



TAAHP
50TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

February 7th-9th 2019



Deciphering the Non-Traditional Applicant's Mindset: Reaching Applicants Who Took the Road Less Travelled

Enrique Jasso, Jr., M.A.
Coordinator of Research, Advising Services, and Digital Media
Texas Health Education Service

Kyle Thomas
MS 2, TTUHSC-School of Medicine
JAMP Student



Texas
Health
Education
Service



T M D S A S



Texas
Health Education
Advising
Network

Warmup Question

You've always wanted to be an astronaut. You did well in Physics and science courses, but graduated and life took you in another direction.

You've heard that the US Space Force is looking outside the box for candidates, and the interest to become an astronaut is sparked again.

Where do you begin?



#1 Talk to a Space Force Advisor

- Take the Space Force Pre-Requisites
- Take the Space Force College Admission Test
- Complete the Space Force Schools Application
- Wait 4 months (we hope you applied early!)
- Go to a Space Force Interview!



Defining Non-Traditional



Defining Non-Traditional

- At TMDSAS, any applicant over 25 is considered Non-Trad
- Starting EY2020, applicants can self-identify as “Non-Traditional”
 - Regardless of Age



Non-Traditional Applicants By the Numbers



Non-Trads by the Numbers

Applicants Over 25

- Medical
 - EY 17 – 1305
 - EY 18 – 1274
 - EY 19 – 1260
- Dental
 - EY 17 – 279
 - EY 18 – 266
 - EY 19 – 247

Matriculants Over 25

- Medical
 - EY 17 – 244
 - EY 18 – 191
 - EY 19 –
- Dental
 - EY 17 – 45
 - EY 18 – 39
 - EY 19 –

Non-Trads by the Numbers

Non-Trad Average GPA Applicants

- Medical
 - EY 17 – 3.38
 - EY 18 – 3.37
 - EY 19 – 3.39
- Dental
 - EY 17 – 3.26
 - EY 18 – 3.27
 - EY 19 – 3.32

Non-Trad Average GPA Matriculants

- Medical
 - EY 17 – 3.59
 - EY 18 – 3.61
 - EY 19 –
- Dental
 - EY 17 – 3.46
 - EY 18 – 3.46
 - EY 19 –

Non-Trads by the Numbers

Non-Trad Average MCAT/DAT Applicants

- Medical
 - EY 17 – 501.1
 - EY 18 – 501.9
 - EY 19 – 503.0
- Dental (AA/PA)
 - EY 17 – 18.5, 18.9
 - EY 18 – 18.6, 18.9
 - EY 19 – 19.4, 19.5

Non-Trad Average MCAT/DAT Matriculants

- Medical
 - EY 17 – 508.6
 - EY 18 – 508.9
 - EY 19 –
- Dental (AA/PA)
 - EY 17 – 20.5, 19.8
 - EY 18 – 20.2, 19.8
 - EY 19 –

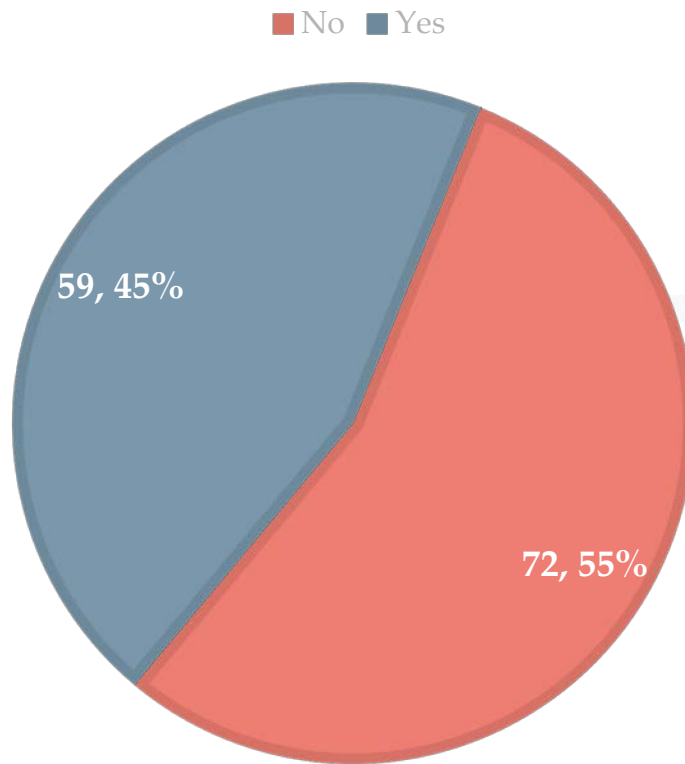
Non-Trads by the Numbers

The average *matriculated, non-traditional student* averages are below the general matriculated pool (and lower than the matriculated pool of re-applicants) in most quantifiable categories.

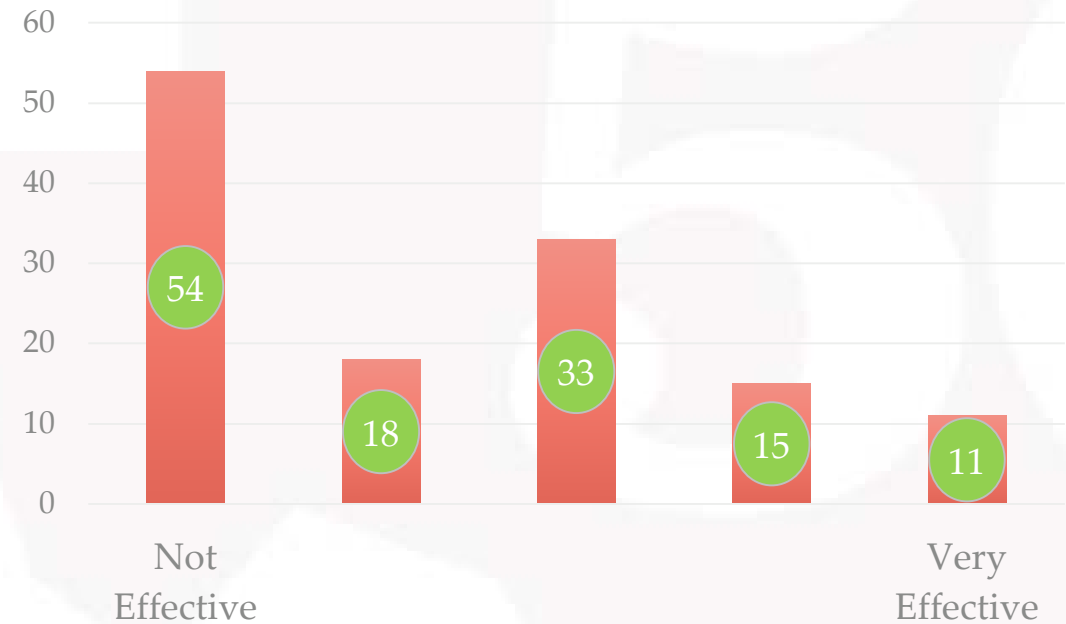


Non-Traditional Survey

Access to Advisor



How effective have your Pre-Health Advisors been for you in your journey to matriculate?



Time for a Group Exercise!

What are the
biggest obstacles
non-traditional
students face?

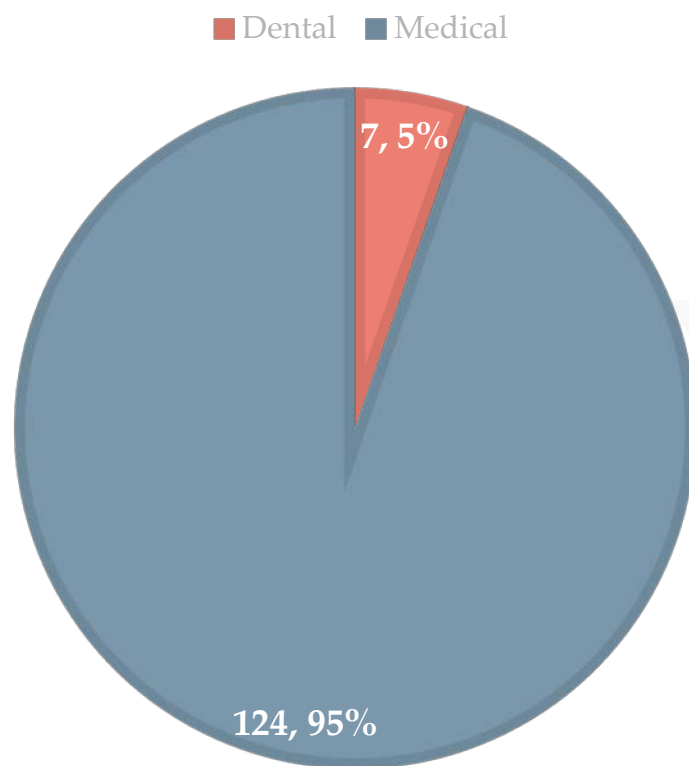


2018 Non-Traditional Survey

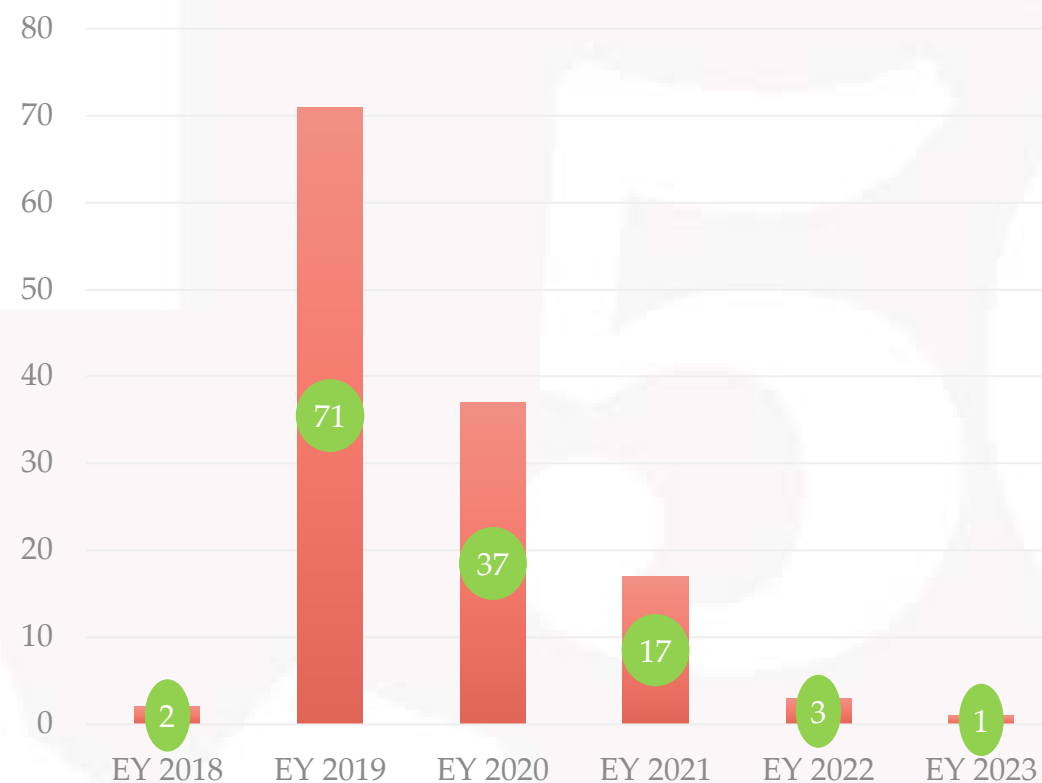


Non-Traditional Survey Results

Applicant Type

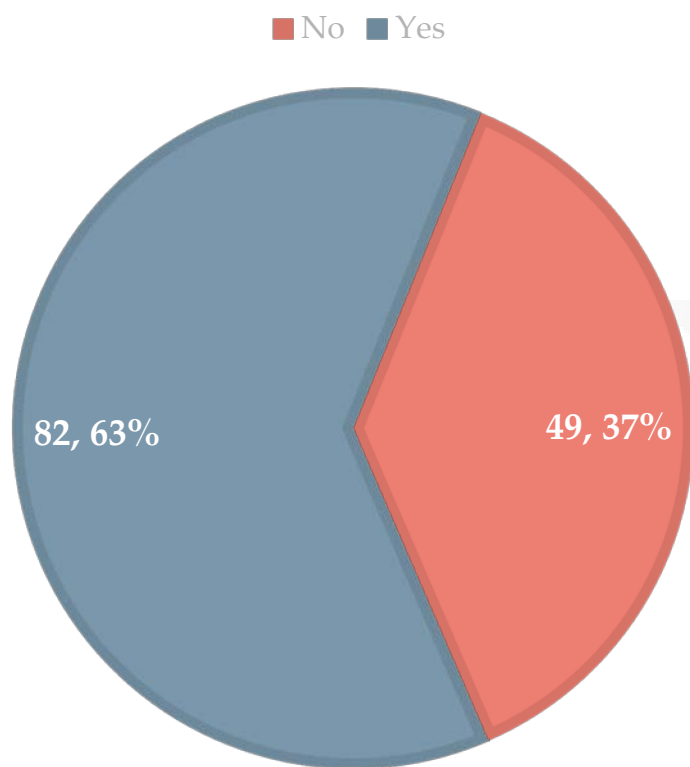


Entry Year

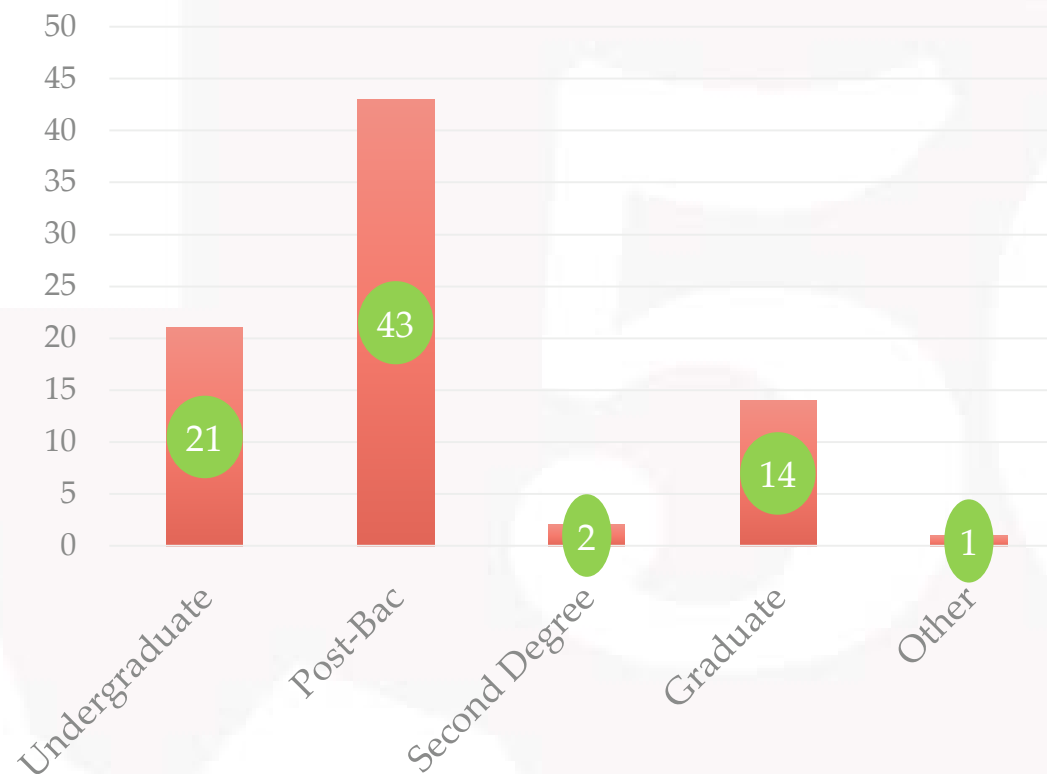


Non-Traditional Survey Results

Currently Enrolled



Education Type



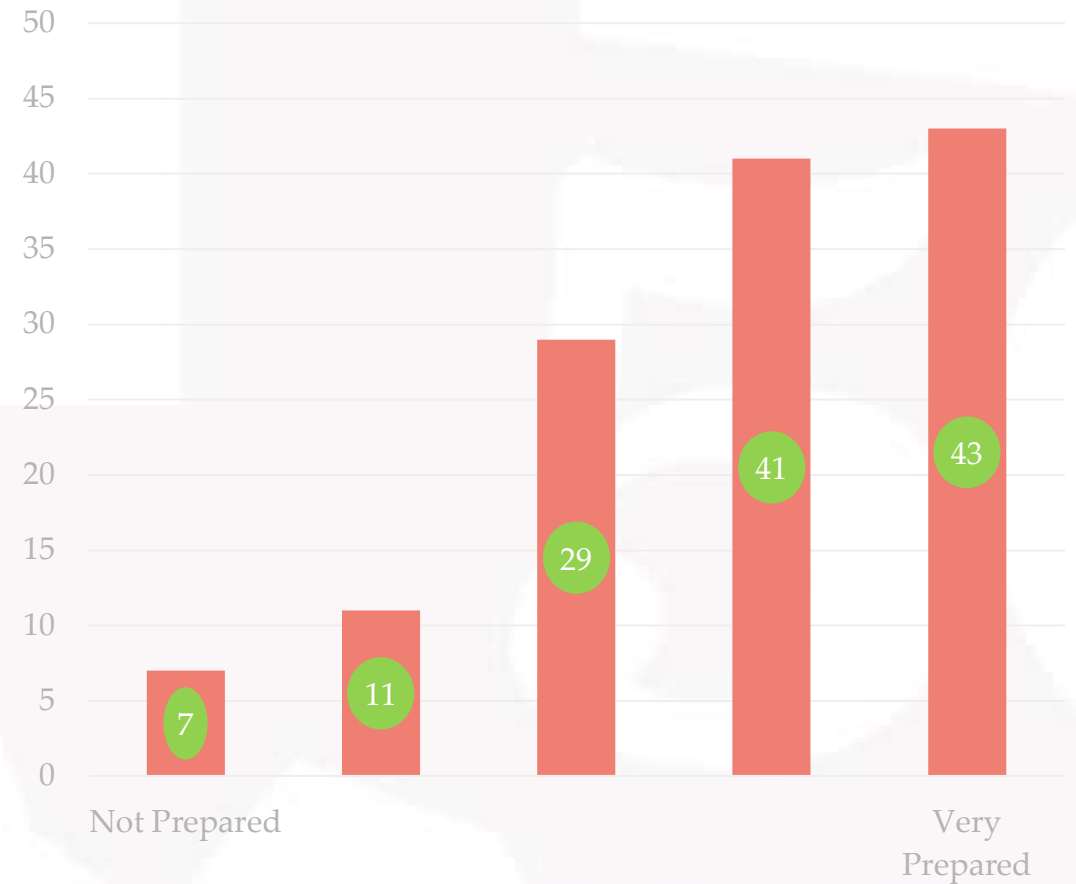
Non-Traditional Survey Results

- What do you believe is the biggest setback as a non-traditional applicant? (Select all that apply)
 - Access to advising resources
 - Academics (Test scores and GPA) Current Employment/Career
 - Family Responsibilities
 - Finances
 - Other



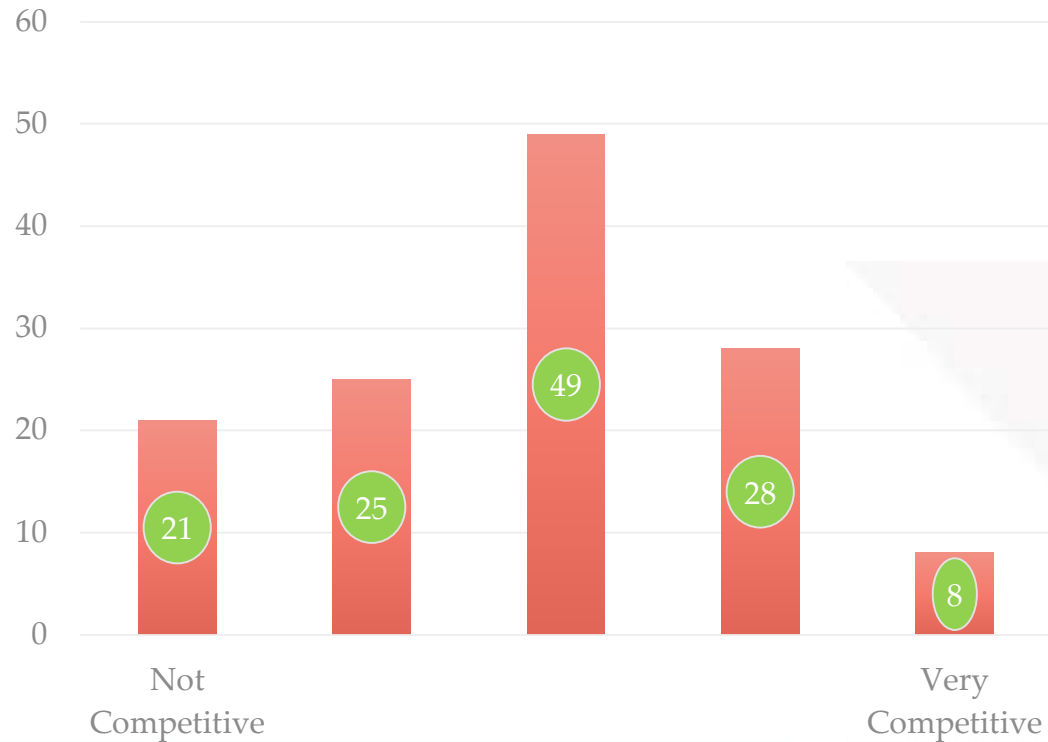
Non-Traditional Survey Results

How confident are you in the preparing for the application process?

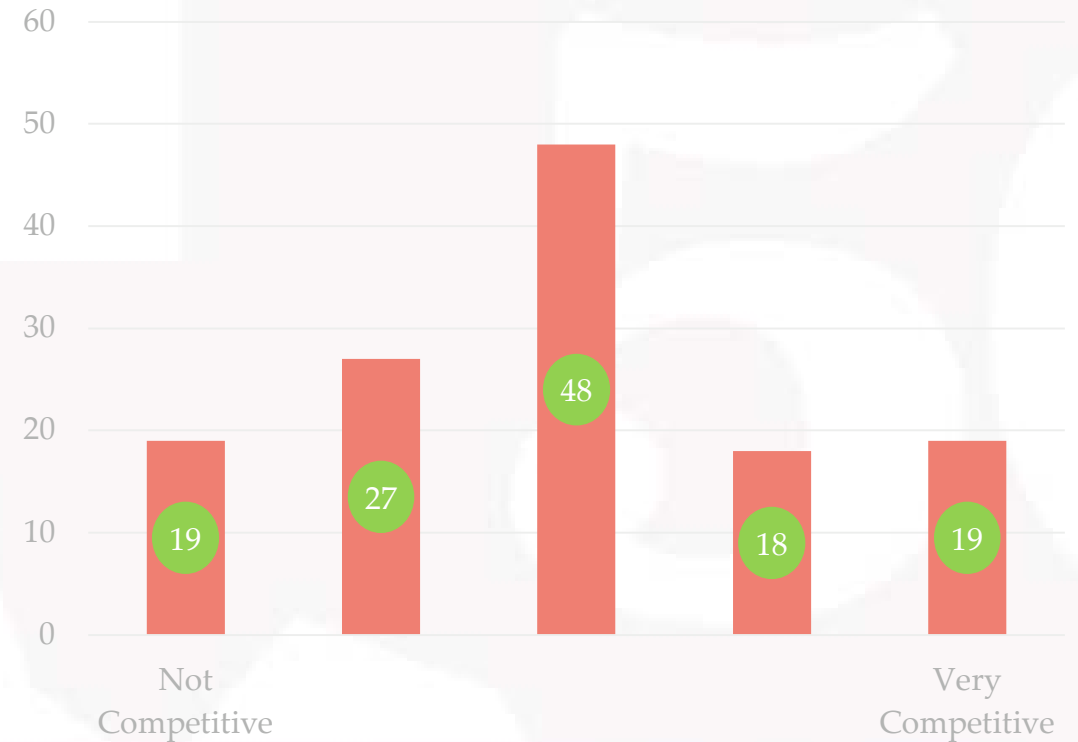


Non-Trad Survey – Perceived Areas for Improvement

Test Scores

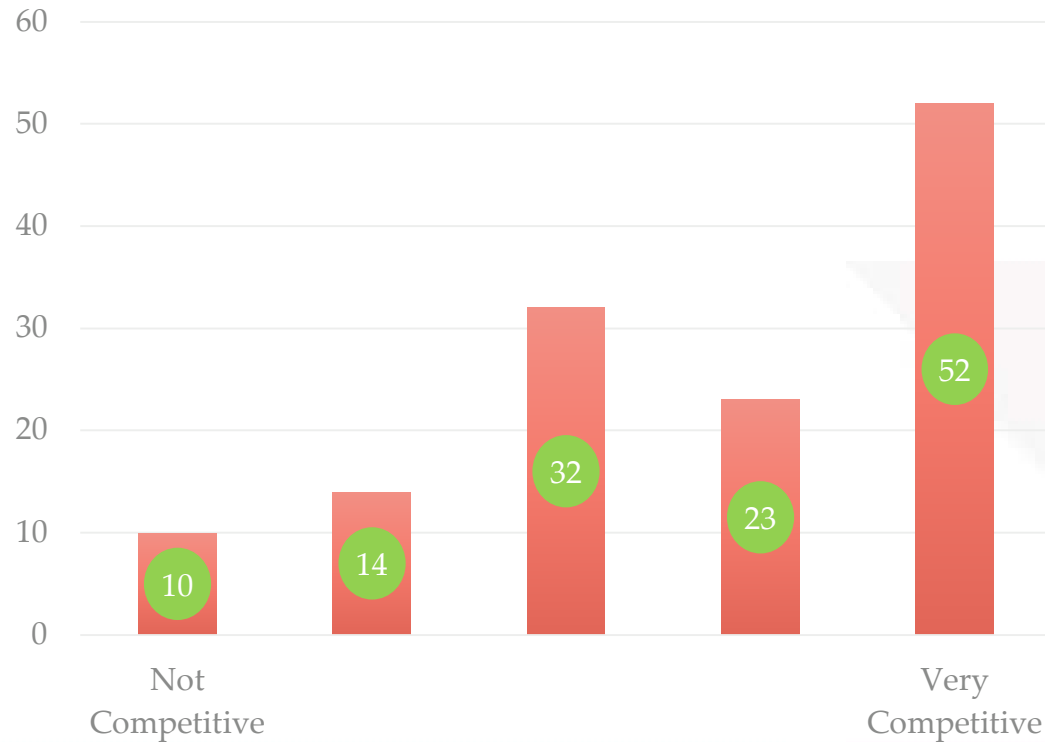


GPA

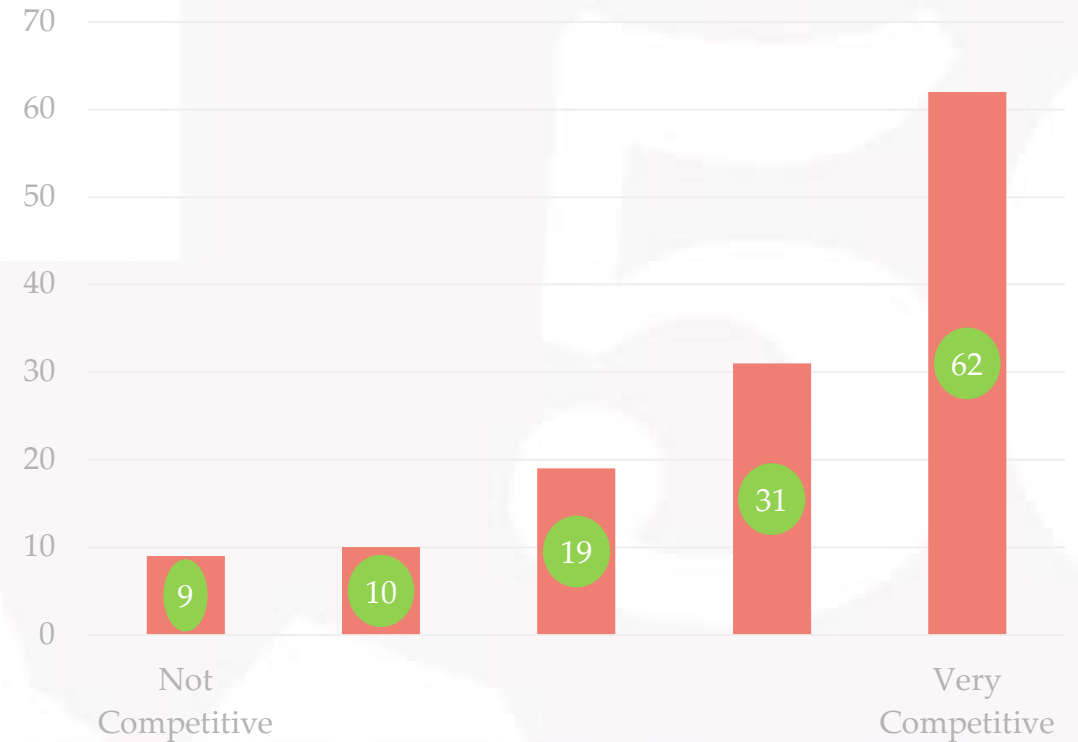


Non-Trad Survey – Perceived Areas for Improvement

Volunteer

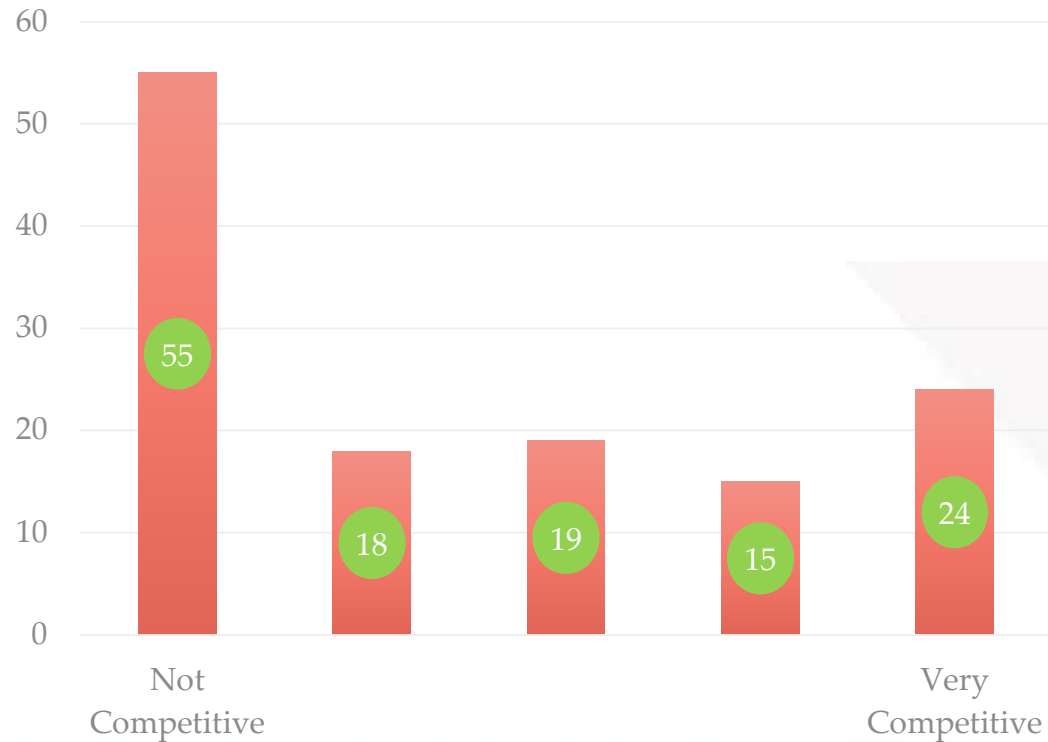


Shadowing/Clinical Experiences

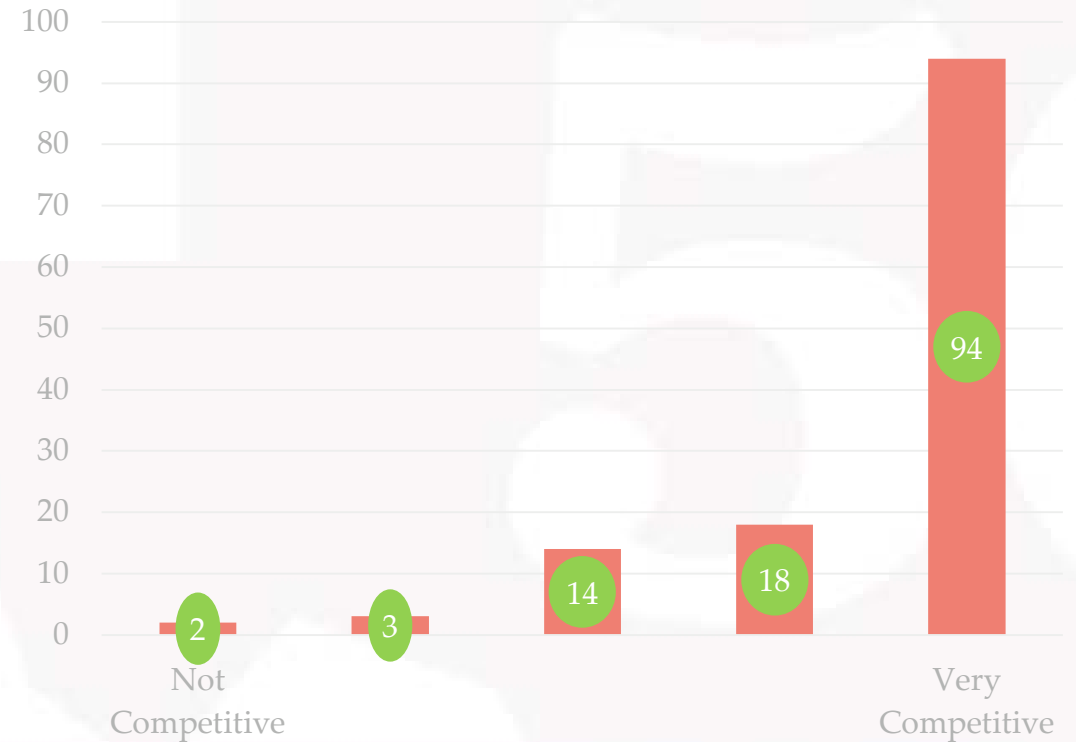


Non-Trad Survey – Perceived Areas for Improvement

Research

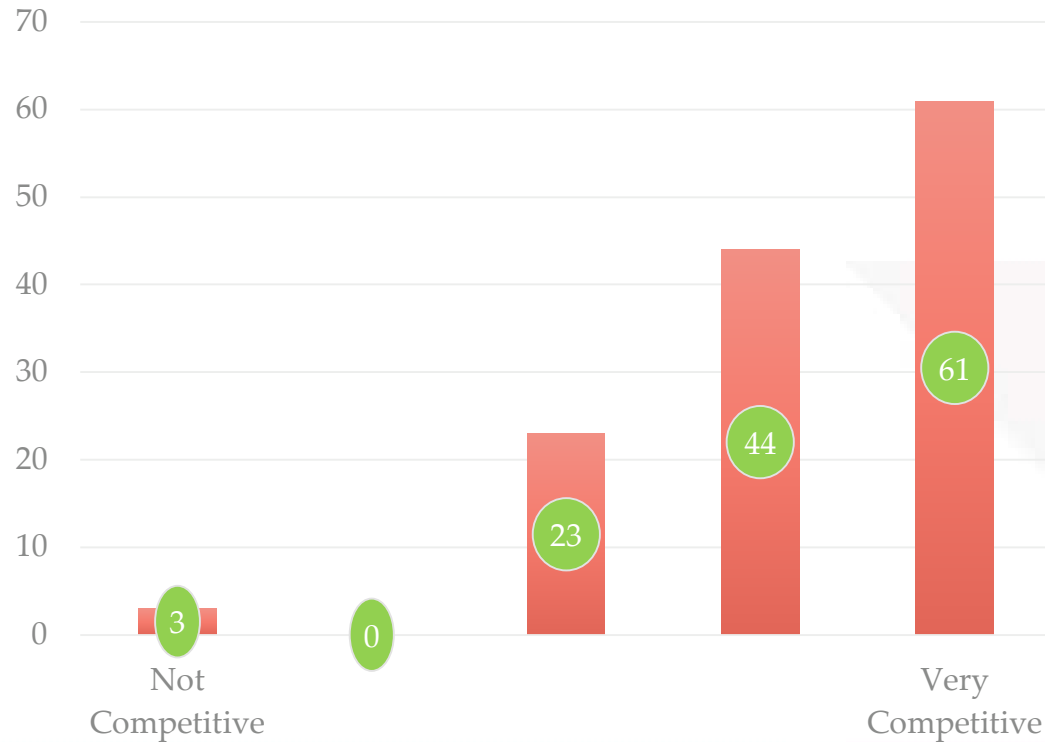


Employment

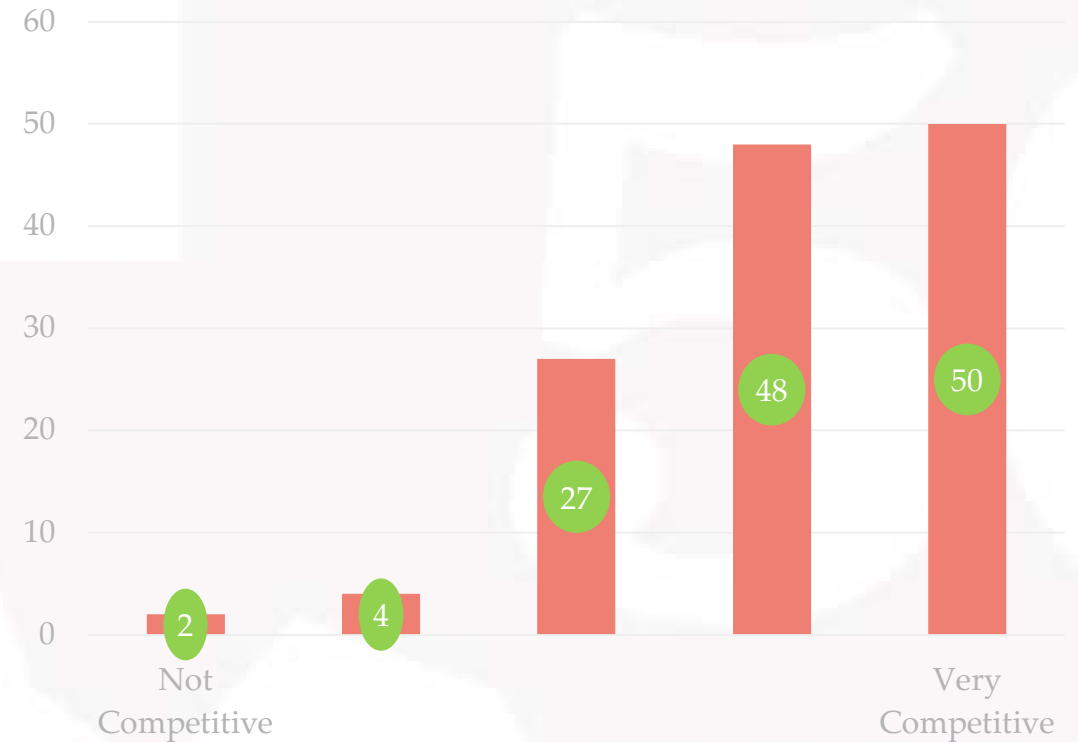


Non-Trad Survey – Perceived Areas for Improvement

Letters of Evaluation



Essays



Non-Trad Survey – Perceived Areas for Improvement

If you could only improve one area of your application, which would it be?

Area for Improvement	Responses
Test Scores (MCAT/DAT/GRE)	58
GPA	41
Research Experiences	9
Volunteering/Community Service Hours	9
Shadowing/Healthcare Experiences	6
Essays	5
Letters of Evaluation	2

Time for another Group Exercise!

What existing programming/ workshops does your office offer to help applicants in these areas?



Test Scores, GPA, Research, Shadowing, Volunteer/Community Service,
Essays, Letters of Evaluation, Interviews, etc.

TMDSAS Engagement with Non-Traditional Applicants



Non-Traditional Applicant Changes to TMDSAS

- Starting EY2020, applicants can self-identify as “Non-Traditional”
 - Describe the factors that have defined you as a non-traditional candidate and how they impact your application. (1000 characters)
- Designation will be available via existing reports

Non-Traditional

Do you consider yourself a non-traditional applicant?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Describe the factors that have defined you as a non-traditional candidate and how they impact your application.



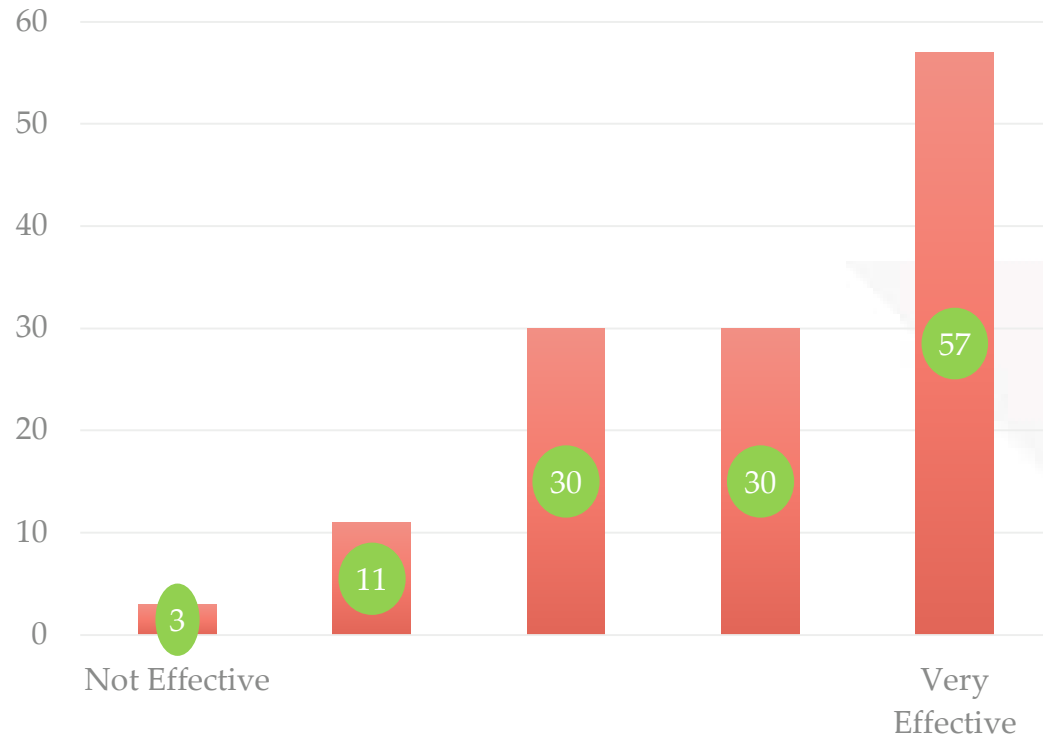
Mon: 1 Max: 1000 Current: 0

Non-Traditional Applicant Changes to TMDSAS

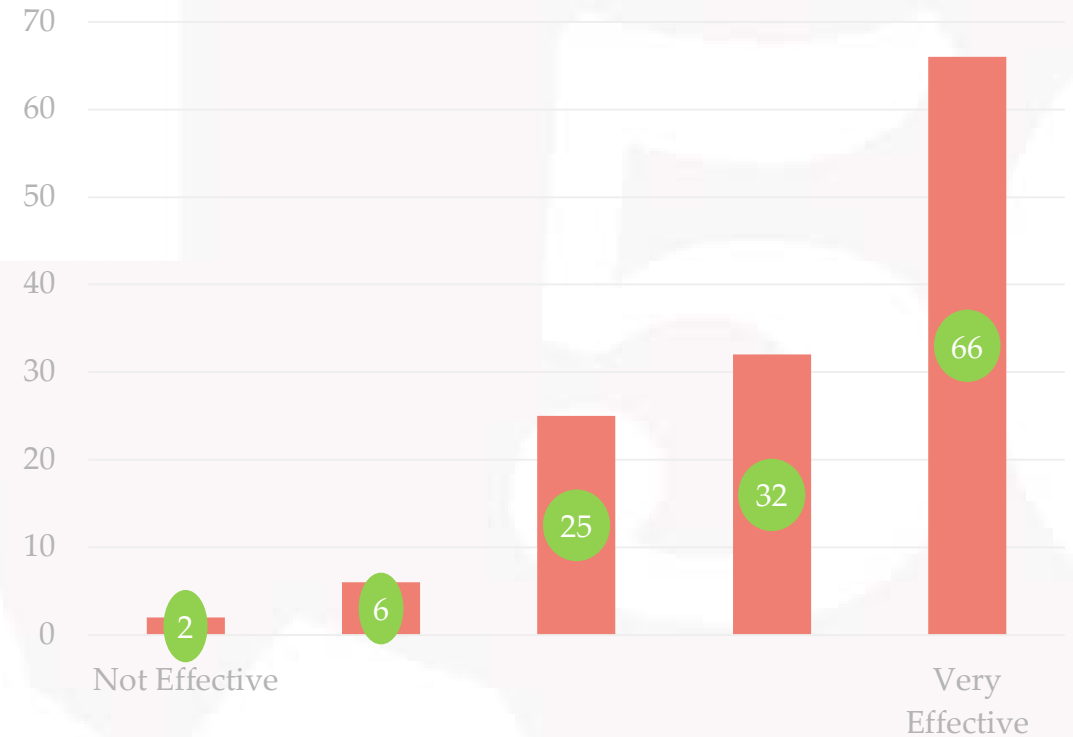
- Through EY2019, non-traditional applicants could only discuss their situation through “Disciplinary Action” section
- Starting EY2020, this section will be re-named “Education History”
 - Page will include sections of questions for
 - “Non-Traditional”
 - “Educational Interruptions” (existing)
 - “Disciplinary Action” (existing)

Non-Trad Survey – Improvement for TMDSAS Online Communities

Interact with TMDSAS Staff, Advisors, and Admissions Officers

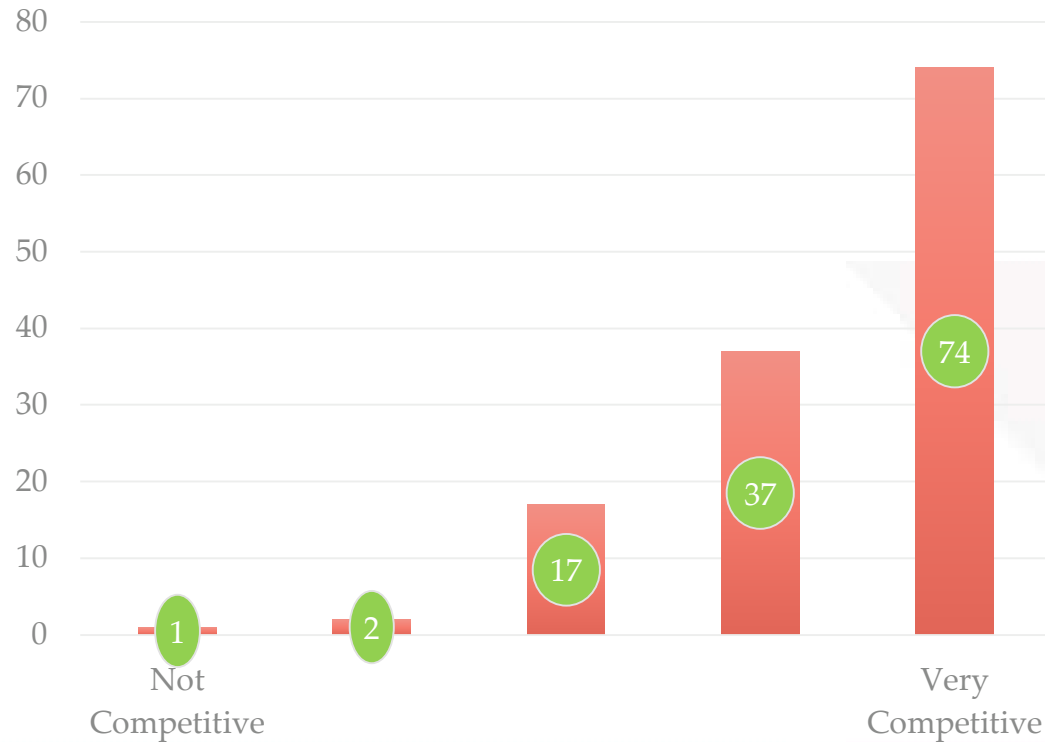


Answering *MY* questions about the application

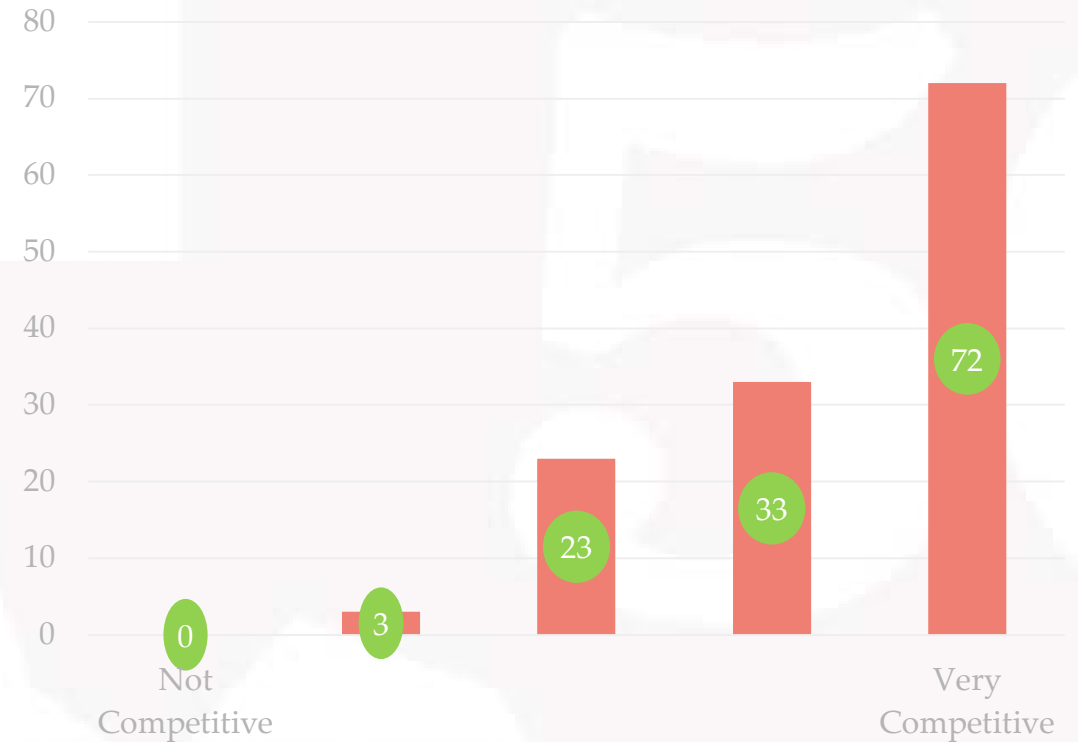


Non-Trad Survey – Improvement for TMDSAS Online Communities

Providing Inspiration to Pursue My Goals



How Does This Group Compare to Other Online Pre-Med/Dent/Vet Communities?



Online Community Plans for 2019

- Weekly threads:
 - Resource Roundup
 - “Newbie” Question thread
- Group Google Calendar
 - All important dates for TMDSAS
 - Historical high/low traffic days for submission
- Live Q&As/ “Office Hours”



TMDSAS Podcast

- 31,000+ downloads
- 50 episodes
 - Beyond the Application with Dr. Morales and Mr. Maldonado
 - Non-Traditional Applicants Series
 - Advisors' Corner
 - Learn about the TMDSAS Schools
 - TMDSAS Advice
 - Application by the Numbers
 - General Advice
- Available on iTunes, GooglePlay, Spotify, social media, and tmdsas.com

TMDSAS Podcast in 2019

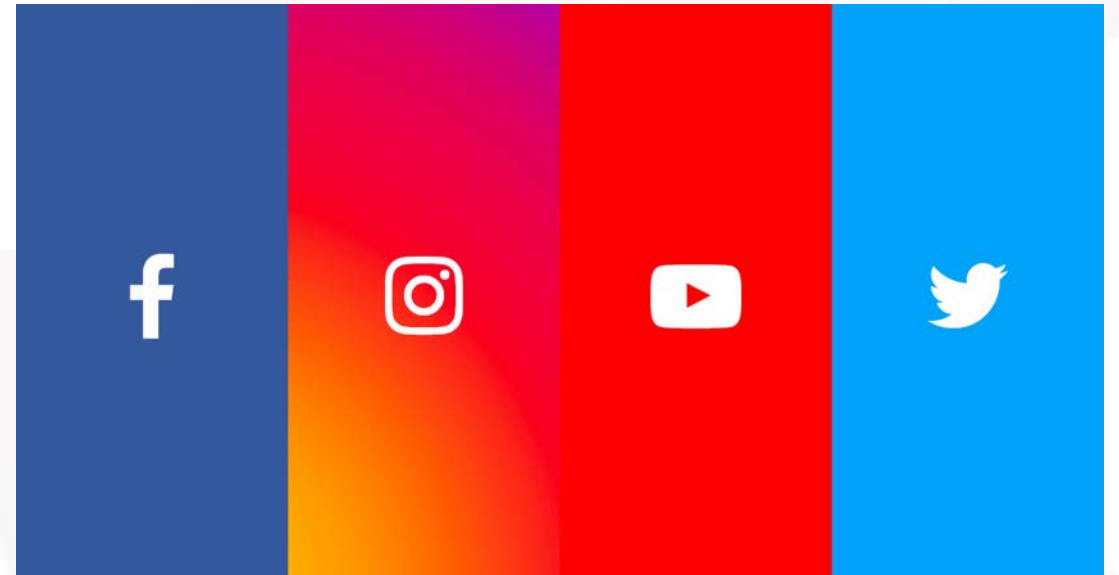
Episodes

- Non-Traditional, Out-of-State, Re-Applicants by the Numbers
- EY 2019 Applicants by the Numbers
- Changes for EY2020 Application Cycle
- TMDSAS Application Section Overview: Activities, Essays, Letters, Coursework, Supporting Documents
- Advisor-proposed topics



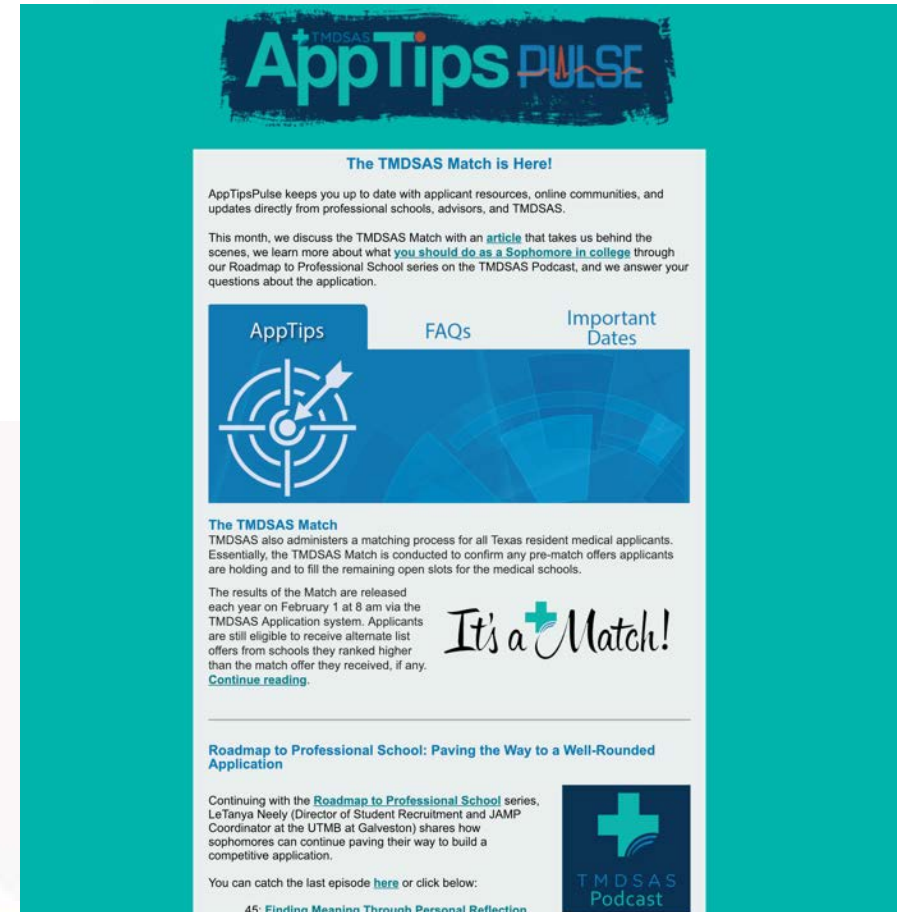
TMDSAS on Social Media

- Facebook
 - Groups
 - TMDSAS Hub
 - TMDSAS Non-Traditional Applicants
- Twitter
 - @TMDSAS - all updates from TMDSAS
 - @TMDSASsupport – processing times
- YouTube
 - How-to Videos
 - Preparing for the Application
- Instagram
 - Coming Soon!



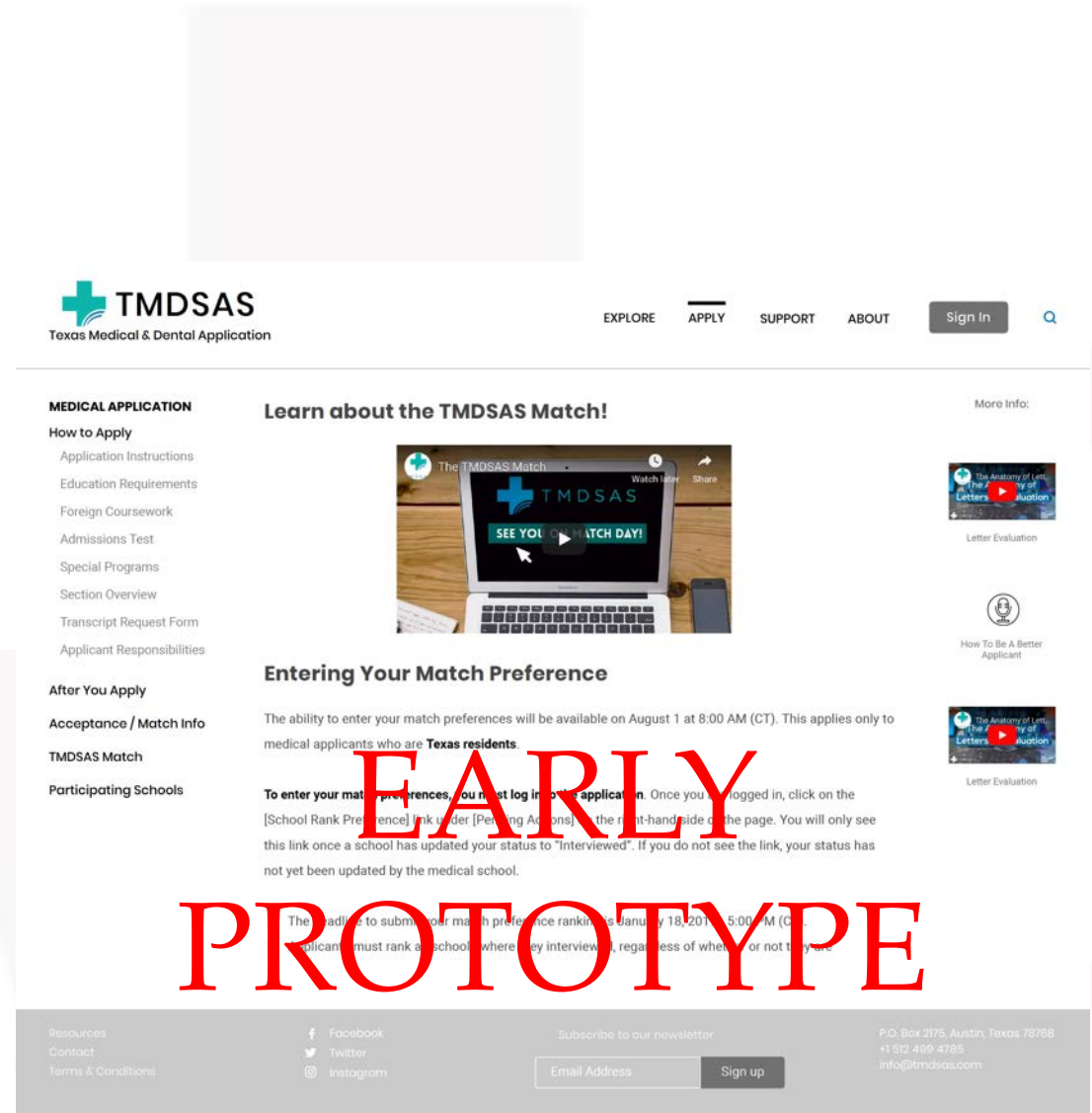
AppTipsPulse Newsletter

- Monthly Newsletter published by TMDSAS
- Digest of podcasts, social media discussions, and important dates in TMDSAS Application cycle
- Monthly themes with articles and links to resources
 - Coming soon
 - Behind the Scenes at TMDSAS
 - Road to the TMDSAS Application
 - What You Need to Know about TMDSAS Application for EY2020



More in 2019!

- New TMDSAS Website!
 - Integrated resources
 - Streamlined navigation
 - User experience focus
- New JAMP Website!
- New TXHES Website!



Open Call for Advisors to Engage with Non-Trads

- Join an online community to help moderate questions
 - You get a Moderator badge!
 - Chime in whenever you can to answer simple questions
 - Keep discussions on-point
- Be a guest on the TMDSAS Podcast!
 - Have a topic you love to discuss? Let's chat!
- Become a volunteer advisor
 - NAAHP is looking for more volunteer advisors from Texas!
 - Email volunteer.advisor@naahp.org to join the list!



Enrique Jasso Jr.

★ Admin · January 23 at 12:57 PM

Everyone knows applying early is important for TMDSAS applicants.

Care to guess the percentage of interview spots claimed by applicants who submitted by July 31 for the EY2019 application cycle?



Shawn Beechwood, Mary Brewer and 9 others

19 Comments

Connect with Us!

Enrique Jasso, Jr., M.A.

Coordinator of Research, Advising Services, and Digital Media

ejasso@tmdsas.com

- nontraditional@tmdsas.com
 - Dr. Wright and Enrique respond to non-traditional applicants' questions
- podcast@tmdsas.com
 - Questions about the TMDSAS Podcast or request to be a guest
- research@tmdsas.com
 - Have a major project in mind but need help with navigating through TMDSAS data? Reach us here!
- digitalmedia@tmdsas.com
 - Manages AppTipsPulse Newsletter and websites for TMDSAS, JAMP, and Texas Health Education Service



Texas
Health
Education
Service



T M D S A S



Texas
Health Education
Advising
Network



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.

School of Medicine



TEXAS
ASSOCIATION
OF ADVISORS
for the Health Professions