

## PRE-PROFESSIONAL VOCUBULARY

**AAMC: American Association of Medical Colleges;** This organization is the body which oversees most American medical schools and their admissions policies. See [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org) for more information.

**AMCAS: American Medical College Application Service;** This is the central application service utilized by almost all allopathic medical schools.

**MCAT: Medical College Admissions Test;** Standardized test required of virtually every applicant to medical school, given in April and August every year.

**PBL: Problem Based Learning;** Curriculum utilized by the medical schools which differs from the standard course approach. It calls for more independent learning. The approach is based on the examination of medical problems and situations, and the student must research the basic science as well as the medical approach needed to solve the problem.

**Secondary Applications (also known as Second Stage or Supplemental):** Once you apply to a medical school through the central application service each medical school will most likely send you a second application with more specific questions to answer. Some medical schools send secondary applications to every applicant, other schools are more selective.

**USMLE: United States Medical Licensing Exam:** These are the national boards taken by medical students. The test is in two parts. The first part is usually taken at the end of the second year in medical school and focuses on the basic sciences. The second part is taken, normally, taken the end of the fourth year and focuses more on clinical skills.

**Match Day:** All 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students throughout the country will find out which residency program they will attend on the same day. Match day is always in mid-March.

**Residency:** That part of the Medical Education which occurs after completion of medical school. Residencies are normally three years long and take place in specific hospitals. More advanced specialties require longer residencies.

**Intern:** An intern is a physician in their first year of residency.

**Fellowship:** Extended training for a specialty in medicine. For example, if you wish to go into cardiology a student would first complete a residency in internal medicine and then go onto a fellowship in cardiology.

**ADEA: American Dental Education Association;** This is the organization of U.S. Dental schools which oversees dental education and application procedures.

**AADSAS: Association of American Dental Schools Application Service:** This is centralized application service for application to dental school.

**DAT: Dental Admission Test:** The standardized test taken by all dental school applicants. It covers basic science (biology, general chemistry, and organic chemistry) perceptual ability, reading comprehension and quantitative reasoning.

**Allopathic Medicine:** What we think of as traditional medicine. Most schools in the United States are allopathic medical schools.

**Osteopathic Medicine:** The type of medicine taught by osteopathic medical schools. The study of osteopathic medicine includes both traditional medicine and the study and practice of muscular-skeletal manipulations. Osteopathic medical schools grant a **D.O.**, Doctor of Osteopathy Degree. See [www.osteopathic.org](http://www.osteopathic.org) for more information.

**COMLEX :** Comprehensive Osteopathic Licensing Exam: National exam taken by Osteopathic physicians to be board certified.