

Applying to medical, dental, or other health professions schools requires a significant upfront investment. This guide will walk you through some of the expenses you can expect during the application process.

## Example of Application Expenses—MD Programs

	Range of Costs	Sample Cost
MCAT preparation materials	Varies widely minimally \$300	\$500
MCAT registration/Taking test <i>May require an overnight stay and travel as test sites are not local</i>	\$320	\$320
School selection resource: MSAR	\$28	\$28
Primary (common) application: AMCAS	\$170 for first school \$40 for each additional school	20 schools (we don't recommend this many): \$930
<i>Transcript fees for non-Purdue schools (varies) but all must be sent</i>		
Secondary application fees	\$50-\$150 per school	National median: \$1200
CASPer test (required at some schools)	\$10 to take, \$10 per school to distribute score	\$40 estimate
Interviews: Travel to and from the school's city/town	\$0-\$500	3 interviews @ \$400 each: \$1200
Transportation within school's city/town	\$0-\$100	
Lodging and food		
Interview suit & shoes	\$0-\$200 Varies	
Deposits	May be non-refundable, varies from school to school	
Second look visits: travel to/from the school, lodging	Optional, varies	
<b>Estimated Costs</b>		<b>Total: \$4,216</b>

This is only a sample. Expenses vary significantly with the most variation tied to the type of standardized test preparation, number of applications (please note that we DO NOT recommend applying to 20 schools—a choice of 6-10 schools provides sufficient options without spending large amounts of money), travel requirements, and number of interviews. Keep reading for additional details and tips to understand and control your expenses and maximize your investment.

## General Advice

- Throughout this process, be a self-advocate. Work with an advisor or mentor who can help you reach out professionally and appropriately to schools regarding your financial situation.
- Have a frank discussion with family/the financial powers in your life regarding their level of support early in the process, as it may impact your decisions moving forward.
- Have open discussions with your Pre-Professional Advisor, Academic Advisor, and yourself about the strength of your candidacy in relation to your goals. Apply only if you feel confident that you can meet your goals. Having to reapply increases the time/financial/emotional cost of applying.
- There is often a trade-off between time and money. Sometimes it makes sense to slow down to maximize results and sometimes it doesn't. Take time to weigh the pros and cons.