

Case study #2: weak MCAT

Academics

School: University of Toronto

GPA: 3.60-3.79

• Program: Life sciences

MCAT: taken twice, 6-7 (V), 11-12 (P), 11-12
 (B), Q(W)

Extracurriculars

- Strong background in research with presentations
- Hospital volunteering and shadowing
- President of student science club
- Intramural sports
- Office clerk part time job

Goals

- Medical school admission, never applied previously
- Graduate school admission for back up, never applied previously

Diagnosis

Moderate GPA, low MCAT

Plan

 Specifically target schools that do not emphasize the MCAT.

Approach

- Student approached us in his final year 6
 months before the application due date.
 We focused on applying to schools that did
 not have strict MCAT cutoffs in the
 geographic locations that the student is
 interested in.
- We also looked over the application profile and carefully considered the importance of each extracurricular activity. Based on this assessment, we selected specific influential referees who we anticipated would write strong reference letters.
- On receiving interview invites, we offered repeat mock interviews specifically tailored to the style of each school. This student was very anxious prior to interviews because the MCAT was an obvious weak aspect of the application but our interview preparation offered the student greater confidence.

Result

- Accepted to the University of Toronto medical school (first choice).
- Continues to be mentored by MDconsultants during medical school.