

West Virginia University School of Medicine Deferral Policy

Purpose: To outline the steps in the process of requesting a deferral of medical school matriculation.

Eligibility: Accepted medical school applicants may defer medical school matriculation for 1 year for reasons related to unique opportunities that may include research, academia (graduate studies, scholarship), or service programs.

Deferral Process:

1. The accepted applicant must apply for a deferral via email to the Dean for Admissions. In the correspondence, the applicant must describe the compelling reason for the deferral request. The deadline for a deferral request is May 15 of each calendar year.
2. The Deferral Committee will review the request and render a decision within two weeks of receipt of the request. The Deferral Committee is comprised of 5 individuals: the Dean for Admissions, Committee on Admissions members, and Student Services deans appointed by the Dean for Admissions. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, depending upon each applicant's circumstances and the availability of seats in the next entering medical school class.

Process after Granting of Deferral:

The deferred student must submit an application to West Virginia University School of Medicine (WVU SoM) as a deferred matriculant applicant through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) for the next entering class. The applicant is restricted to apply to only WVU SoM for the next entering class. Violations of such an agreement are considered to be a violation of admissions processes and will result in an investigation.¹ The applicant must abide by the most updated requirements for applying through AMCAS.

References:

1. AAMC. Policies and Procedures for Investigating Reported or Suspected Violations of the AMCAS® Program, the Fee Assistance Program, the MCAT® Exam, the PREview® Exam, and other AAMC Admission and Enrollment Standards. Available at <https://students-residents.aamc.org/how-apply-medical-school-amcas/policies-and-procedures-investigating-reported-or-suspected-violations-amcas-program-fee-assistance>. Accessed on September 3, 2025.

This policy may be amended and approved by a simple majority vote of the COA.

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the COA and the Dean for Admissions for the MD Degree to ensure it is in keeping with current WVU SoM and AAMC standards.

Revised: April 2016

Approved by the COA April 2016

Revised: January 2018

Approved by the COA January 2018

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Revised: September 2025

Approved by the COA on September 16, 2025