

SECONDARY APPLICATIONS OR “SECONDARIES”



WHAT IS A SECONDARY APPLICATION?

A secondary application is a questionnaire sent directly from the school (usually via email) to the applicant after their application has been received. Please note that most of these require additional fees. They also tend to have very quick turn-around deadlines, so as with everything, **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO WORK ON IT.**

Some schools will send secondaries only to those applicants who interest them; others will send them automatically to everyone, sometimes even before your AMCAS application has been filed.

Occasionally dental schools will submit secondaries, but not as frequently as medical schools.

Schools ask many additional questions in secondaries. These schools will take your answers very seriously. Common questions include:

- ✓ Why do you want to attend XX medical school?
- ✓ Why do you want to go to medical school in YY city?
- ✓ Why do you think after reading our mission statement?
- ✓ Why would you would be a good “fit” for ZZ medical school?
- ✓ Have you ever received any moving violations or speeding tickets?
- ✓ Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action at school or work, etc.?

Others may ask for one or two page essays on such topics as what you think is the greatest challenge in health care today, or to describe a challenging event in your life, how you dealt with it, and which mentors you sought advice from on how you handled it.

These take time and thought to answer. These answers are scrutinized as they reflect the questions individual medical schools want most answered by applicants.

Try to describe experiences not covered in your personal statement to show that you will bring depth and breadth of experience to the class and the profession.

If you are asked to name your referees, state the Pre-health Committee of Yeshiva University.

AS WITH YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT, ANYTHING YOU WRITE IN THESE ANSWERS WILL BECOME POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS IN YOUR INTERVIEW.

TIMING OF SECONDARIES

Most schools expect you to return the secondary two weeks after receiving it, so be prepared to complete them quickly. Many are listed online so you can review the questions in advance. Just be sure to double-check before sending in your answers to make sure the school did not change the questions from last year to this year.