



TAAHP
50TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

February 7th-9th 2019



MAKING THE CUT: A CANDID DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Felix G. Morales, M.D.

Associate Dean of Admissions

Associate Professor in Family and Community Medicine

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

School of Medicine

OBJECTIVES

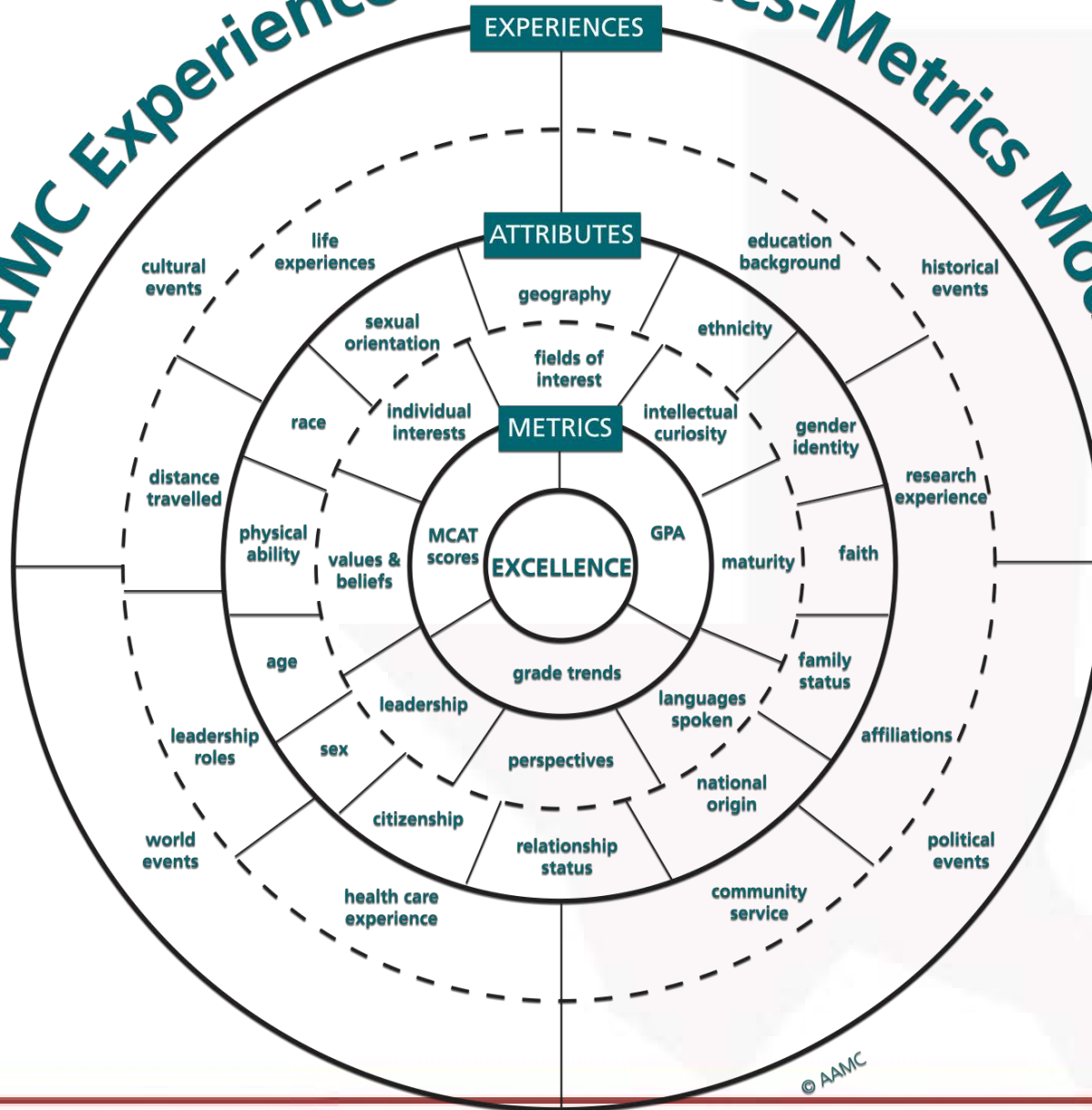
- Holistic Review
- Evaluation Process
- Personal Statement
- Interview
- Post-Interview
- Common Mistakes



The value of a Holistic review

- Understand medical schools have different areas they emphasize and areas they will consider more highly.
- Looking beyond the numbers.
- We highly value students with varied and diverse experiences.
 - Provides a positive impact on student learning and interaction.
- It is our goal to produce the best possible physician by placing emphasis and importance on medical education.

AAMC Experiences-Attributes-Metrics Model



© AAMC

Areas of Interest



"average" TTUHSC applicant – EY2018

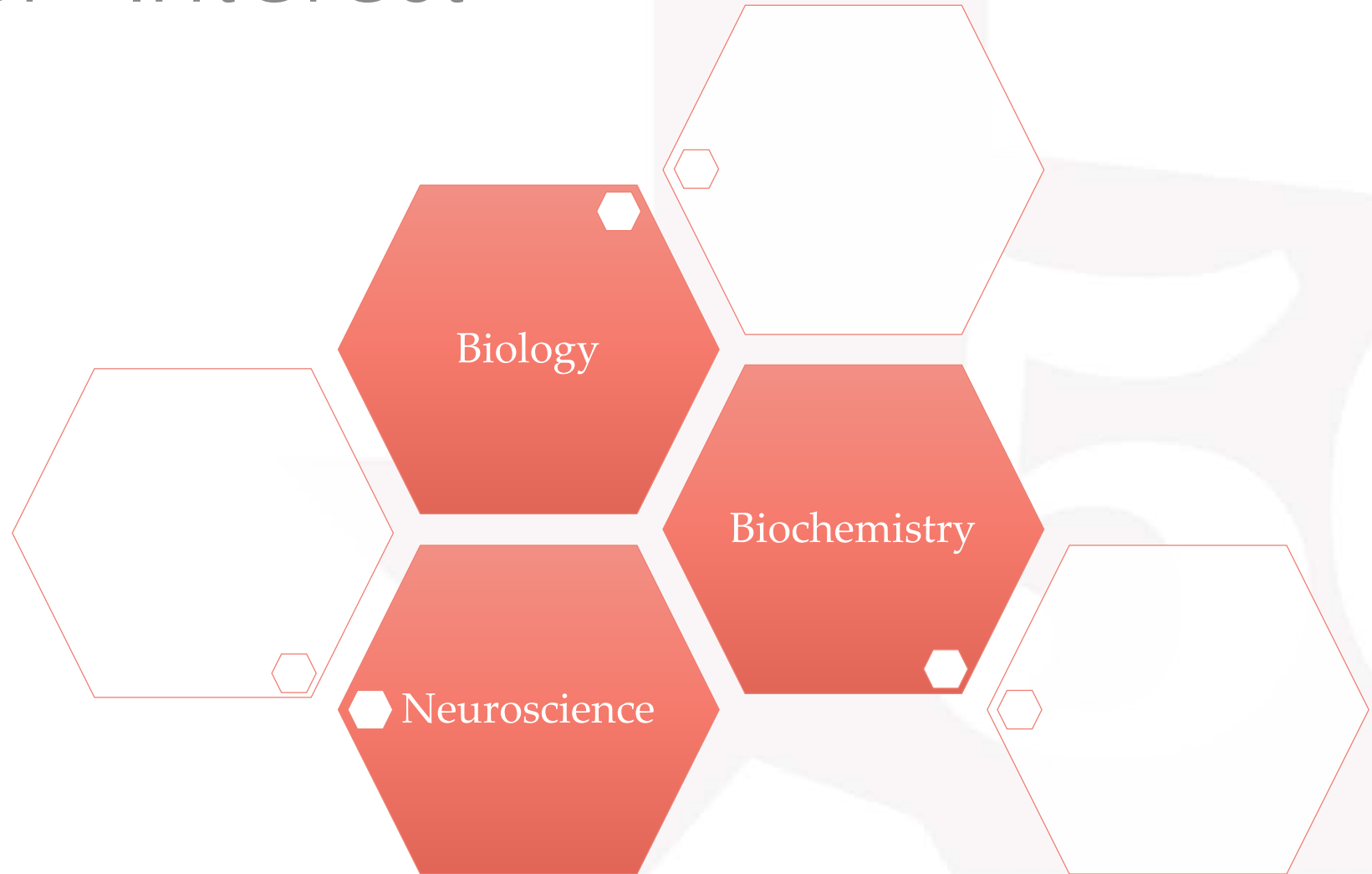
Overall

- MCAT
 - 507
- GPA
 - Overall - 3.74
 - BCPM - 3.64

Out of State

- MCAT
 - 513
- GPA
 - Overall – 3.84
 - BCPM – 3.77

Of "Major" Interest



Evaluation process

Student A

- Biochemistry Major
- Overall GPA-3.65
- Science GPA-3.60
- MCAT-505

Student B

- Neuroscience Major
- Overall GPA-3.88
- Science GPA-3.80
- MCAT-512



Evaluation process

Student A

- Started a new pre-med group
 - Acts as current president
- Has helped with Habitat for Humanity
- Works as a scribe at a local ER
- Shadowed hometown pediatrician and family medicine physician
- Participated in a research with a Biochemistry professor
- Works part-time at the library on weekends

Student B

- Documents over 300 hours of research in neuroscience department
- Shadow family friend twice over the last semester
- Member of AMSA
- Was cited with a Honors Code violation for allowing another student copy from a lab report.

Evaluation process

Student A

- Letters of Recommendation
 - 2 Faculty Members
 - Very Dedicated and Hardworking
 - 1 Hometown Pediatrician
 - Shows tremendous amount of interest
 - Vouches for character and grit

Student B

- Letters of Recommendation
 - 1 Research Faculty Advisor
 - Discusses at length the student's participation in the research project
 - 2 Faculty Members
 - Rates the student in top 5 % of each class

EVALUATION Process: Personal Statement - Importance

- Aspect of application that will be truly “unique”.
- Only opportunity to speak directly to admissions committee members.
- Poor execution can result in unfavorable consequences.



Evaluation process: Personal Statement - Purpose

- Discuss how committed you are in achieving your goal.
- Strategic placement of ideas and topics in anticipation for interview.
- Your personal campaign



Evaluation process: Personal Statement - Development

- What is your motivation?
- Was there an “A-ha” moment?
- Provide evidence: “Love of science” and “Desire to help people.”
 - Is it clear without using these statements?
- Avoid summarizing application



Evaluation process

Student A

- Personal Statement Summary-
 - It has been the student's goal to become a physician after seeing grandfather suffer from Parkinson's disease
 - The student elaborates that despite making Bs in first 2 semesters that they were determined in achieving the goal of becoming a physician
 - Plans on working in a underserved area

Student B

- Personal Statement Summary-
 - States that the love of science and wanting to help people are the driving factors
 - States that they are more than capable of handling the rigor of medical school because of the high grades they received in college

Prepare for the Interview

- Blinded Interview
- Semi Blinded Interview
- Multiple Mini Interviews
- Panel Interviews
- Length of Interview
- Situational Behavioral Questions



Interview

Student A

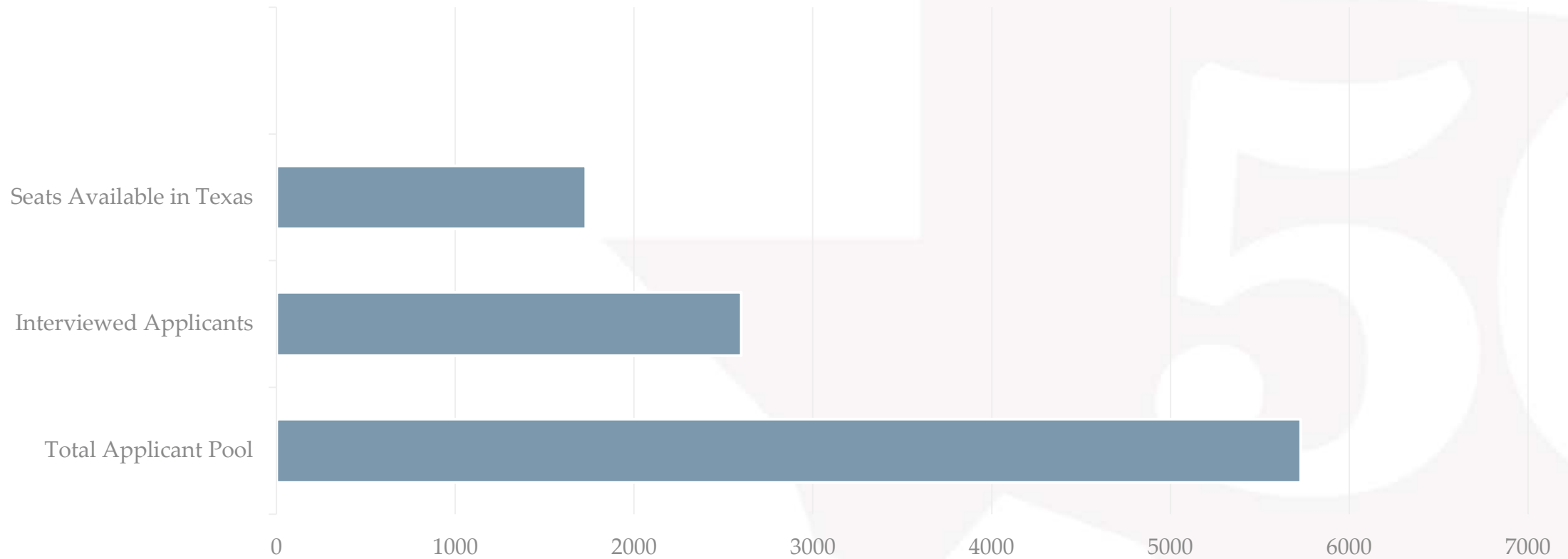
- Comments from interviewers:
 - “Very bright and articulate. The student will fit in very well with the culture of our institution. Would love to be able to teach this person.”
 - “Very passionate and dedicated! Has a tremendous future.”

Student B

- Comments from interviewers:
 - “Seemed overconfident. The student states that they have many options.”
 - “Could not articulate a reason why the student would want to be a part of our community and was very vague about the honors code violation.”

Matriculates

EY2018 Final Application Statistics | TMDSAS



Overcoming Academic Adversity

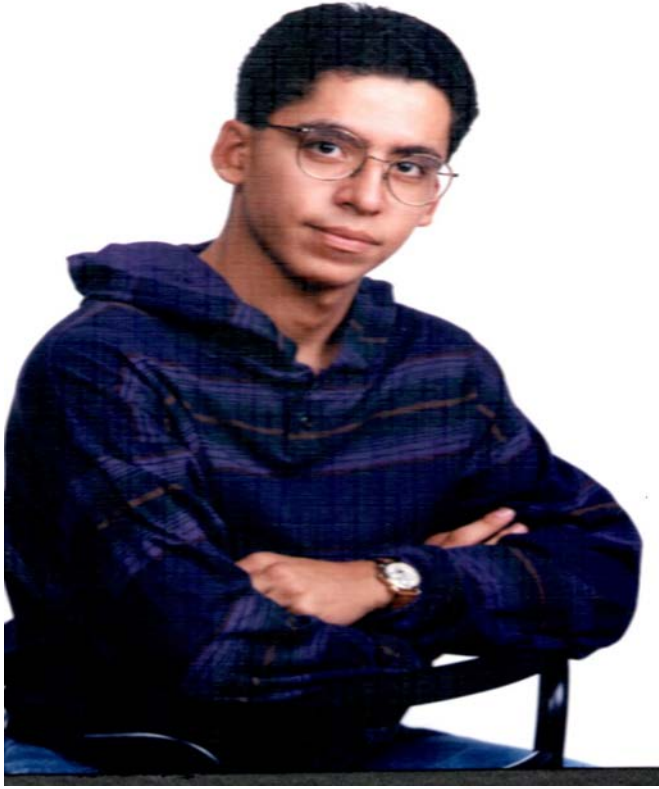
- Strong MCAT Score
- BCPM GPA
- Upward Grade Trend
- Post Baccalaureate Program
- Graduate Program



Most Common Mistakes

- Viewing “submit” as the finish line.
- Taking the MCAT before fully prepared.
- Failure to account for processing times (i.e. MCAT, TMDSAS, AMCAS, Letters of Recommendation).
- Applying late in the cycle!
- Taking too long to complete the secondary application.
- Applying before creating a comprehensive application.
- Not preparing for the interview.
- Texas HB 1508
 - Texas state law requires entities providing education programs leading to an initial occupational license to notify each applicant or enrollee: if convicted of certain criminal offenses it may render that person ineligible for a license....







50



QUESTIONS?





TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.

School of Medicine



TEXAS
ASSOCIATION
OF ADVISORS
for the Health Professions