

Tips for Premedical Students



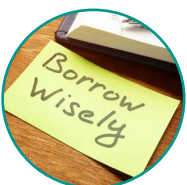
USE THE AAMC FIRST AND FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

- The [FIRST program](#) provides information to help you learn about financing your medical education and managing money.
- The [AAMC Fee Assistance Program](#) may help cover some of the application expenses.



FOLLOW THE STEPS TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL AID

- Learn about the [financial aid application process](#), and visit the medical schools' financial aid websites.
- Review the information and resources on the [Federal Student Aid website](#).
- Use the [AAMC's database of loan repayment, forgiveness, and scholarship programs](#).



PREPARE, UNDERSTAND HOW LOANS WORK, AND BORROW WISELY

- Check with the medical school's financial aid staff to see if Primary Care Loans (PCL) and Loans for Disadvantaged Students (LDS) are an option. These are federal loans from the [Health Resources & Services Administration](#).
- Be aware of the [differences between private loans and federal loans](#).
- Talk to the medical school's financial aid staff to find out about options for institutional aid.

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MANAGE YOUR UNDERGRADUATE LOANS

- Review all correspondence received from your loan servicer, and provide up-to-date contact.
- If you have undergraduate loans, they will be placed in an in-school deferment when you start medical school. No payments are required while enrolled at least half time.
- If you had private loans as an undergraduate student, talk with the lender to learn the repayment details and requirements during medical school. If you don't know how to contact the lender, view your credit report at [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com).



BUDGET AND BE FINANCIALLY SAVVY

- Use the [AAMC Financial Wellness program](#) and FIRST's budgeting ideas, tips, and tools.
- If possible, reduce and eliminate outstanding debt.
- Maintain a good [credit score](#) by paying your bills on time, reducing your revolving credit (e.g., [credit cards](#), loans), and limiting applications for new credit.
- [Access your credit reports](#) to view your outstanding credit obligations, monitor your credit, and prevent identity theft.
- Report inaccuracies to the appropriate credit bureaus by filing a dispute online. Report identity theft or fraud via the [Federal Trade Commission's website](#).



TALK WITH YOUR PREHEALTH ADVISOR, MENTORS, AND MEDICAL SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID STAFF

- The [Find an Advisor tool](#) from the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions can connect you with a volunteer advisor for free.
- Review the "[Top 10 Questions Premeds Should Ask Medical School Financial Aid Officers](#)" article for conversation starters.