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AMCAS 2008

Association of
American Medical Colleges

AGENDA

- About AMCAS
- Understanding the Medical School Admissions Process
- The 2008 AMCAS Application
  - Completing the primary application
  - Submitting the application
  - Monitoring your application's progress
  - Knowing your responsibilities
- AMCAS Application Life Cycle
- AMCAS Changes for 2008
- The AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP)
- Applicant FACTS

AMCAS
American Medical College Application Service
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A. ABOUT AMCAS

A service of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

Non-profit, centralized application service

- Collects applicant information
- Collects one set of transcripts
- Verifies academic records
- Provides standardized grading information to participating schools

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B. UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

Applying is a two-step process

1. Primary Application: AMCAS
2. Secondary Applications: Medical Schools

AMCAS does not screen applications or make admissions decisions

Admissions requirements and decision processes vary from school to school

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B. UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

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Primary Application

Complete online application

Send college transcripts

Pay application fee

AMCAS processes the primary application.

Once this processing is complete, AMCAS sends the primary application to the medical schools selected by the applicant.

At this point, the medical school takes over the application.

Medical School

Secondary Application

Upon invitation from the medical school:

Submit letters of recommendation

Submit additional writing samples

Send updated transcripts if necessary

Pay additional application fee if required

Interview

Schedule interview date upon invitation from the medical school

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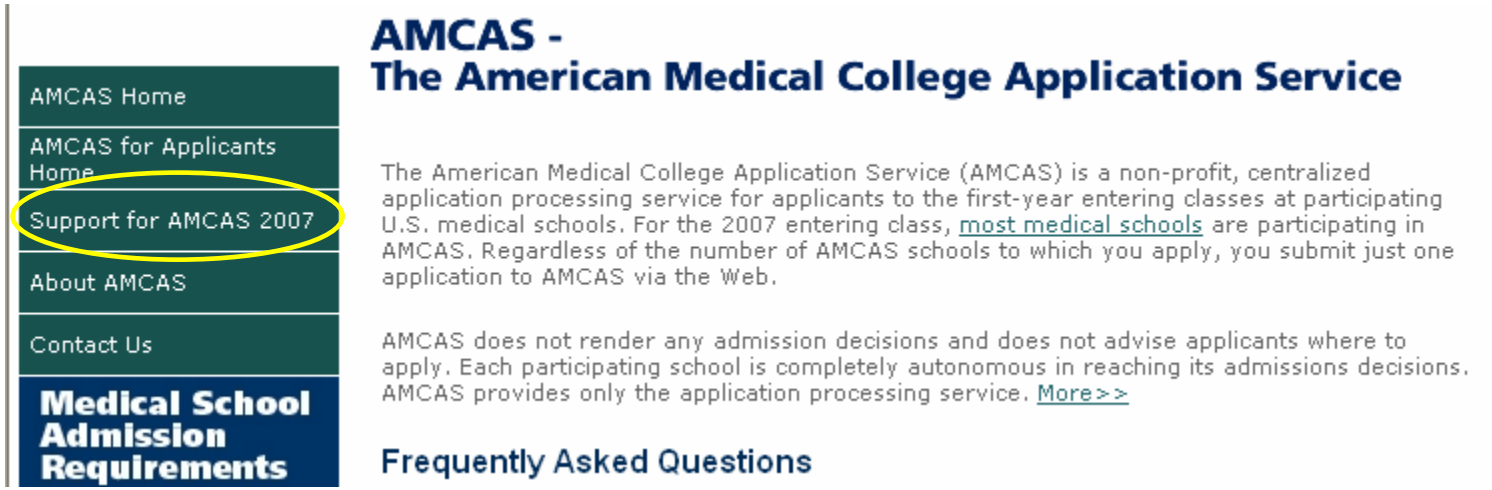
Application Resources

- AMCAS frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Online application instructions



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C. AMCAS 2008

General Information/Getting Ready

- Know the admissions requirements at each school
- Obtain copies of your transcripts
- Make sure you have access to a computer that meets AMCAS system and browser requirements
- Make payment arrangements

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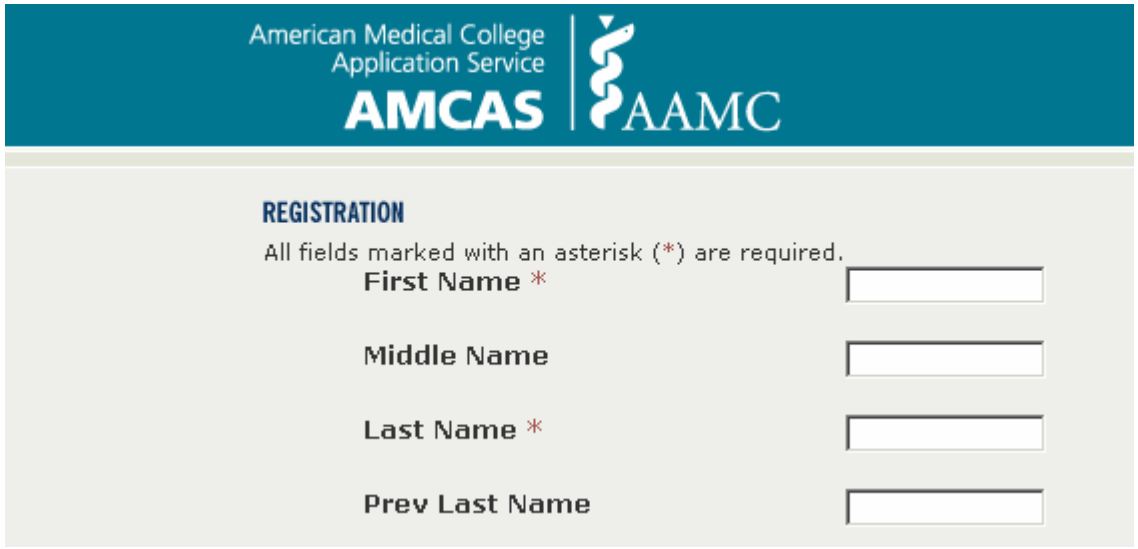
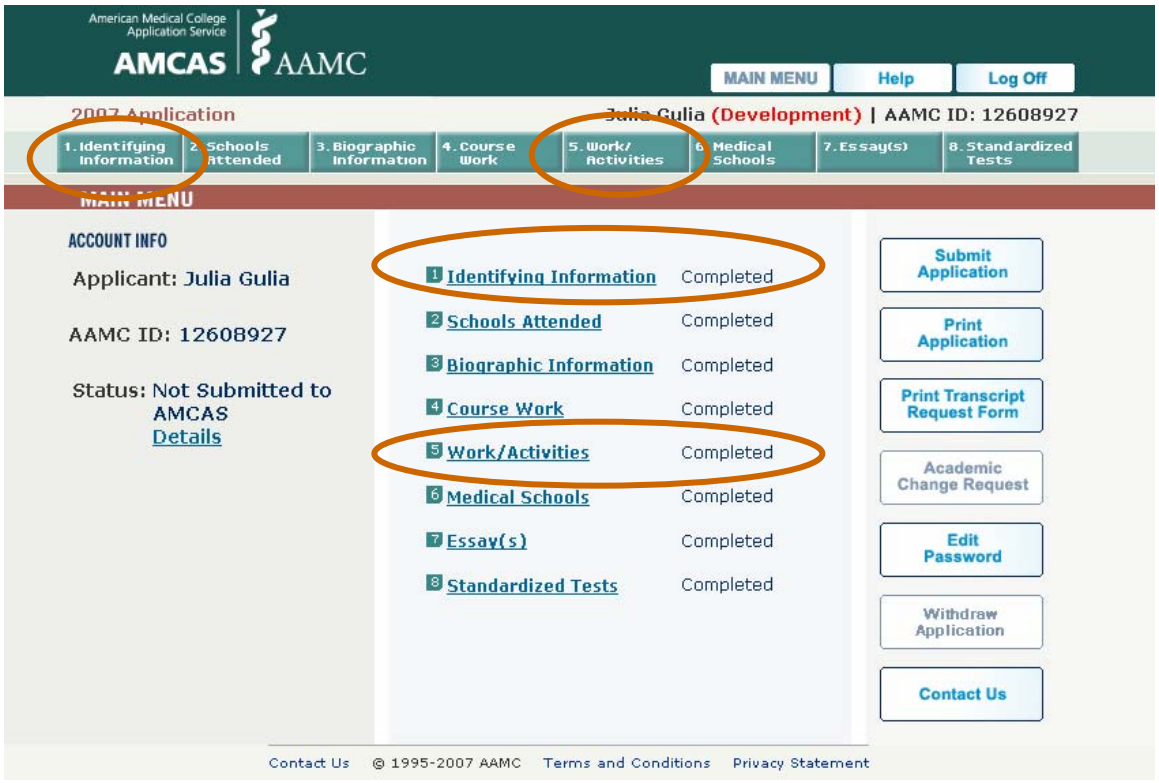
AMCAS Registration

Use “real” biographical information during registration:



Application Navigation

Become familiar with the navigation sections of the application:



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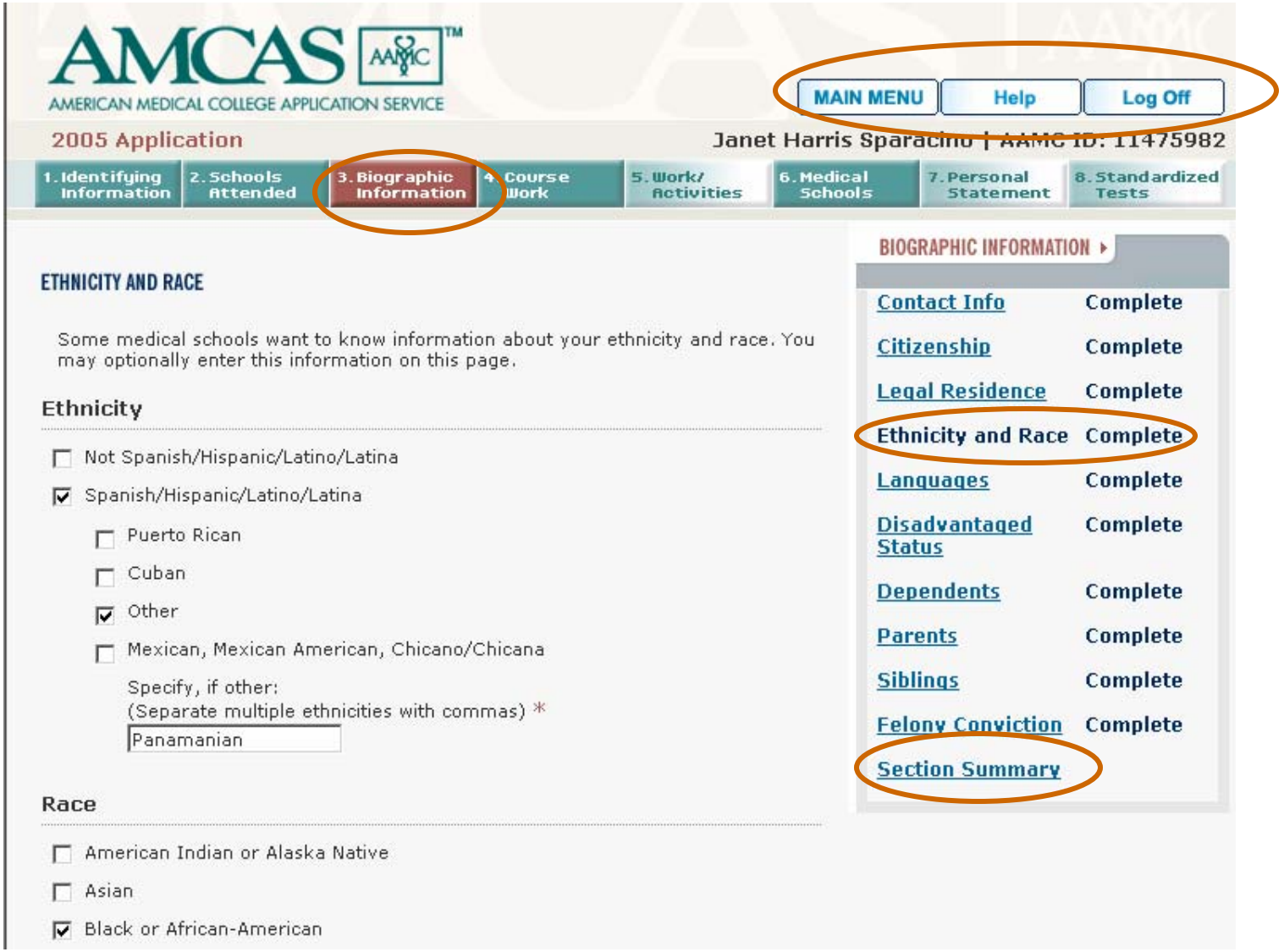
C. COMPLETING THE PRIMARY APPLICATION



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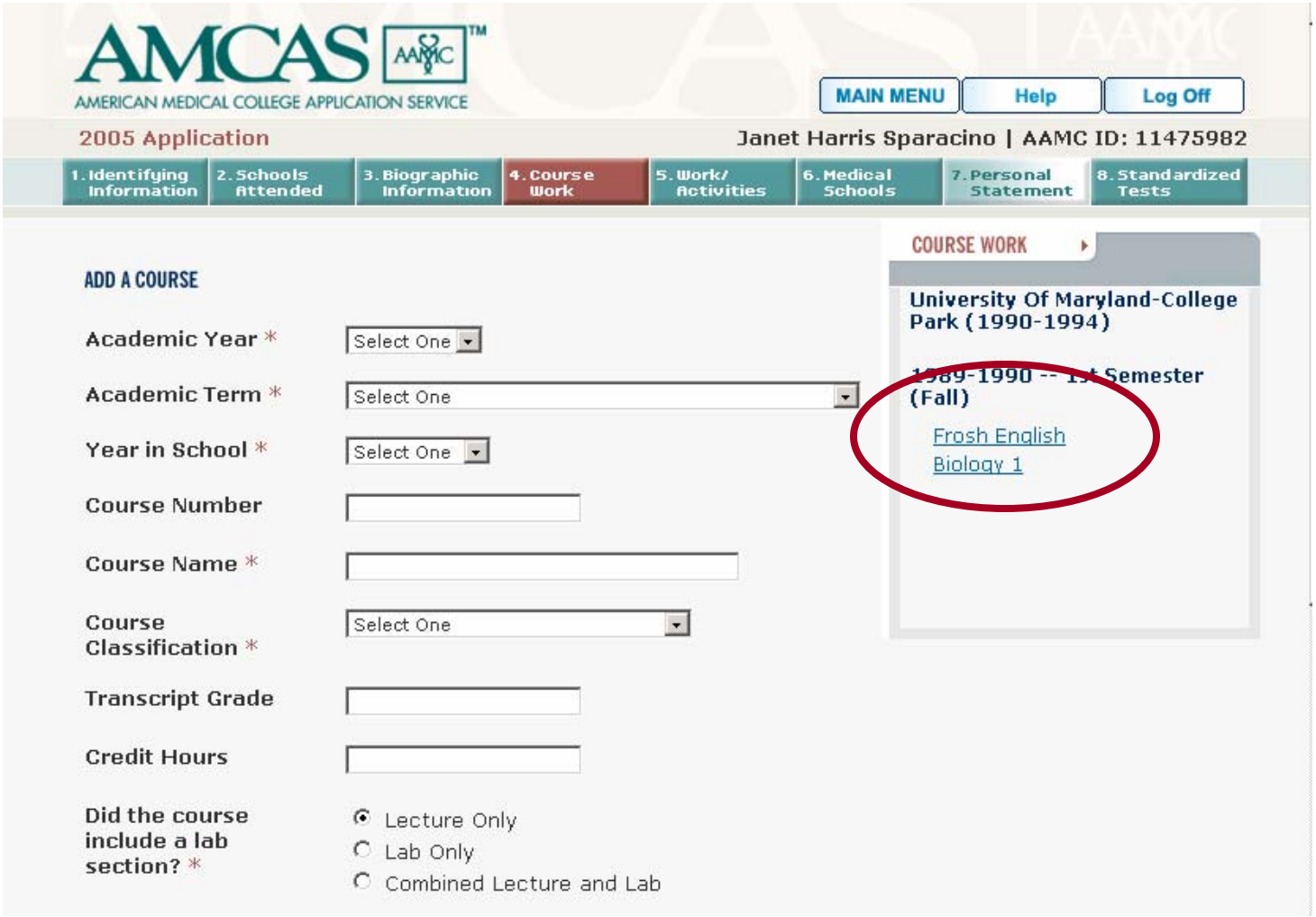
C. COMPLETING THE PRIMARY APPLICATION



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Common Pitfalls

- Missed application deadlines
- Delayed processing/missed transcript deadlines
  - Late shipping
  - Incomplete or inaccurate
  - Missing
  - Unofficial
- Typos and other errors in essay, experiences, etc.
- Failure to receive and respond to AMCAS notifications

Common Pitfalls

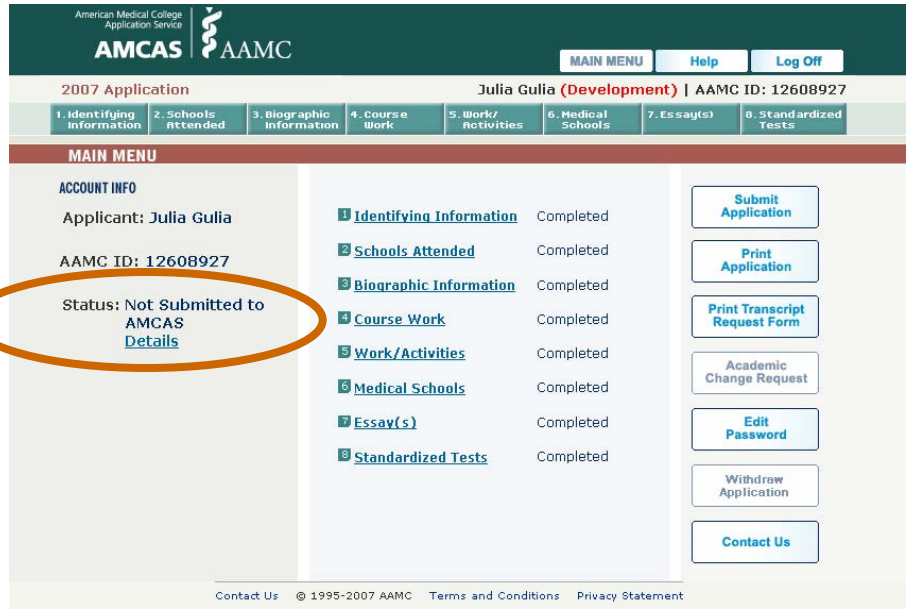
- Course work errors
  - Missing course work
  - Missing grades / credits
  - Incorrect academic status
  - Incorrect course classifications

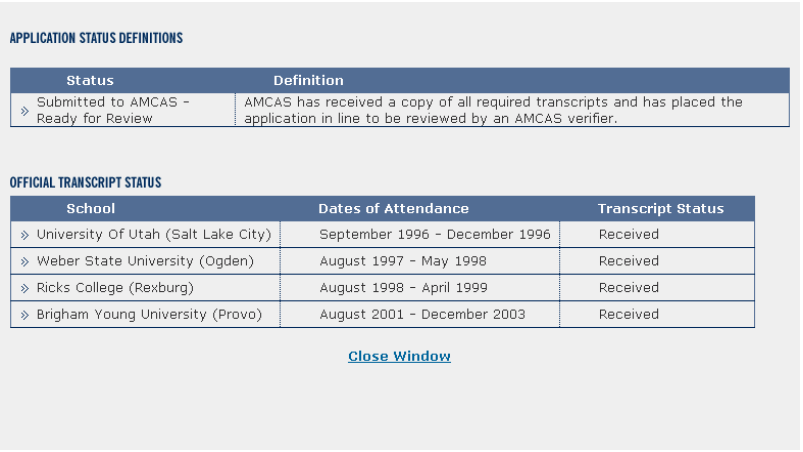
Early is good. Error-free is better!

- Emphasize completeness and accuracy over early submission
- Use print option to check your data as final step before submission
- Have your payment information ready
- Ensure successful submission by checking the Main Menu

Check your AMCAS status

Monitor progress by frequently checking e-mail and Main Menu:





APPLICATION STATUS DEFINITIONS

Status	Definition
» Submitted to AMCAS - Ready for Review	AMCAS has received a copy of all required transcripts and has placed the application in line to be reviewed by an AMCAS verifier.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT STATUS

School	Dates of Attendance	Transcript Status
» University Of Utah (Salt Lake City)	September 1996 - December 1996	Received
» Weber State University (Ogden)	August 1997 - May 1998	Received
» Ricks College (Rexburg)	August 1998 - April 1999	Received
» Brigham Young University (Provo)	August 2001 - December 2003	Received

Close Window

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- Applicant Responsibilities

  In addition to meeting deadlines and accurately completing the AMCAS application, you must:

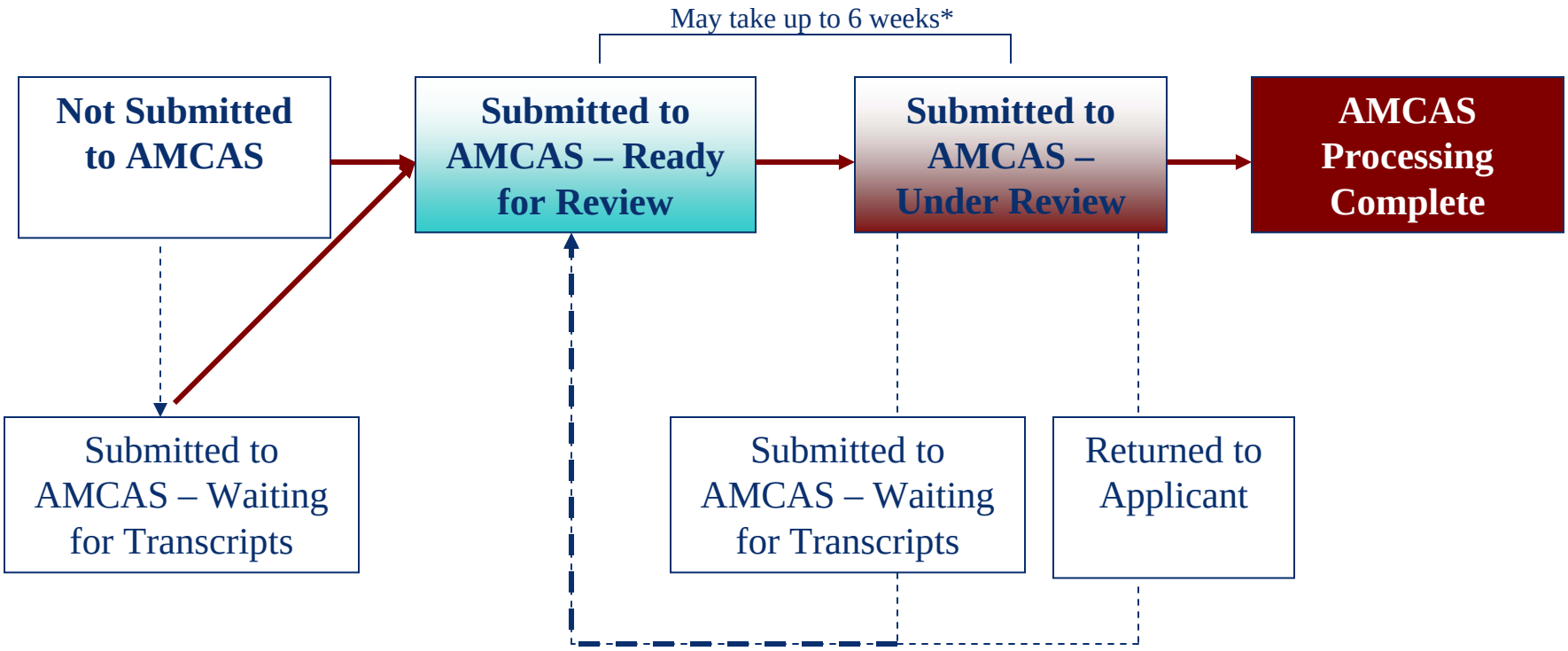
  – Know the admissions requirements at each school
  – Promptly notify AMCAS of change in contact info
  – Review verified course work immediately after AMCAS processing is complete

- Applicant Responsibilities

  In addition to meeting deadlines and accurately completing the AMCAS application, you must:

  – Respond promptly to interview invitations from the medical schools
  – File for financial aid as soon as possible
  – Withdraw from the schools you will not attend

D. AMCAS APPLICATION LIFE CYCLE



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E. Changes for 2008

- Criminal Background Checks
- New Conviction / Discharge Questions
- Transcripts
- MCAT Questions
- Birth Date/Sex Changes
- Withdrawal Feature

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- Criminal Background Checks:
  - Implementation Advisory Committee
    - 10 Pilot Schools
    - 1 Advisor
    - 1 Current Medical Student
  - 2008 Pilot
    - Conducted on first Acceptance
    - Alternate List
  - Disclosure / Consent
    - To be certified by all applicants

E. Changes for 2008

- Criminal Background Checks:

Social Security Number Search

A **search of credit report header data to help confirm** the applicant's identifying information such as name, aliases, address(es), Social Security Number and to determine areas of prior residence.

County Criminal Records Searches

A direct search of county courthouse records for any felony or misdemeanor criminal history. All records are researched to help ensure positive identification and complete, easy-to-read details.

Statewide Criminal Records Search

A search conducted through statewide criminal records repositories or court systems for any felony or misdemeanor criminal history.

E. Changes for 2008

- Criminal Background Checks:

Federal Criminal Records Search

A direct search of federal courthouse records for any felony or misdemeanor criminal history. All records are researched to help ensure positive identification and complete, easy-to-read details.

National Criminal Database Search

This search is an **instant, multi-jurisdiction private database search covering more than 194 million criminal records** collected from across the country. While the database does not contain information from all states, it is an excellent supplement to county, statewide and federal criminal searches. To ensure compliance with FCRA, all database "hits" are verified directly through the source of information to ensure that records reported are current and up-to-date.

National Sexual Offender Database Search

A search of a national private database which contains sex offender data collected from across the country. All records are researched to help ensure positive identification.

- Criminal Background Checks:

US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals/Entities Search

A search of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (LEIE), a database which provides information to the public, health care providers, patients, and others relating to parties excluded from participation in the Medicare, Medicaid, and all Federal health care programs.

Search for Dishonorable Discharge from the Armed Forces

Military records are verified through either telephone interviews with the subject's former commander or by obtaining the applicant's DD-214 form. Verification generally includes subject's name, Service Number, rank, dates of service, awards and decorations, and place of entrance and separation.

- Criminal Background Checks:

International Screening

International criminal records searches are generally performed by facilitating the applicant in obtaining an official Police Clearance or Police Certificate from the desired country. In those countries that have established third-party criminal records search facilities—including Canada and Great Britain—searches will be obtained directly through those channels.

- New Conviction / Discharge Questions:
  - Felony
  - Misdemeanor
  - Military Discharge

- Felony Question

Have you ever been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no contest to, a Felony crime, excluding 1) any offense for which you were adjudicated as a juvenile, or 2) convictions which have been expunged or sealed by a court (in states where applicable)?

- Misdemeanor Question

Have you ever been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no contest to, a Misdemeanor crime, excluding 1) any offense for which you were adjudicated as a juvenile, 2) any convictions which have been expunged or sealed by a court, or 3) any misdemeanor convictions for which any probation has been completed and the case dismissed by the court (in states where applicable)?

Applicants need not disclose any instance where applicant:

- was arrested but not charged;
- was arrested and charged, but the charges were dropped;
- was arrested and charged, but found not guilty by a judge or jury;
- was arrested and found guilty by a judge or jury, but the conviction was overturned on appeal; or
- received an executive pardon.

- Military Discharge

Have you ever been discharged by the Armed Forces of the United States? Select ‘No’ if you have never served in the Armed Forces, or currently serving without previous discharge.

If yes…

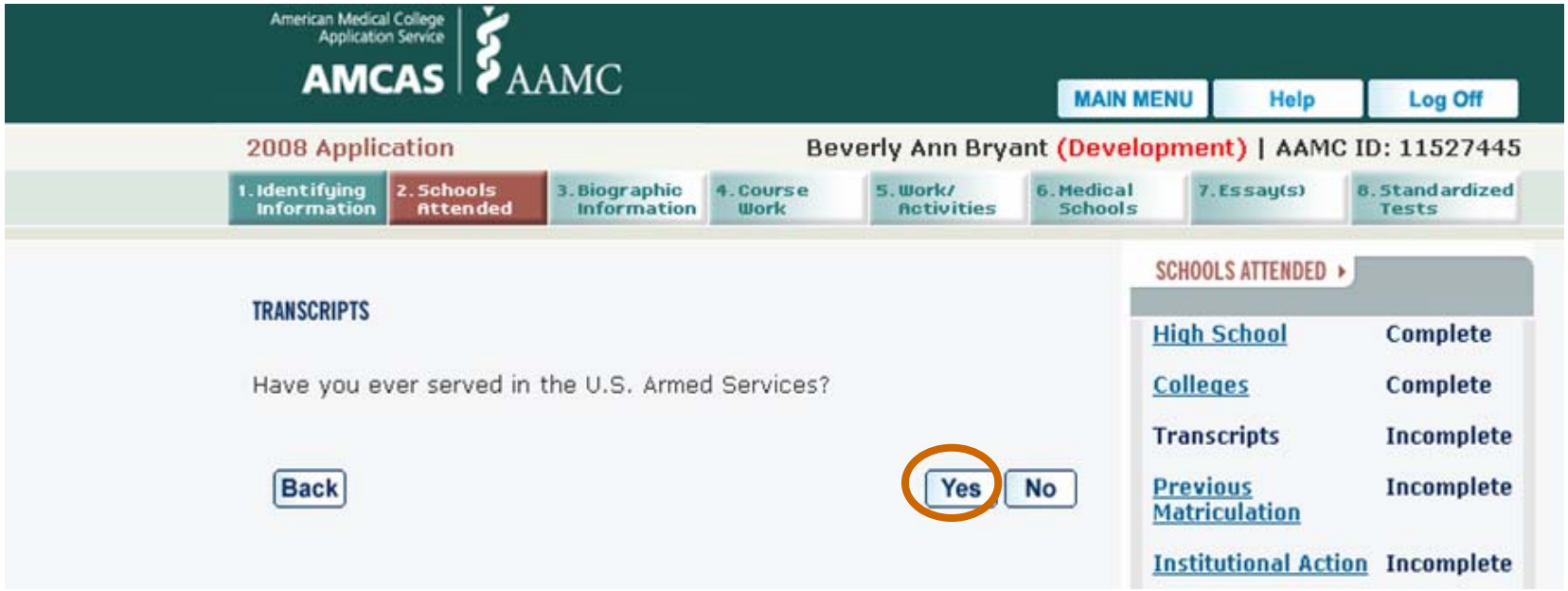
- Did you receive an honorable discharge or a discharge under honorable circumstances?

- # Transcripts
  - Because transcripts are the most common reason for delays in application we have instituted three questions in the transcript section of the web application to ensure the applicant understands their responsibilities. The questions are:

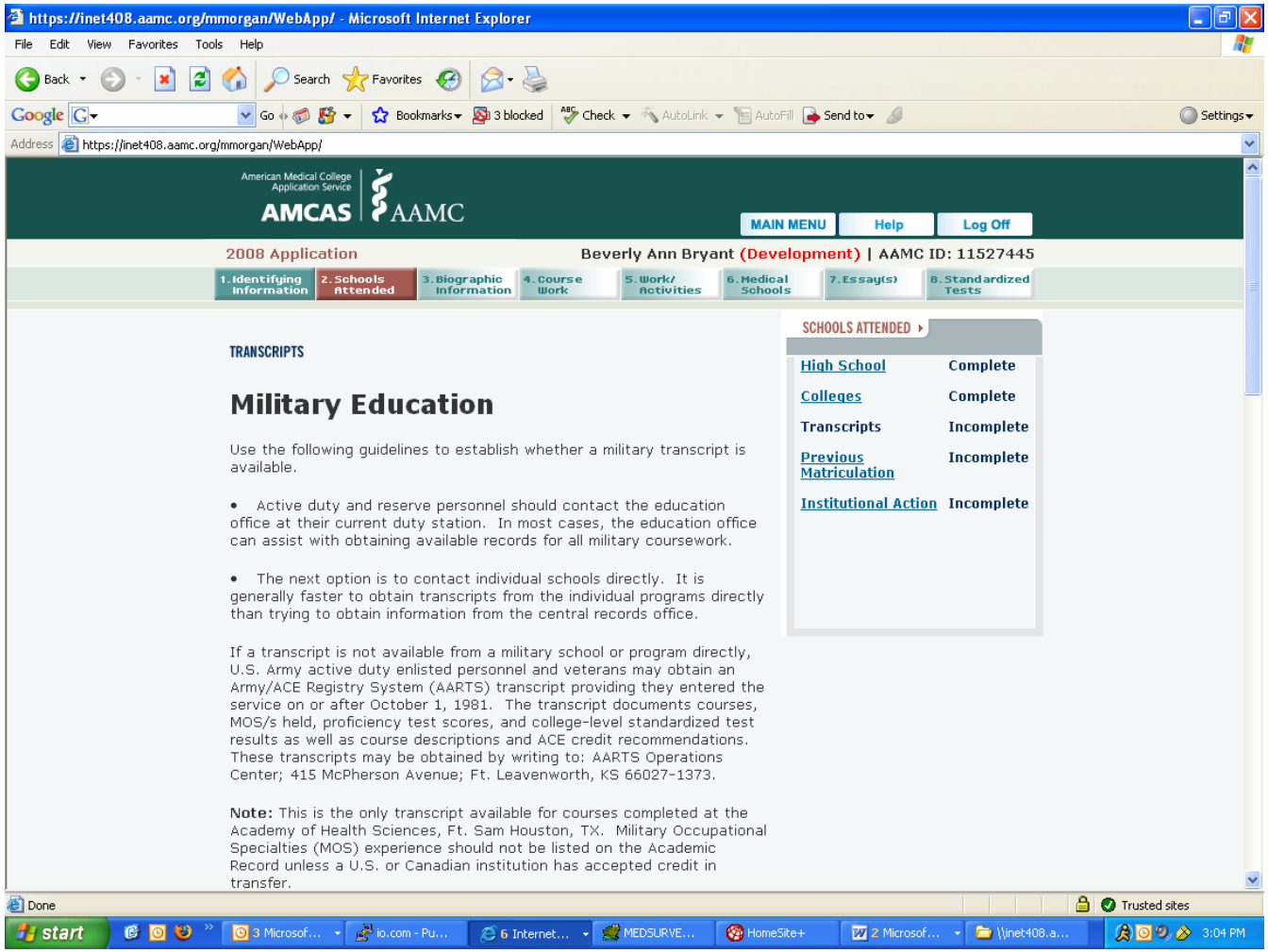
    1. *Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Services*
    2. *Have you ever taken a post-secondary course anywhere other than at your home institution, including college courses taken while in high school?*
    3. *Have you ever taken foreign coursework including a study abroad course?*

E. Changes for 2008

Example:



E. Changes for 2008



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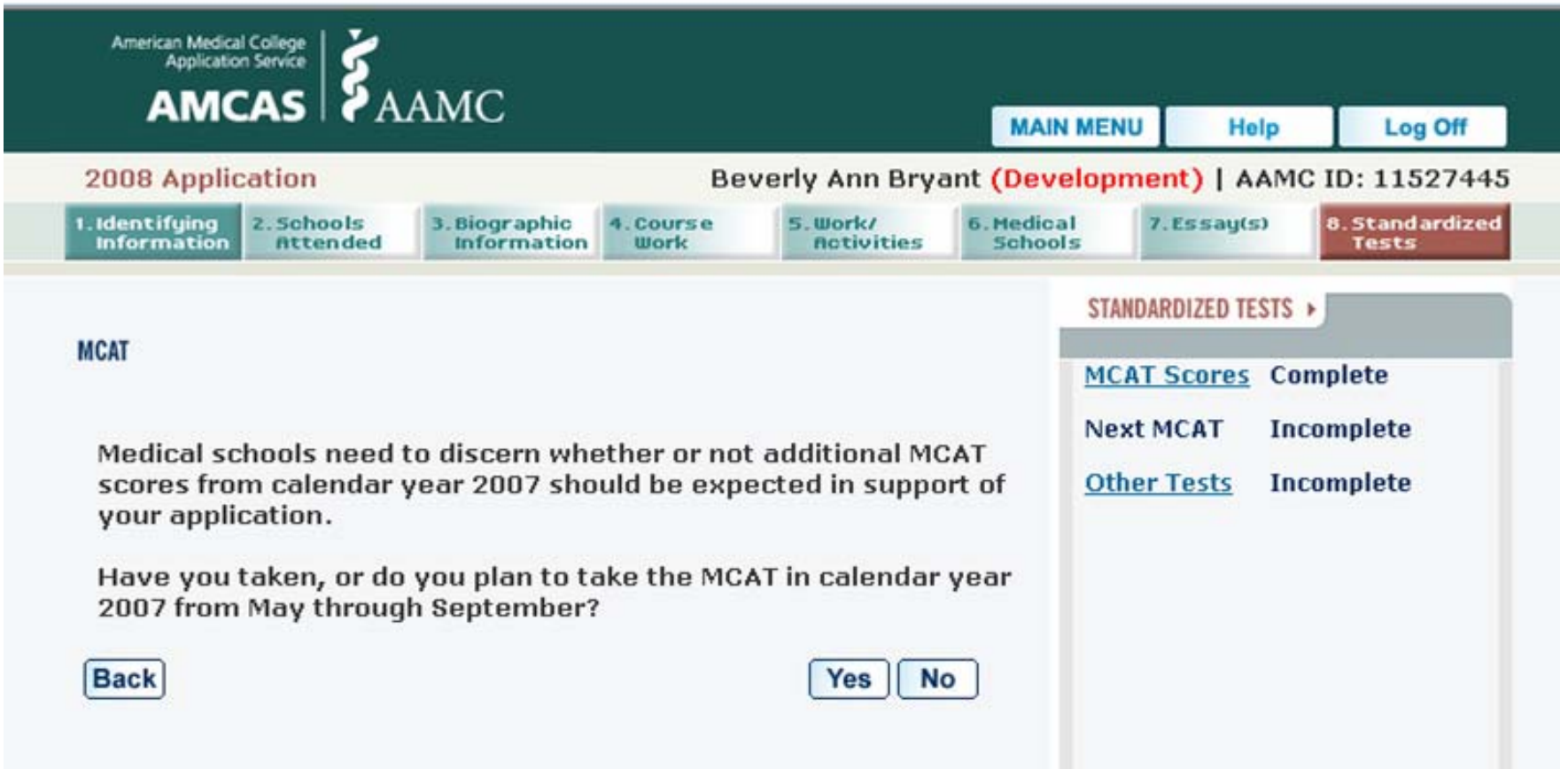
- Transcripts (continued)
  - **Institution has closed no transcript available**
  - **Institution only provides certificate of completion, no transcript available**

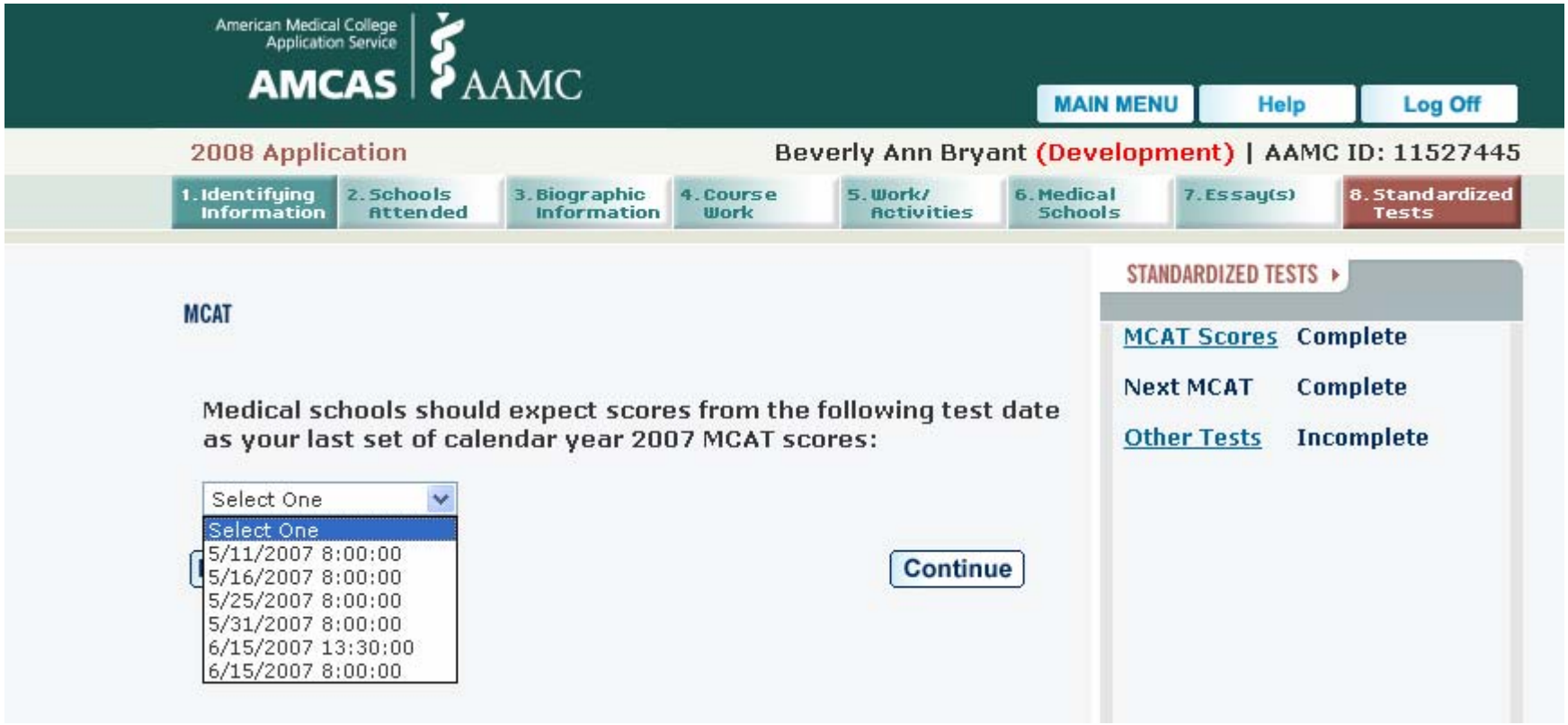
If the institution only provides a certificate of completion or no official transcript is available, the registrar of the institution must send AMCAS an official letter verifying that no official transcript is available. Without this letter the application will not be processed. We will treat these letters as we treat transcripts and the student will be notified when the letter is received.

- MCAT Questions Update



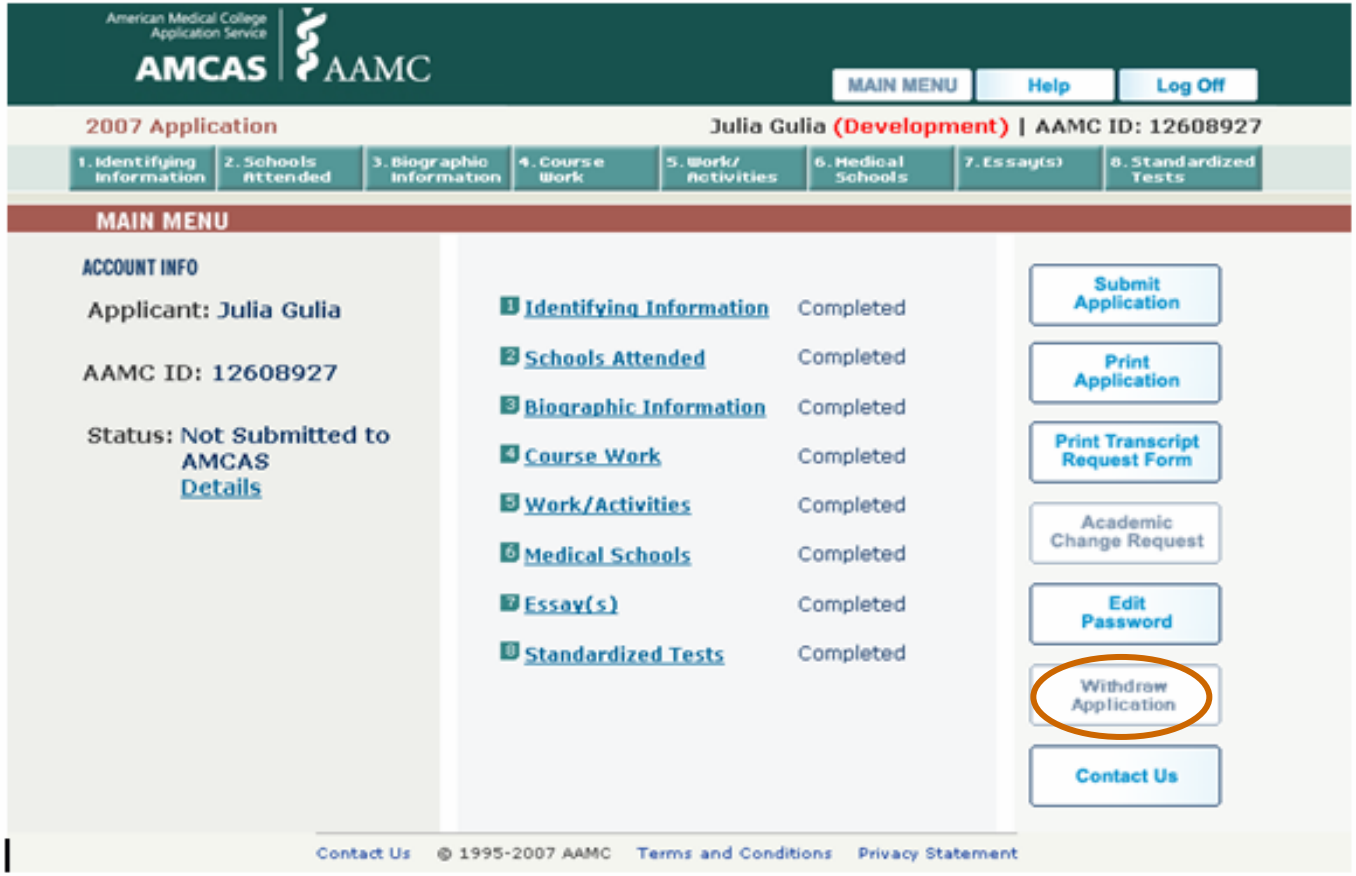
E. Changes for 2008

- MCAT Questions Update (continued)

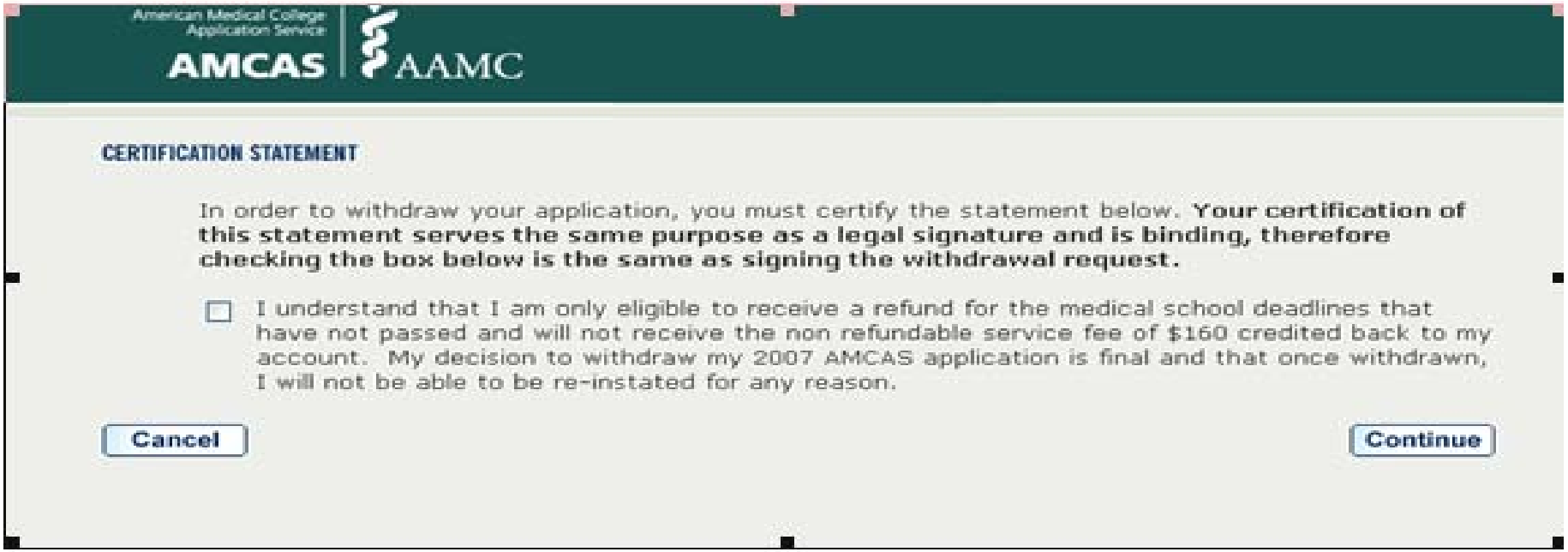


- DOB/Sex
  - An applicant can now change their birthdate and/or sex at anytime during the application cycle.

- Withdrawal of Application



- Withdraw (continued)



- The applicant would have to enter his/her password for the withdraw to be processed.
- The applicant can not un-withdrawal at anytime or re-apply for the current year, once withdrawn.

F. AAMC FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Assists individuals with extreme financial limitations
- Based on federal poverty guidelines
- Reduces MCAT fee from $210 to $85
- Provides 12 free medical school designations for AMCAS
- Funded by AAMC
- Applicants apply online and receive timely decision

www.aamc.org/fap

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- FAP Eligibility
  - Algorithm bases eligibility decisions on:
    - Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) poverty level guidelines
    - AAMC Multiplier
      - **300**% for 2007 calendar year

FAP 2007

- 1,477 Submitted Applications
- 1,296 applicants have met the eligibility criteria

G. APPLICANT FACTS

Average MCAT Scores

MCAT	2004		2005		2006	
	Applicants	Matriculants	Applicants	Matriculants	Applicants	Matriculants
Physical Sciences	9	9.9	9.1	10.1	9.1	10.1
Verbal Reasoning	8.9	9.7	8.9	9.7	9.0	9.8
Writing Sample	O	P	P	P	O	P
Biological Sciences	9.4	10.3	9.5	10.4	9.5	10.5

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Median Grade Point Averages

GPA	2004		2005		2006	
	Applicants	Matriculants	Applicants	Matriculants	Applicants	Matriculants
BCPM	3.36	3.56	3.37	3.56	3.38	3.57
All Other	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.61	3.71
Cumulative	3.47	3.62	3.48	3.63	3.48	3.64

BCPM = Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math

All Other = all courses not classified as BCPM

Cumulative = all courses

2006 Applicants & Matriculants by Primary Undergraduate Major

Applicants 2006	Applicants	Matriculants
Biological Sciences	21,603	9,439
Humanities	1,411	750
Math and Statistics	272	130
Other	5,741	2,387
Physical Sciences	4,671	2,328
Social Sciences	4,319	1,960
Specialized Health Sciences	1,091	376

For more applicant data, go to:

http://www.aamc.org/data/facts/start.htm

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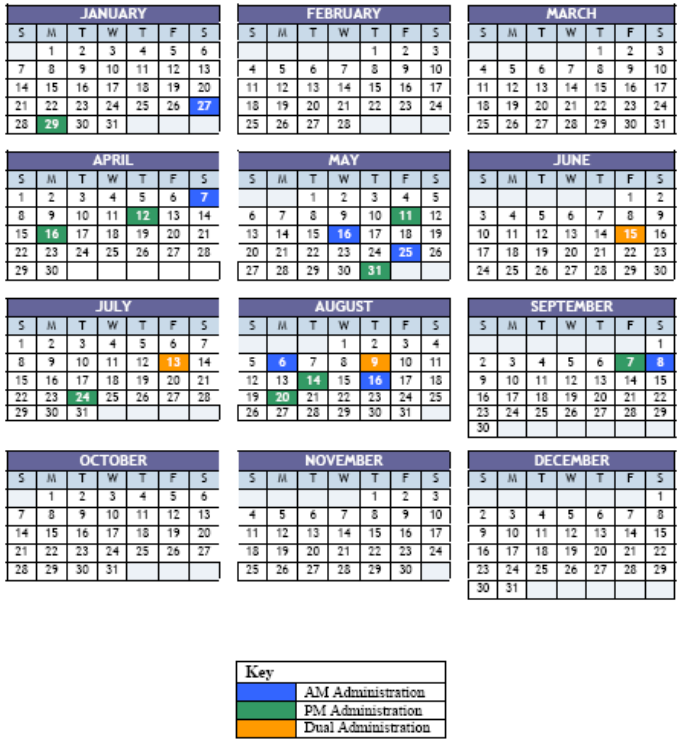
When is the MCAT offered?

Computerized MCAT FAQ Collection

MCAT 2007 Test Dates



JANUARY						
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28	29	30	31			

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DECEMBER						
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30	31					

Key	
	AM Administration
	PM Administration
	Dual Administration

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19 days/year
22 administrations

3 time limit/year

Hold one seat at a time

Scores delivered in about 30 days

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MCAT Administrations 2007

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION OPENS on or about 9 am	REGULAR REGISTRATION CLOSES 11:59 pm	LATE REGISTRATION** CLOSES 11:59 pm	EXPECTED SCORE RELEASE
January 27	November 15,2006	January 13, 2007	January 20, 2007	February 26, 2006
January 29	November 15	January 15	January 22	February 28
April 7	December 27	March 24	March 31	May 7
April 12	December 27	March 29	April 5	May 12
April 16	December 27	April 2	April 9	May 16
May 11	December 27	April 27	May 4	June 10
May 16	December 27	May 2	May 9	June 15
May 25	December 27	May 11	May 18	June 24
May 31	December 27	May 17	May 24	June 30
June 15*	February 14, 2007	June 1	June 8	July 15
July 13*	February 14	June 29	July 6	August 12
July 24	February 14	July 10	July 17	August 23
August 6	April 11	July 23	July 30	September 5
August 9*	April 11	July 26	August 2	September 8
August 14	April 11	July 30	August 7	September 13
August 16	April 11	August 2	August 9	September 16
August 20	April 11	August 6	August 13	September 19
September 7	April 11	August 24	August 31	October 7
September 8	April 11	August 25	September 1	October 8

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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How do schools receive scores?

- Most US medical schools receive scores via AMCAS
- All scores are reported to AMCAS (beginning August 2003)
- AMCAS begins sending January – June scores in July; July, August, September scores sent 30 days after each exam date
- You can send your scores anywhere through the THx Online Score Reporting System

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What areas are covered?

TEST SECTIONS	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	TIME
Tutorial *(Optional)*	--	10 minutes
Physical Sciences	**52**	**70 minutes**
Break *(Optional)*	--	10 minutes
Verbal Reasoning	**40**	**60 minutes**
Break *(Optional)*	--	10 minutes
Writing Sample	**2**	**60 minutes**
Break *(Optional)*	--	10 minutes
Biological Sciences	**52**	**70 minutes**
Survey *(Optional)*	--	10 minutes
Total Content Time	**--**	**4 hours, 15 minutes**
Total "Seat" Time	**--**	**5 hours, 10 minutes**

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