TMDSAS 2015 Tips

Note before starting the application!!!!
The TMDSAS online application consists of multiple sections, each section must be saved individually. It is imperative that you save each page BEFORE moving to the next page. Information will be lost if you do not save each page.

Miscellaneous comments
- Read the technical instructions carefully before starting! Only a few Internet browsers are supported and you need to use the navigation links within the application rather than your browser buttons when working on the application.
- You can pay the application fee by credit card, Electronic Funds Transfer, EFT/ACH or by mailing in a money order/cashier’s check drawn on a U.S. bank.
- You will need to enter your SAT and ACT scores.
- Non-US citizens who are permanent residents must present a copy of the front and back of their permanent residency card. See the TMDSAS instructions for details.
- You will need to upload a digital photo of yourself with the application. A passport type photo would work well.
- Note that it is possible to update some sections of your application after you submit it.

Transcripts and study abroad
You will need to provide official transcripts from all colleges where you have taken courses. Print out the TMDSAS transcript request form from within the application and send this form to the college registrar(s) when requesting transcripts.

Study abroad situations can be complicated and need to be evaluated on an individual basis.
For some study abroad programs the applicant will be required to have the foreign course work evaluated for US equivalence by an evaluation service approved by TMDSAS. Because Bryn Mawr lists foreign coursework from many programs as aggregate or “lump sum” transfer credit, you may need to submit a copy of the transcript from the foreign university if you did not study abroad through a US college-sponsored study abroad program that provides a US equivalency transcript.

If you studied abroad you should look into this as soon as you can because evaluation services can take some time.

Note that the application processing and verification system differs between TMDSAS and other application services. It is best if your transcripts arrive at TMDSAS before you submit the application so that the validation process can be done on the submitted application. As soon as you submit the application TMDSAS will start computing GPAs, and will validate course information for the transcripts that are available, and then send out the application to medical schools. Final validation would be done at a later date if not all of the transcripts are there at the time of initial processing.

Entering Coursework
- Haverford, Swarthmore, and/or Penn courses taken during the academic year should not be listed
separately. Only list Bryn Mawr as a school attended, and list all courses under Bryn Mawr. Penn courses taken during the summer or after graduation would need to be listed separately and would require a separate transcript. Note that any Penn courses taken during your undergraduate years might then show on the Penn transcript. If this situation applies to you, you should check in with TMDSAS about how to handle it.

- You need to convert Bryn Mawr credit units to semester hours. 1 unit = 4 semester hours

**GPA calculations**

Read through the TMDSAS instructions on course classification (http://www.tmdsas.com/frwqAskedQ/03-AppProcessing.html) and methods of GPA calculations () to understand how TMDSAS calculates the following GPAs: overall GPA, overall science GPA, overall undergraduate GPA, undergraduate science GPA, undergraduate non-science GPA, overall graduate GPA, graduate science GPA and graduate non-science GPA.

**Premedical committee letters and recommendations**

Bryn Mawr will submit your premedical committee letter and individual letters to TMDSAS as a single pdf file using the secure Virtual Evals service. TMDSAS refers to these letters as the “Health Professions Committee Packet.” You do not need to provide Bryn Mawr with a TMDSAS evaluation form.

**MCAT Scores**

MCAT scores – you need to release your MCAT scores to TMDSAS through the ThX MCAT score reporting system. If you change your MCAT test date you must report that to TMDSAS.

**Employment and Activities**

From the TMDSAS instructions – “If you have activities that fit into more than one of the categories below, you should list the activity in each category. We recommend that you list activities in multiple categories if they fit the criteria in more than one category.”

Collectively from your college record, employment, and extracurricular activities you must account for all of your time since graduating from high school. Before starting this section look over your resume see if your “chronology of activities” (TMDSAS term) can be generated and look for any gaps in time not accounted for. The chronology of activities is automatically built from the information you provide throughout the application.

It is probably best not to “overload” entries in the “Leisure activities” category.

You cannot have 3 months or more of “unaccounted for” time. Read over these sections in TMDSAS before entering your activities or generating your chronology. Take note of how the text from the Employment and Activities section is automatically edited when the entry is used to generate the chronology.

Only the first 50 characters of the description are carried over into the chronology entry. If you do not want your description to be truncated, be sure to edit your activity descriptions appropriately after import to fit within 50 characters. The schools will see the full description within each [Employment & Activities] section.

Also note that TMDSAS allows listing activities in multiple categories if an activity fits into them. Examples of overlapping activities could be things like being a club president – which would be both
leadership and extracurricular activities. Note that you can also enter activities planned for the coming year.

**Essays**

a. Required personal statement (5000 characters) - The personal essay asks you to explain your motivation to seek a career in medicine. Be sure to include the value of your experiences that prepare you to be a physician.

b. Optional essay I – 2500 character limit
Briefly state any unique circumstances or life experiences that are relevant to your application. This is not an area to continue your essay or reiterate what you have previously stated - this area is provided to address any issues which have not previously been addressed.

c. Optional Essay 2
Describe any personal characteristics and/or important or challenging experiences you have had that will contribute to the diversity (broadly defined) or provide educational benefits to the student body.

**Application and admissions process timeline**
TMDSAS schools follow a different admissions process and calendar than AMCAS and AACOMAS schools. Typically interviews are from August to January. Acceptances can be sent out from November 15 to December 31. In January there is a “match process” for interviewed applicants and medical schools. See the TMDSAS web site for information about how the match process works. 

**Secondary Applications**
Links to medical schools with secondary applications are available on the TMDSAS web site. After you submit TMDSAS you should access and complete the secondary applications.