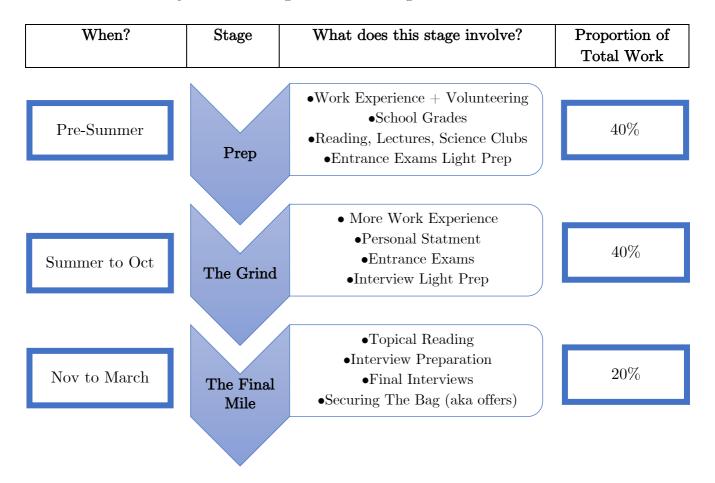
## The Medicine Application Timeline

This is a summary of the whole application process to medicine. It specifically takes you through each stage, breaking down the commendable feat of admission to medical school into simple steps. The Three Stages: **Prep**, **The Grind**, **The Final Mile**. Below are the times of the year and main goals for each stage.



Let's break each stage down.

## The Prep Stage – Pre-Summer

When does this stage start? When you finally decide on pursuing medicine

When does this stage end? Summer of your application year

Why should I bother? Insufficient grades/Lack of work experience will lead to a quick rejection from many medical schools

Challenges of this stage? Lots of studying, lots of admin work, no instant rewards at all

A lot of this work is derived from achievements gained before your application period to medicine begins. To be able to carry out the Prep Stage properly, ensure to decide on whether you want to pursue medicine early.

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As with many things, if you prepare yourself well, final tasks will not be difficult.

Contextualising this, if you prepare all the tools needed to erect a shed in your garden before

you begin, your project will be much easier. are crucial to a successful application to medicine,

so sorting this out during your GCSE and A-Level years will help you greatly. Ensure you sort

out Work Experience early, ideally having completed some after your GCSEs and given how

long it takes to sort out Volunteering, ideal candidates will have started around the age of

15/16.

The Grind Stage - Summer to October

When does this stage start? After end of school exams in Year 12

When does this stage end? After you submit your UCAS application and finish BMAT

Why should I bother? Entrance exams are used to grade candidates for interviews + your personal statement is the main way of showing what you've done relevant to medicine so far.

Challenges of this stage? Endless thinking, writing and editing, studying for two new

completely different exams (UCAT and BMAT), meeting deadlines and working under

constant time pressure

This part of the medical application process is where your determination to get into your

dream medical school will be tested. You will be focussing on nailing things which are

completely new to you – writing your personal statement, learning Abstract Reasoning for the

UCAT and squeezing in even more work experience, all whilst missing out on your Summer

vacation is quite tough.

Only the most resilient students will be able to sacrifice their time, to put in the effort needed

to do this well. This sets the barrier high, again contributing to the well-known fact of only

the most competitive students get into medicine. During this, you should keep your head down,

manage your time well and work hard! Not losing focus is critical. Once you do your entrance

exam, your score is final. Once you submit your personal statement to universities, via UCAS,

it's final.

This stage will comprise of lots of critical components of your medical school application.

The Final Mile – November Onwards

When does this stage start? As soon as you submit your UCAS application

When does this stage end? After your interviews are all over + Offers come in

Why should I bother? Interviews make or break your chance of getting a medical school offer

Challenges of this stage? Overcoming nervousness and presenting yourself confidently, being able to discuss your experiences and reading thoughtfully and fluidly, doing multiple intense

interviews.

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This part is most straight forward, if you've done the two steps before properly. The Final

Mile is only possible to take part in, if you've run every mile that had come before it. Once you are this stage, you have completed the majority of work you need to. However, for the

first the time you will have to present yourself.

When presenting yourself, it will be in the flesh (or through video camera during the COVID

pandemic). Attending medical school interviews, will allow medical schools to make a real-life

judgement upon your character, interests and intentions to pursue a career in medicine. Like

other parts of the application, if you prepare diligently for your interviews, it will be fine. Unlike everything else however, presenting yourself in a live format means there are no second

chances if you a make a mistake. You can't backtrack on an inaccurate statement you make

non con vou analogica for montioning a healt way have read in your negonal statement, that

nor can you apologise for mentioning a book you have read in your personal statement, that

you haven't actually read.

To conclude, here's a nice phrase I tell students when they begin their medical journey:

"Admission to medicine, similar to a successful career in medicine, is like a marathon. Hard work at a steady pace, always wins the race."

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