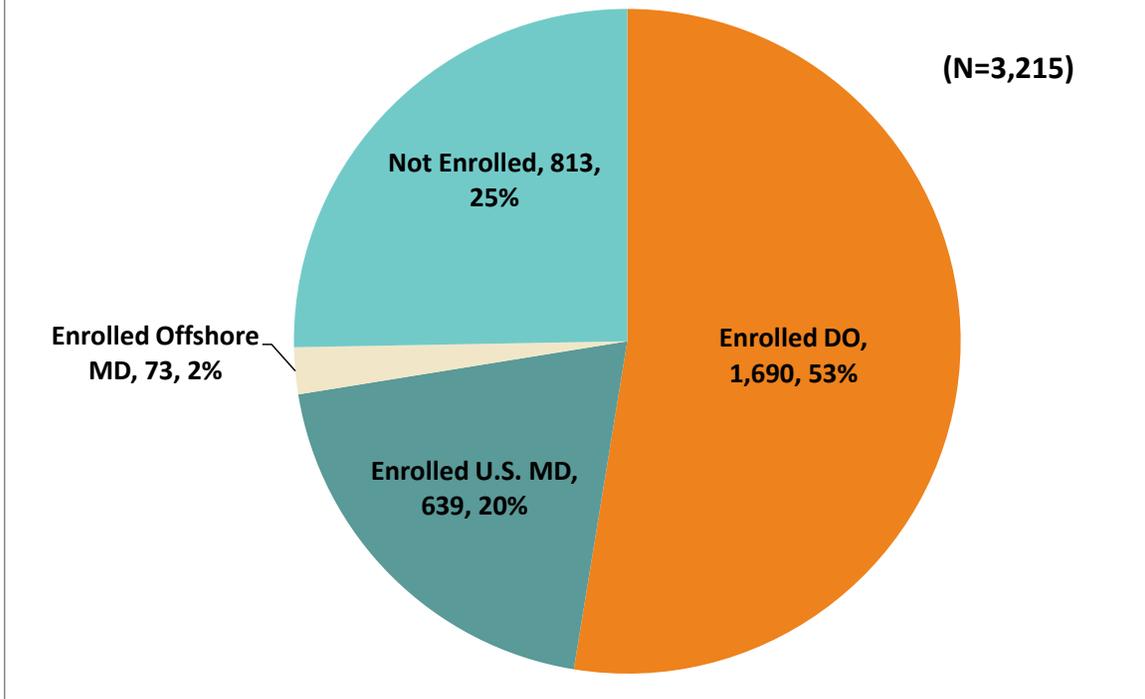
The table below details the number of respondents, who applied to, were admitted to and enrolled in each type of medical school. Highlighted are the percentages of students admitted into each type of medical school, as well as the percentages of admitted students who chose to enroll at a particular type of school

2012	DO School	U.S. MD School	Offshore MD School
Applied	3,215	2,213	297
Admitted	2,187	747	248
% Admitted	68%	34%	83%
Enrolled	1,690	639	73
% Admitted who Enrolled	77%	86%	29%

Enrollment

The following pie graph charts the enrollment decisions of all the respondents.

Enrollment in Medical Schools by AACOMAS Applicants

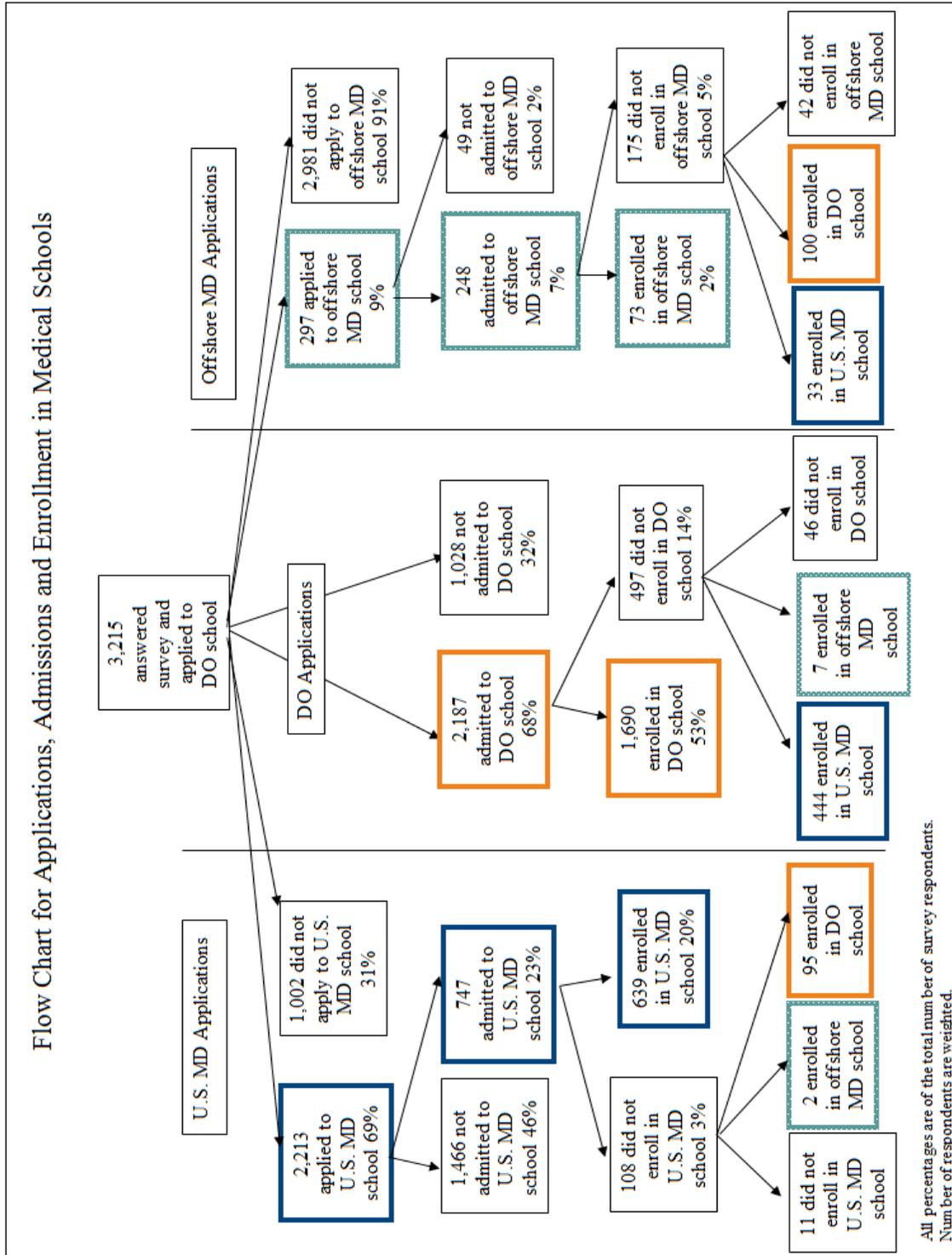


The table below compares the mean number of DO-granting medical school designations by respondents, according to where they ultimately enrolled.

Number of DO School Designations	2012 Respondents who Enrolled			
	DO	U.S. MD	Offshore MD	Did not Enroll
	8.14 ^a	5.89 ^b	8.66 ^{ac}	7.12 ^c

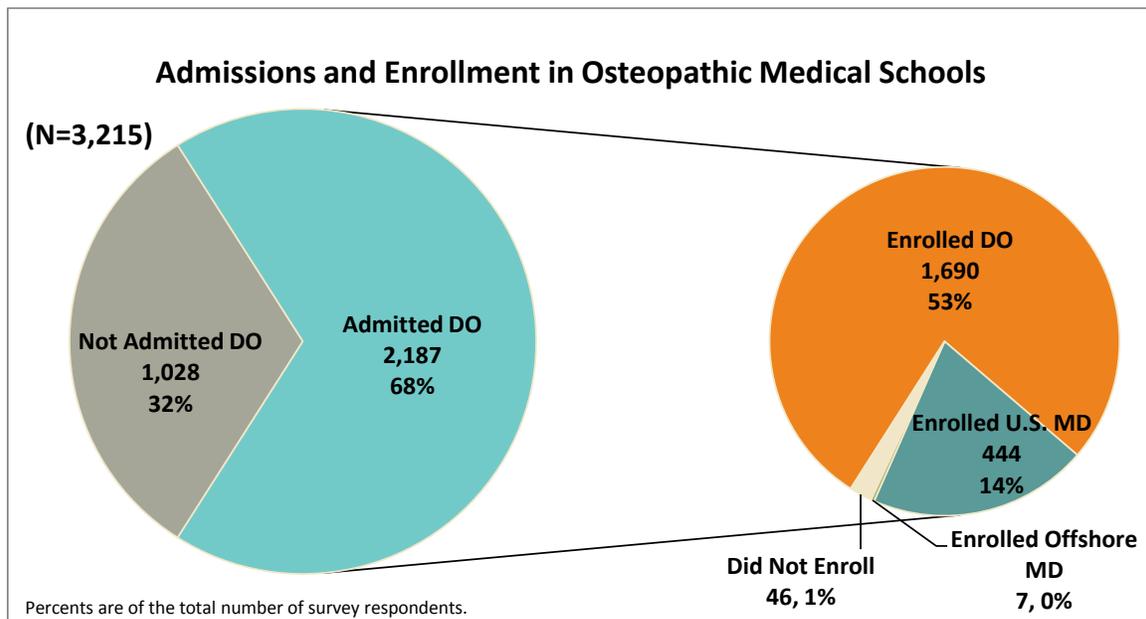
^{a-b-c} Means within a row with different letters differ significantly, (p<0.05).

The following flow chart depicts the decision process from application through admission and enrollment.



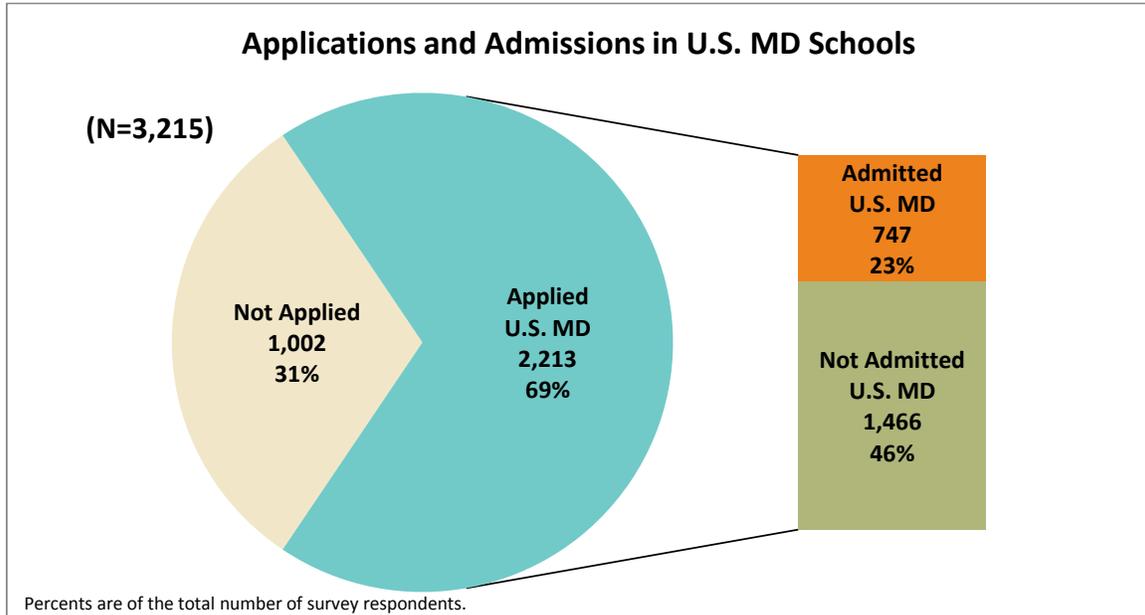
Admission to Osteopathic Medical School

Survey respondents were asked whether they were offered admission to any of the DO-granting medical colleges to which they applied. Overall, 32 percent (1,028) of respondents were not offered admission to any DO college, and 68 percent (2,187) of respondents received at least one offer of admission. The mean number of offers of admission to a DO-granting medical college was 1.65. Fifty-three percent of all respondents enrolled in a DO school, and the remaining 14 percent who were offered admission did not enroll in a DO-granting medical school. Of those offered admission to at least one DO school, 77 percent enrolled in a DO-granting medical school. Further examination of those applicants offered admission to a DO school, but did not enroll, shows that 89 percent of these applicants, who represent 14 percent of our total applicant pool, matriculated in a U.S. MD school, and 1 percent matriculated in an offshore MD school. The remaining 9 percent did not enroll in any medical school. ((See Flow Chart.))



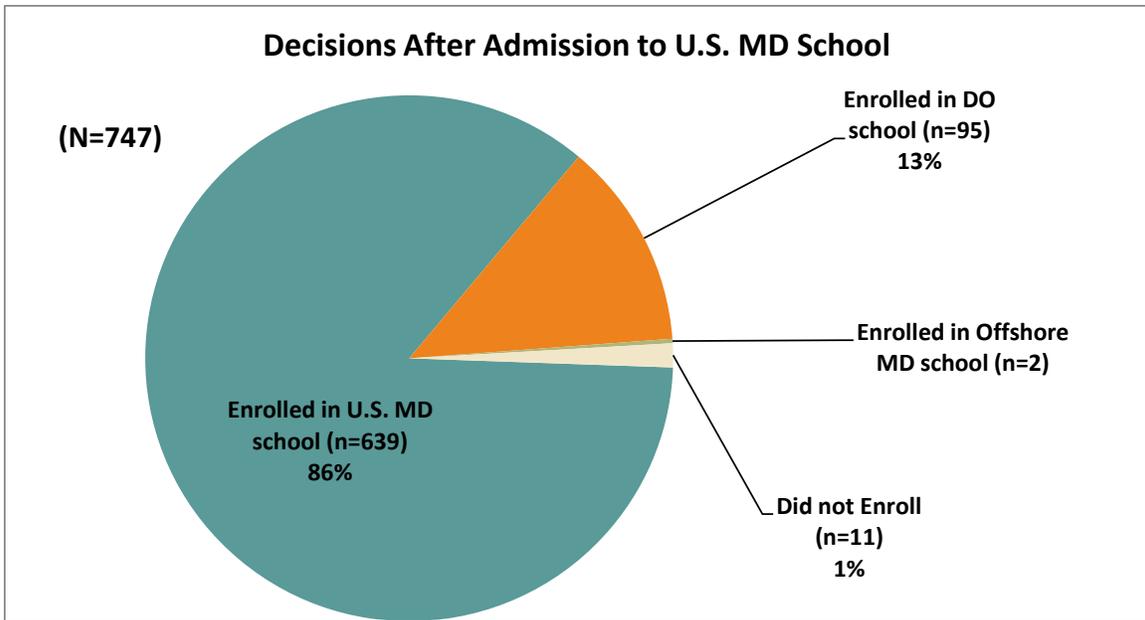
Admission to U.S. MD-Granting Medical School

Survey respondents reported whether they applied to any U.S. MD-granting medical schools. Sixty-nine percent of all respondents applied to at least one U.S. MD school, and the remaining 31 percent did not apply to any U.S. MD schools. Of those who applied to U.S. MD schools, 36 percent (747) received at least one offer of admission, and the remaining 66 percent (1,406) did not receive any offers.



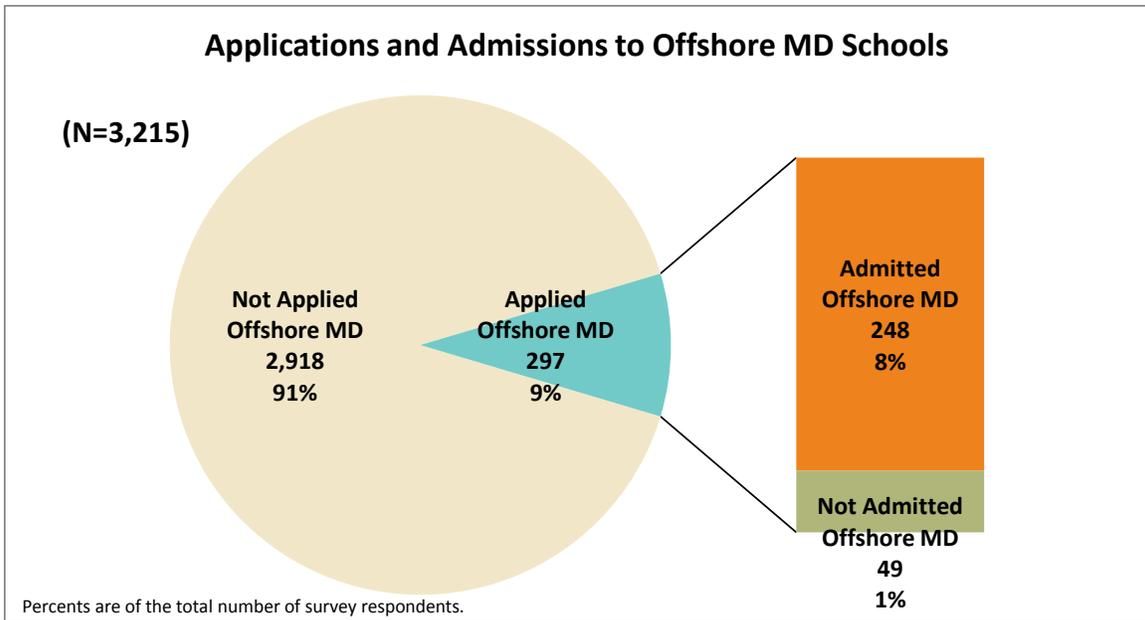
The majority of applicants, 86 percent (29 percent of the total group responding to the survey), who were offered admission to at least one U.S. MD school subsequently enrolled in one of those schools. Sixty-eight percent of respondents enrolling in a U.S. MD medical school enrolled in a public medical school, and 32 percent enrolled in a private school.

Of those applicants who were admitted to U.S. MD schools but chose not to enroll in an MD school, 13 percent enrolled in a DO-granting medical school, and 1 percent did not enroll in any medical school. Two applicants who were offered admission to a U.S. MD school enrolled in an offshore MD school: one applicant indicated planned enrollment at Ben Gurion University Medical School for International Health, while the other indicated Ross University School of Medicine.

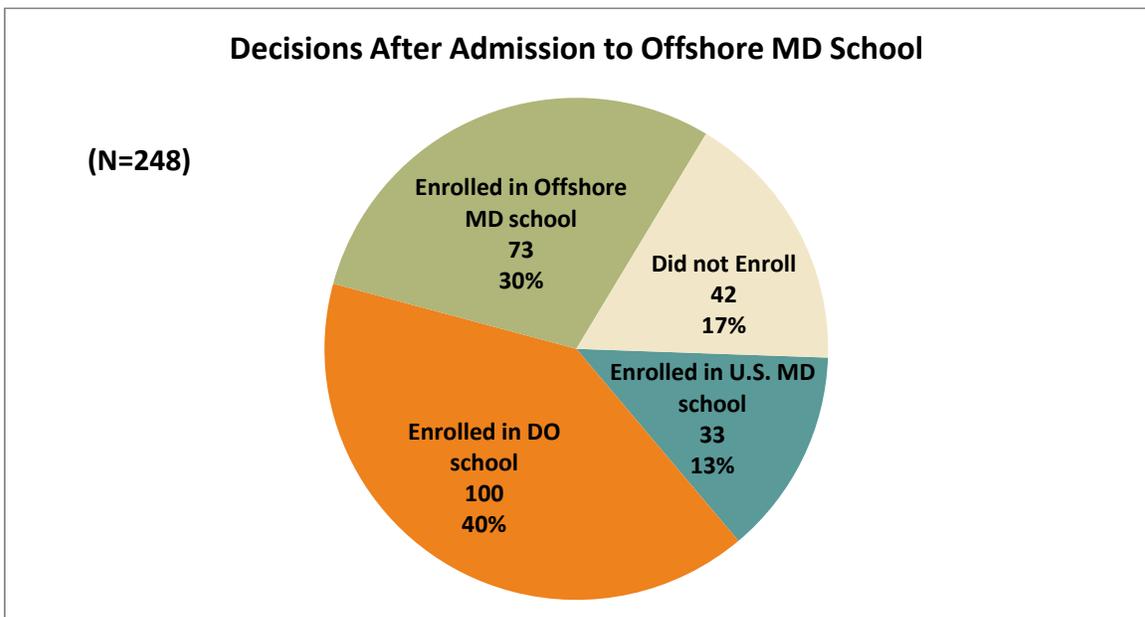


Admission to Offshore Medical School

Survey respondents were asked whether they applied to any offshore MD-granting medical schools. Nine percent of respondents also applied to at least one offshore medical school; the remaining 91 percent did not apply to any offshore schools. Of those respondents who applied to an offshore school, 80 percent also applied to a U.S. MD-granting medical school (as well as at least one DO-granting medical college). Of those respondents who applied to an offshore medical school, 84 percent (248) were offered admission to at least one offshore medical school, representing 8 percent of all survey respondents.



Only 30 percent of respondents offered admission to an offshore medical school chose to enroll in that medical school. Forty percent of respondents offered admission to an offshore school enrolled in a DO-granting medical school, and 13 percent enrolled in an U.S. MD school. The remaining 17 percent of respondents who were admitted to an offshore medical school did not enroll in any medical school in the 2012 cycle.

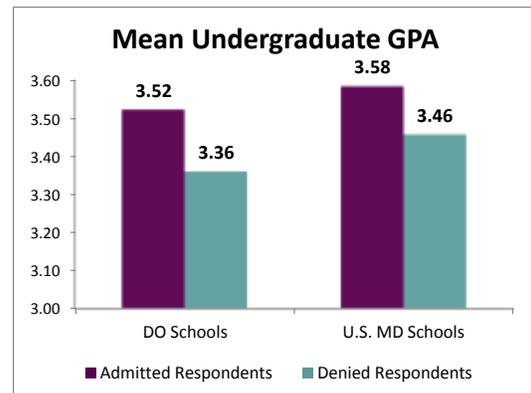
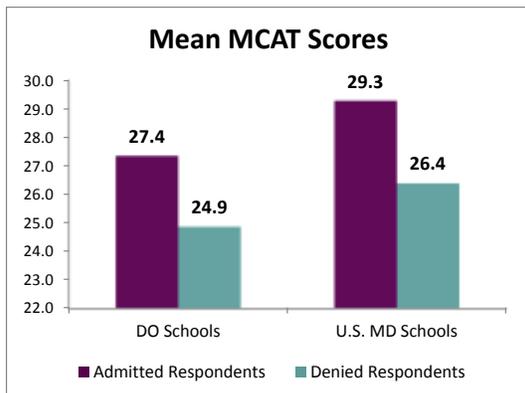


MCAT Scores and GPA

The mean total MCAT score of those respondents who were offered DO-granting medical school admission (regardless of whether they enrolled) was 27.4, higher than the mean total score of 24.9 for those respondents who were not admitted to a DO-granting medical school. Among those respondents who also applied to a U.S. MD-granting medical school, the mean total MCAT score was 29.3 for those respondents who were offered admission, compared with 26.4 for those who were denied admission.

Mean total undergraduate GPA was 3.52 for those applicants who were offered admission to DO-granting medical schools, higher than the mean GPA (3.36) of respondents who were denied admission to DO-granting medical schools. Among those respondents who also applied to a U.S. MD-granting medical school, the mean total undergraduate GPA was 3.58 for those respondents who were offered admission, compared with 3.46 for those who were denied admission.

The differences between all of these pairs of mean MCAT scores and mean undergraduate GPA are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$. There were no significant differences between respondents who were and were not offered admission to offshore medical schools.



The mean total MCAT score of those respondents who enrolled in DO-granting medical schools was 26.8, compared with the mean total score of 29.5 for those who enrolled in U.S. MD-granting medical schools. Among respondents enrolling in offshore medical schools, the mean total MCAT score was 24.7, similar to the mean score (24.0) of respondents who did not enroll in any medical school.

The mean undergraduate GPA of those respondents who enrolled in DO-granting medical schools was 3.50, lower than the 3.59 mean GPA for those who enrolled in U.S. MD schools. The mean GPA among respondents enrolling in offshore medical schools (3.23) was lower than the mean GPA of those not enrolling in any medical school (3.34).

Statistics 2012	Respondents Who Enrolled			Did not Enroll
	DO ^{8,9}	U.S. MD	Offshore MD	
MCAT	26.8 ^a	29.5 ^b	24.7 ^c	24.0 ^c
GPA	3.50 ^a	3.59 ^b	3.23 ^c	3.34 ^c

^{a-b-c} Means within a row with different letters differ significantly, (p<0.05).

⁸ The mean MCAT score among all DO matriculants may be different from this score (26.7), which represents only those applicants who responded to the survey.

⁹ The mean undergraduate GPA among all DO matriculants may be different from this mean (3.48), which represents only those applicants who responded to the survey.

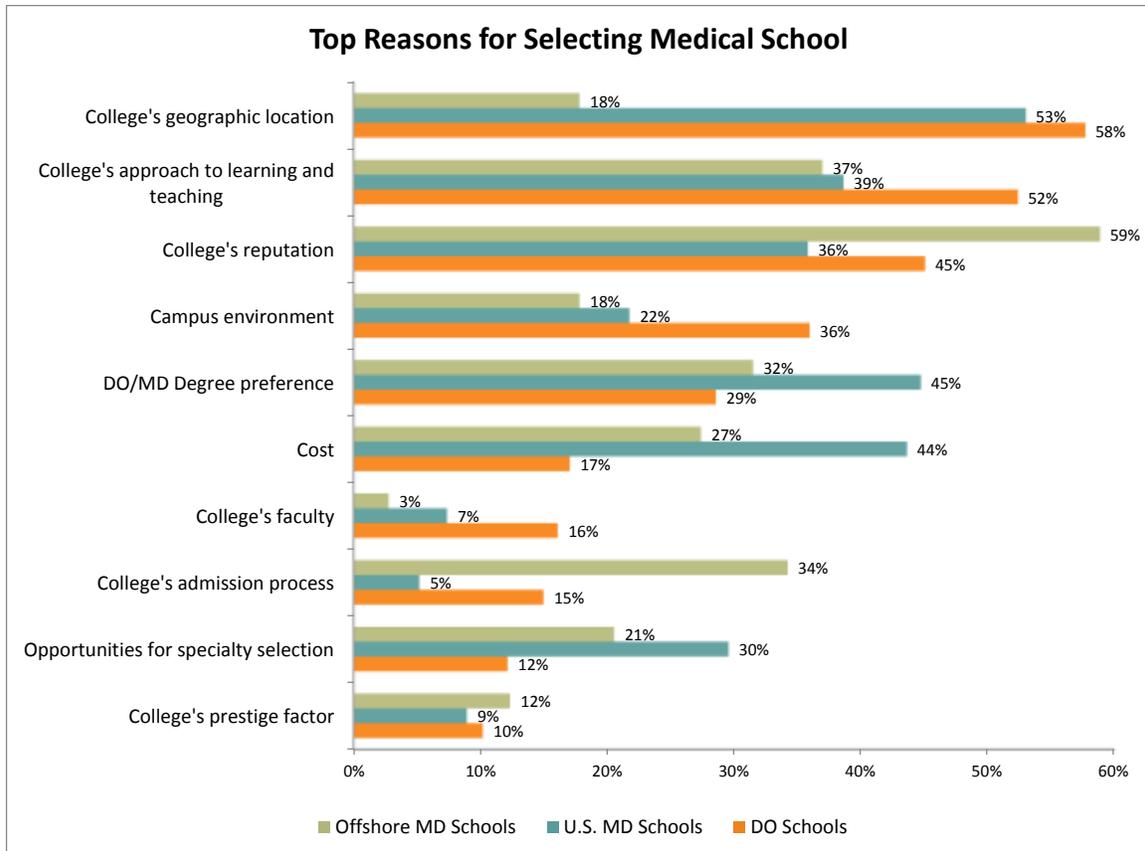
School Selection

Respondents who enrolled in a medical school were asked to select, from a list, the top three reasons for choosing a particular school. The list below details the selections available; the survey software randomized the order of presentation for each respondent.

Medical School Selection Reasons

- College's approach to learning and teaching
- College's faculty
- College's geographic location
- Campus environment
- College's reputation
- College's admission process
- College's prestige factor
- Opportunities for specialty selection
- Cost
- Prefer to have DO degree (for DO matriculants)/MD degree (for MD matriculants)

The following chart shows the percent of respondents attending a medical school who selected each reason as one of their top three reasons for choosing their school. For example, 45 percent of respondents attending a U.S. MD school chose their preference to have an MD degree as one of their top three reasons for selecting the medical school they attend. In comparison, 29 percent of respondents attending a DO school and 32 percent attending an offshore MD school chose their preference to have a DO or MD degree, respectively, as one of their top three reasons for selecting the medical school they attend.



Geographic location was the top reason given by both DO (58 percent) and U.S. MD (53 percent) matriculants for choosing the school in which they enrolled, whereas the top reason given by offshore MD (59 percent) matriculants was the college's reputation. The college's approach to learning and teaching (52 percent) and the college's reputation (45 percent) were highly ranked by respondents attending DO-granting medical schools. Only respondents attending U.S. MD medical schools (44 percent) considered the cost of their education to be a key factor in choosing their school. This is an expected response, given the public/private school mix and related costs of U.S. MD-granting medical schools compared with DO-granting medical schools.

Respondents attending U.S. MD-granting medical schools were more than two times more likely than those attending DO-granting medical schools to select cost (44/17 percent) and nearly one-and-a-half times more likely to select specialty opportunities (30/21 percent) as top reasons for choosing their medical school. Only respondents

attending offshore MD medical schools considered the college's admission process to be a key factor in choosing their school. Whereas 45 percent of U.S. MD respondents selected preferring a MD degree as one of their three top reasons for choosing the medical school they attend, only 29 percent of DO respondents and 32 percent of offshore MD respondents selected preferring a DO or MD degree, respectively, as one of their top three reasons for choosing the school they attend.

While the geographic location was chosen as the top reason for selecting both DO-granting and U.S. MD-granting medical schools, the breakdown by COM shows variations among schools. The charts below show for each category any COM at which more than 50 percent of matriculants selected that category as a top reason for attending their medical school. The college's reputation was selected as a top reason by more than half the matriculants attending 14 COMs, all older, well-established medical schools. Because respondents could select just three top reasons for attending a medical school, if all reasons were equally distributed at a particular COM, the school will not appear on any of these lists.

Percent of Matriculants at DO-Granting Medical Schools Selecting the College's Approach to Learning as a Top Reason for Attending that School	
LECOM-Bradenton	66%
OU-HCOM	65%
VCOM-VC	64%
KCUMB-COM	63%
PNWU-COM	61%
TOUROCOM-NY	60%
Western U/COMP-NW	58%
VCOM-CC	57%
LMU-DCOM	56%
RVUCOM	56%
ATSU/KCOM	54%
OSU-COM	53%
LECOM	51%
UP-KYCOM	51%

Percent of Matriculants at DO-Granting Medical Schools Selecting the College's Reputation as a Top Reason for Attending that School	
MSUCOM	76%
PCOM	69%
UNTHSC/TCOM	69%
CCOM	68%
NYIT-COM	66%
Western U/COMP	64%
AZCOM	63%
DMU-COM	61%
ATSU/KCOM	60%
KCUMB-COM	58%
NSU-COM	55%
UMDNJ-SOM	55%
UNECOM	53%
OU-HCOM	51%

Percent of Matriculants at DO-Granting Medical Schools Selecting the College's Approach to Learning as a Top Reason for Attending that School	
LECOM-Bradenton	66%
OU-HCOM	65%
VCOM-VC	64%
KCUMB-COM	63%
PNWU-COM	61%
TOUROCOM-NY	60%
COMP-NW	58%
VCOM-CC	57%
LMU-DCOM	56%
RVUCOM	56%
ATSU/KCOM	54%
OSU-COM	53%
LECOM	51%
UP-KYCOM	51%

Percent of Matriculants at DO-Granting Medical Schools Selecting the College's Reputation as a Top Reason for Attending that School	
MSUCOM	76%
PCOM	69%
UNTHSC/TCOM	69%
CCOM	68%
NYIT-COM	66%
Western U/COMP	64%
AZCOM	63%
DMU-COM	61%
ATSU/KCOM	60%
KCUMB-COM	58%
NSU-COM	55%
UMDNJ-SOM	55%
UNECOM	53%
OU-HCOM	51%

Percent of Matriculants at DO-Granting Medical Schools Selecting Geographic Location as a Top Reason for Attending that School

TUNCOM-NV	83%
TUCOM-CA	78%
GA-PCOM	77%
TOUROCOM-NY	76%
Western U/COMP	74%
PNWU-COM	73%
LECOM-Bradenton	71%
UNECOM	69%
NSU-COM	68%
ATSU/SOMA	68%
NYIT-COM	68%
OSU-COM	68%
RVUCOM	66%
AZCOM	65%
WCU-COM	64%
PCOM	63%
CCOM	62%
MSUCOM	58%
UMDNJ-SOM	57%
WVSOM	56%
LMU-DCOM	54%
Western U/COMP-NW	53%
DMU-COM	51%
LECOM	51%
VCOM-CC	51%

Percent of Matriculants at DO-Granting Medical Schools Selecting the Campus Environment as a Top Reason for Attending that School

VCOM-VC	53%
Western U/COMP-NW	51%

Deciding to Study Medicine

All respondents were asked when they definitely decided they wanted to study medicine. Almost half of respondents indicated that they decided by the end of high school, with 24 percent deciding before high school and 25 percent deciding during high school.

<u>Decision to Study Medicine 2012</u>	<u>Respondents</u>
Before High School	24%
During High School	25%
During First Two Years of College	20%
During Junior Year of College	11%
During Senior Year of College	4%
After Receiving Bachelor's Degree	11%
After Receiving Advanced Degree	4%
After Attending Health Professions Fair	1%

Only 15 percent of respondents decided to study medicine after completing their bachelor's degree (11+4).

Reapplying to Medical School

Respondents who did not matriculate into a medical school were asked whether they planned to reapply for enrollment to medical college in 2013.

<u>Plans to Reapply in 2013</u>	<u>Respondents</u>
Reapply to DO-Granting Medical College	74%
Reapply to U.S. MD-Granting Medical College	42%
Reapply to Offshore Medical College	12%
No Plans to Reapply	22%

Survey Comments

As part of the survey, respondents were given the option of submitting, as free form text, their comments about the application process. Respondents commented on a variety of aspects of the application process, including the general application process, the length of the process, the cost, customer service and comparisons between the AACOMAS and AMCAS application services.

- The majority of the comments, from 495 respondents, were about the general application process. Of these, 76 percent were positive and 24 percent were negative.
- The second most common comment, from 106 respondents, compared the AACOMAS and AMCAS processes. Fifty-nine percent favored the AACOMAS process over the AMCAS process.
- Significantly down from 2010, in 2012 only 23 respondents commented on application process length; 11 comments were positive.
- Eighty-eight respondents commented about the letters of recommendation process, and 98 percent of those comments were negative. The majority of the respondents recommended that AACOMAS develop a system to upload letters of recommendation to the AACOMAS application.
- Customer service-related issues generated comments from 62 respondents, with more positive comments (77 percent) than negative (23 percent).
- Fifty-six percent of the comparisons favoring AMCAS related to the letter of recommendation service but none was related to negative customer service by AACOMAS.
- Only 24 respondents criticized the process of sending transcripts to AACOMAS and to the COMs.

Comparison with Previous Surveys

The following tables detail key statistics from the survey and compare results from the 2012, 2010 and 2009 applicant surveys.

Key Statistics	Survey Responses		
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2012</u>
% Applied U.S. MD	70% ^a	67% ^b	69% ^{ab}
% Applied Offshore MD	9%	10%	9%
% Admitted DO	55% ^a	55% ^a	68% ^b
% Admitted U.S. MD	26%	24%	23%
% Admitted Offshore MD	n/a	8%	8%
% Enrolled DO	36% ^a	38% ^a	53% ^b
% Enrolled U.S. MD	23%	21%	20%
% Enrolled Offshore MD	n/a	3%	2%

^{a-b} Proportions within a row noted by distinct letters differ significantly, ($p < 0.05$).

There was a statistically significant difference between the percentage of respondents who applied to a U.S. MD school in 2009 (70 percent) and the percentage who applied in 2010 (67 percent). Also, the percentages of respondents who were admitted to and who enrolled in a DO school in 2012 (68 and 53 percent, respectively) differed significantly from both previous survey years.

Key Statistics	Survey Responses		
	2009	2010	2012
Mean Number of DO Designations	6.88 ^a	7.11 ^a	7.45 ^b
Median Number of DO Designations	6	6	6
Mode Number of DO Designations	3	4	4
Mean Number of DO Offers of Admission	1.74 ^a	1.69 ^{ab}	1.65 ^b
Median Number of DO Offers of Admission	1	1	1
Mode Number of DO Offers of Admission	0	0	1

^{a-b} Proportions and/or means within a row noted by distinct letters differ significantly, ($p < 0.05$).

The mean number of DO designations in 2012 (7.45) was significantly higher than the means of the previous survey years. Similarly, the mean number of DO offers of admission in 2012 (1.65) was significantly lower than the mean in 2009 (1.74). In all survey years, the median number of DO designations remained at six and the median number of DO offers of admission remained at one. The increase from zero to one in the mode number of DO offers of admission may reflect a self-selecting pool of DO school-admitted survey respondents.

The table below compares overall undergraduate GPA and total MCAT scores obtained by a variety of groups of respondents in the two survey cycles.

Key Statistics		Survey Cycle		
		2009	2010	2012
Admitted DO	Undergraduate GPA	3.50	3.51	3.52
	Total MCAT	27.3	27.5	27.4
Enrolled DO	Undergraduate GPA	3.48	3.48	3.50
	Total MCAT	26.6	26.7	26.8
Admitted and not Enrolled DO	Undergraduate GPA	3.54 ^a	3.58 ^b	3.60
	Total MCAT	28.7 ^a	29.2 ^b	29.2 ^b
Not Admitted DO	Undergraduate GPA	3.32	3.34	3.36
	Total MCAT	24.7	25.0	24.9
Applied U.S. MD	Undergraduate GPA	3.45 ^a	3.48 ^b	3.50 ^c
	Total MCAT	27.0 ^a	27.3 ^b	27.4 ^b
Not Applied U.S. MD	Undergraduate GPA	3.33 ^a	3.34 ^a	3.41 ^b
	Total MCAT	24.1 ^a	24.4 ^b	24.8 ^c
Admitted U.S. MD	Undergraduate GPA	3.56	3.57	3.58
	Total MCAT	28.9 ^a	29.3 ^b	29.3 ^b
Enrolled U.S. MD	Undergraduate GPA	3.56	3.58	3.59
	Total MCAT	29.1	29.5	29.5
Applied and not Admitted U.S. MD	Undergraduate GPA	3.39 ^a	3.43 ^b	3.46 ^c
	Total MCAT	25.8 ^a	26.3 ^b	26.4 ^b

^{a-b} Means within a row noted by distinct letters differ significantly, ($p < 0.05$).

Discussion

This research provides an additional perspective on the application process to DO-granting medical schools and insight into those applicants who also apply to U.S. MD and offshore MD schools. Twenty-nine percent of respondents applied only to DO schools, while 7 percent of respondents applied to all three types of medical schools. Sixty-one percent of respondents applied to DO schools and U.S. MD schools, and 2 percent applied to DO schools and offshore MD schools.

Seventy-eight percent of survey respondents were admitted to a medical school, and 75 percent of respondents enrolled in a medical school. The 1,690 respondents who enrolled in a DO-granting medical school represent 31 percent of the total 2012 first-time, first-year enrollees in the colleges that are part of the AACOMAS process. The large number of first-year student respondents proves the value of these data as a representative sample of the AACOMAS matriculant pool.

Seventy-one percent of respondents applied to more than one type of medical school, and 20 percent were also offered admission to more than one type of medical school. Of those that were offered admission to multiple types of medical schools, 98 percent (N=644) were offered admission to a DO school, 83 percent (N=545) were offered admission to a U.S. MD school and 22 percent (N=143) were offered admission to an offshore MD school. Sixty-nine percent of those offered admission to multiple types of schools enrolled in a U.S. MD school, 28 percent enrolled in a DO school, 1 percent enrolled in an offshore medical school and 2 percent did not enroll in a medical school.

Data from this survey indicate that a majority of applicants prefer to enroll in a U.S. MD-granting medical school, although 4 percent of respondents (95) who were admitted to U.S. MD schools and 40 percent of respondents (100) who were admitted to offshore MD schools respondents preferred to enroll in a DO school.

GPA and MCAT scores have been steadily increasing over time for applicants to both DO and MD medical schools. This applicant survey shows that both accepted and denied

applicants to U.S. MD schools have higher scores than both accepted and denied applicants to DO medical schools. The quantitative measures of applicant quality are not necessarily the defining qualities of a successful medical student or of a good doctor, and DO-granting medical schools may use additional factors in selecting their matriculating class.

AACOM Survey of 2012 Applicants to Osteopathic Medical Colleges

Were you offered admission to any osteopathic medical schools (either during the regular process or from the wait-list)?

Y/N

If yes, please indicate those colleges from which you received an offer of admission from the list below. Mark all that apply.

List of COMs

Are you enrolling in an osteopathic medical school to which you were offered admission?

Y/N

If yes, please indicate the college in which you are enrolling from the list below.

List of COMs

Please indicate from the list below the top three reasons why you selected the osteopathic college that you are attending.

Randomized order

College's approach to learning and teaching

College's faculty

College's geographic location

Cost

Campus environment

College's reputation

College's admission process

College's prestige factor

Prefer to have DO degree

Opportunities for specialty selection

Did you complete an application to one or more U.S. allopathic medical schools (MD degree-granting) for enrollment in fall 2010?

Y/N

If yes, to how many U.S. allopathic medical schools did you apply?

1

2

.

.

.

100

100+

Were you offered admission to any of the U.S. allopathic medical schools?

Yes/No

If yes, how many offers of admission did you receive?

- 1
- 2
- .
- .
- .
- 100
- 100+

Are you enrolling in the U.S. allopathic medical school to which you were offered admission?

Y/N

If yes, are you enrolling in a public or a private allopathic medical school?

Private/Public

Please indicate from the list below the top three reasons why you selected the U.S. allopathic medical college that you are attending.

Randomized order

- College's approach to learning and teaching
- College's faculty
- College's geographic location
- Cost
- Campus environment
- College's reputation
- College's admission process
- College's prestige factor
- Prefer to have MD degree
- Opportunities for specialty selection

Did you complete an application to one or more offshore allopathic medical schools (MD-granting – Caribbean, European, or other)?

Y/N

If yes, to how many offshore allopathic medical schools did you apply?

- 1
- 2
- .
- .
- .
- 100
- 100+

Were you offered admission to any of the offshore allopathic medical schools?

Y/N

If yes, how many offers of admission did you receive?

- 1
- 2
- .
- .
- .
- 100
- 100+

Please indicate from the list below the top three reasons why you selected the offshore allopathic medical college that you are attending.

Randomized order

- College's approach to learning and teaching
- College's faculty
- College's geographic location
- Cost
- Campus environment
- College's reputation
- College's admission process
- College's prestige factor
- Prefer to have MD degree
- Opportunities for specialty selection

Do you plan to reapply for enrollment to medical college in 2013?

- Yes, to osteopathic medical colleges
- Yes, to U.S. allopathic medical colleges
- Yes, to offshore allopathic medical colleges
- No

Please indicate when you definitely decided you wanted to study medicine.

- Before high school
- During high school
- During first two years of college
- During junior year of college
- During senior year of college
- After receiving bachelor's degree
- After receiving advanced degree
- After attending a health professions fair

Please enter any comments about the application process that you would like to share with us.