



BREAK INTO MED SCHOOL

Stop Fretting!
You've Got This!



IDEAL TIMELINE

- First two + years of College: some combination of service, clinical exposure and research that leads you to medicine
- In the year before you apply: Develop a great narrative for your application, practice delivering that narrative (in your PS and activities section drafts, in your mock interviews)
- Junior Jumpstart in May – how to choose your medical schools and other information you'll need right before you apply.
- Apply in June! (which June is up to you)

What is a PIR?

- Prehealth application Institutional Review
- Why do we have you do this?
 - It benefits you. You refine your narrative, and have great first drafts for secondary apps.
 - It benefits us. We need to understand your narrative to write a great letter of introduction.
- You find the PIR on the prehealth website
<http://prehealth.wustl.edu/pir/Pages/default.aspx>
- Deadline: End of March!

What is my prehealth advisor's role?

- Your advisor will help you evaluate strengths and weaknesses in your application and give you feedback on your narrative. You **MUST** meet with your advisor for one official PIR meeting. You **MAY** meet with any advisor before or after.
- Many students will complete PIR materials over winter break and meet with their prehealth advisors to discuss in the spring semester. (UPLOAD YOUR MATERIALS TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR MEETING! All PIR meetings must take place by March 31. Schedule early!)
- Please answer every question. Address competencies by citing specific experiences where you have developed or demonstrated them.
- The PIR gives you a chance to develop and practice delivering your narrative; it allows us to learn your narrative so we can accurately represent you in the letter of introduction that goes with your recommendation letters when you apply.
- Ideally, your narrative will keep evolving. We encourage you to update your materials so that when we're writing your cover letter, we have the best information. Upload final versions by May 15.

What you need to know now about storing Letters of Recommendation

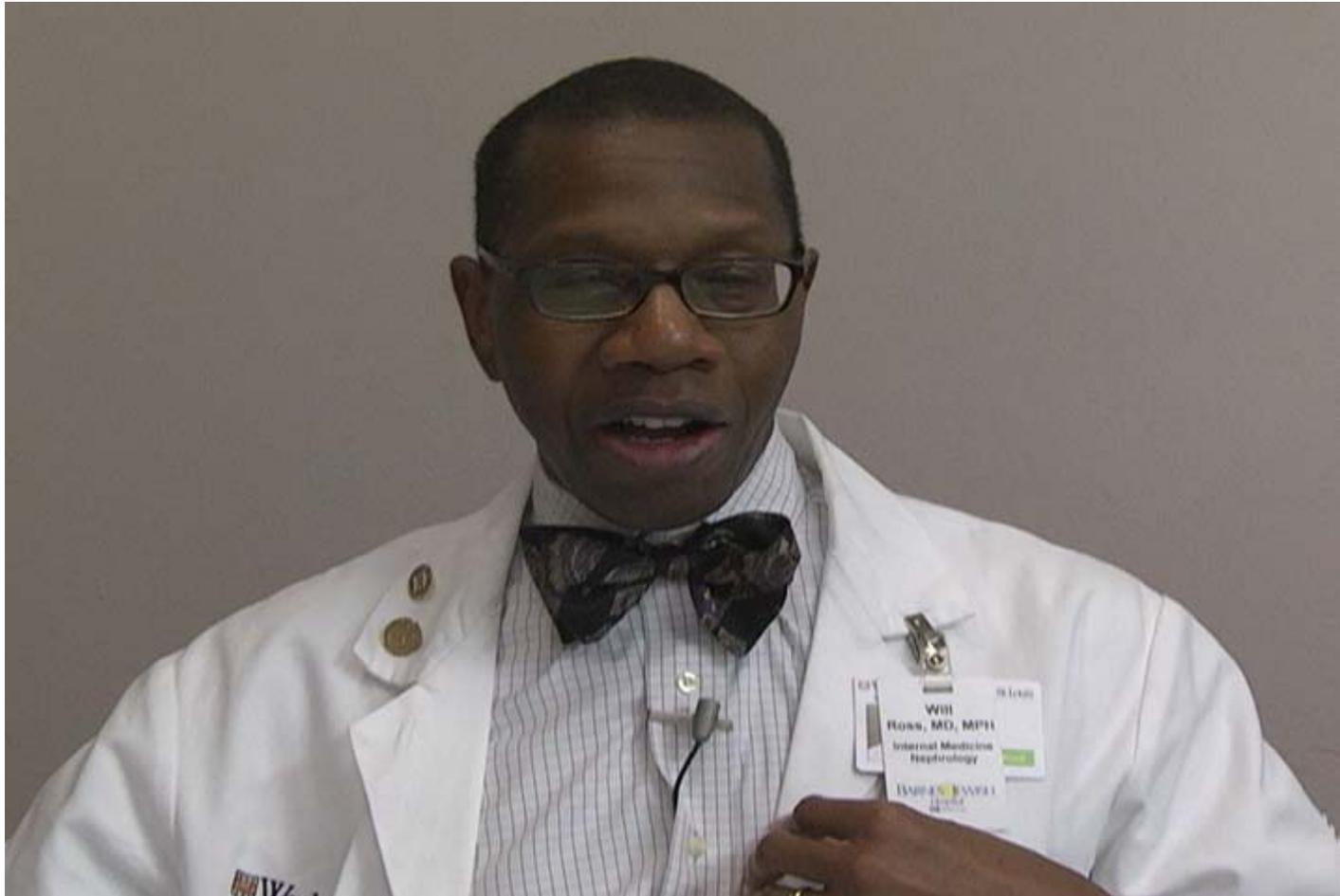
- Enter Recommenders' information in the PIR system.
- YOU must request your letters; the system is not contacting your letter writers.
- You will get an email when a letter is received by our office.
- Give the confidentiality waiver (that you print from your PIR account after you enter the recommender's information) to your recommender; it has all the information needed to submit.
- Aim to give your recommenders ample time so they can submit by early June, which is ideal for our process.



Numbers Matter, But....

- Range of Science GPA/MCAT combinations for admitted applicants last year was 2.25/29 to 4.0/44 (Lowest MCAT was 25 last year)
- Range of Science GPA/MCAT combinations for applicants NOT admitted last year was 2.52/29 to 4.0/35
- RANGES are very similar, although distribution within the ranges is not equal.
- You do have better odds with a higher gpa/MCAT, but there is a lot more to a successful application.

What Else Do I Need? Let's hear from Dr. Ross, WUSM Admissions



Your Narrative Is More Than Your Personal Statement

- Leadership and service will be evident in your activities section, especially the three you designate as “most meaningful.”
- Your PIR questions (and the other documents you’ll submit) will help you fine-tune how to communicate your story effectively.

More Advice From Dr. Ross



What If I've never worked in a coal mine?

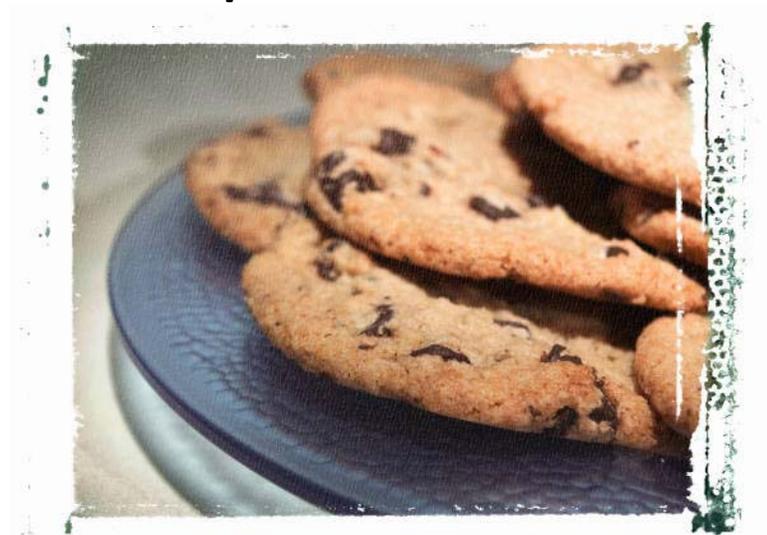
Maybe you've worked in a restaurant.

Maybe you've volunteered at an under-resourced school.

Maybe you've shadowed at a VA hospital.

If you start now, this could be fun!

- Thinking about your future should be exciting.
- Prepared applicants mostly go to medical school.
- Applicants who learn they weren't prepared reapply, wiser for their experience.





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