

Program Information

Program Name Barrett Medical Scholars Program	
Mayo Clinic Campus Arizona	Affiliated School Barrett, The Honors College at ASU
What year of your undergraduate program are you getting ready to enter? <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior	

Personal Data

Name (First)	(Middle)	(Last)	ASU ID Number:	
Nickname or other name(s) you use		Name at Birth	Change Date (Month/Year)	
Birth Date	E-mail Address			
Current Address (Street / Apartment Number)				
City	State	ZIP Code	Country	Non-US Postal Code
Home Phone	Mobile Phone	This information is effective until (Date)		
Permanent Address (Street / Apartment Number)			Permanent Phone	
City	State	ZIP Code	Country	Non-US Postal Code

Citizenship or Visa Notice

Are You a United States Citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If no, Country of Citizenship	Are you a Permanent Resident of the United States? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If Non-immigrant, indicate your current valid VISA type <input type="checkbox"/> B1 <input type="checkbox"/> F1 <input type="checkbox"/> J1 <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Please Specify _____		

Voluntary Information

In keeping with Mayo Clinic's affirmative action and equal opportunity initiatives, we request that you provide us with the following information. Responding to this section of the application is entirely optional and will not affect the processing of your application.	
Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Non- Hispanic or Latino	Race
Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	Veteran Status <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Are you a veteran of the U . S . armed forces?

Disclosure Questions

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Have you, under this name or any other name, ever been convicted of a crime (felony or a misdemeanor including DUI/ DWI/OWI)? If yes, please describe:
Note to all applicants: You are not required to disclose information concerning convictions that have been annulled, expunged, impounded, sealed, pardoned, or statutorily eradicated. A criminal conviction will not constitute an automatic bar to admission, but will be considered in the context of the specific program(s) for which you have applied. However, falsifying your application by omitting information will be grounds to bar admission.	

<p>Do you have any connections with Mayo Clinic? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, what connections?</p>
<p>Have you previously applied to the program? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Do you have any professional or volunteer experiences that are relevant? (Please list no more than three)</p>

Application and Materials:

Along with your completed application, be sure to include:

Copy of your ASU Transcripts (does not need to be certified, copies are sufficient)

Personal Statement Essay-Please see attached article "In Defense of Personal Statement." You have 500 words-impress us

All items (application, transcripts, essays) need to be submitted in one PDF to:

Mr. Tyson Robinson at Robinson.tyson@mayo.edu

Any questions regarding the Barrett Scholar Program, contact:

Mr. Tyson Robinson at 480-301-4613 Robinson.tyson@mayo.edu

Application deadline is **September 9th, 2016**. Notification of selected students will be sent via e-mail by **late September 2016**.

Agreement

<p>Read carefully and sign below.</p> <p>The information in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsifying or omitting information on this application may disqualify me or subject me to dismissal. I further understand that if I am admitted to the program, I am required to abide by all rules and regulations of Mayo Clinic.</p>	
<p>Signature</p>	<p>Signature Date (Month DD, YYYY)</p>

In Defense of the Personal Statement

As the director of an internal medicine residency program, I read hundreds of personal statements every year. I know many program directors who find them irrelevant at best, and I confess I can't blame them. These statements usually follow 1 of 3 scripts: The candidates relay a medical catastrophe that afflicted them or their family. Curiosity is piqued. They indulge their curiosity by poring over endless tomes of biologic sciences and end up in medical school. Or, they know that they've wanted to be a doctor since conception. They were always exceptionally skilled in the sciences but really wanted to help people. Medical school was the natural conclusion. Or, lastly, the curious case of Mr. X, who tells me a great deal about the unfortunate patient but surprisingly little about the candidate. All candidates then have some sort of revelation during their internal medicine clerkship, and that is how their applications arrived on my computer screen.

I hate them all. Not the candidates, but their personal statements. Because there's really very little that's personal about them. The major thing they've told me about themselves is that they are very much like 90% of the other candidates for my program, or that they've engaged the services of whatever essay mill produces such stultifying prose. I'm not sure which is worse.

I've felt this way ever since I had to write my own personal statements for college, medical school, and residency applications. I felt that the personal statement was a great opportunity to tell the programs how I differed from the other candidates. My scores may not have been the best, and my grades wouldn't bowl anyone over, but my personal statement—that was an opportunity to convince the program that they should still give me a look. The one that I remember most vividly is the one I wrote for my internal medicine residency application. I wrote about growing up on a South Dakota farm in the mid-1970s, in the era before genetically modified soybeans were bred to resist some of the most potent herbicides known to man. Back then, we got rid of weeds the old-fashioned way—by hand. As 1 of 4 children, I was expected to wake up at dawn in the summer months and join the rest of the kids in our more than 100-acre soybean field, slowly trudging up and down each and every row attacking any weed we encountered, with either my hands or the blunt kitchen knife I carried. Some of the weeds were taller than I was and seemed to attract multitudes of stinging insects that I am convinced have yet to be catalogued. After 5 hours of this, we would all be glazed with some combination of sweat, dirt, and mangled insect corpses. We weren't paid for this. Our reward was a possible trip to the public swimming pool that afternoon. (We were, by the way, probably the driving force behind why people are required to shower before entering the water.) I winced a little as I mailed my statement, hoping that I hadn't portrayed myself as too much of a hayseed, while at the same time

knowing that it was a large part of my story. This was the truth and the essence of me in 500 words or less.

The response was overwhelming. Every single interviewer asked me about it, and it usually led to a spirited and satisfying conversation. One flat-out told me that he thought I was lying, and I spent the greater part of the interview convincing him otherwise. Another looked at me almost thankfully and told me it was one of the best personal statements he'd ever read.

Now that I'm a program director, I think I know why. The overwhelming majority of personal statements are excruciatingly boring. It seems that our standardization of the medical school curriculum has led to a generation of physicians who feel the need to be standardized people as well, even when making statements that are by their very title intended to be personal.

Give me the personal statement that describes cowering under the kitchen table during a raging kitchen fire. Give me the one that describes the conflicting feelings of having an oppositional soldier in the cross hairs, knowing that one day you may be the very medic assigned to help him. I want to hear from the candidate who appreciates the fibers of alpaca wool, the benefits of painting with oils rather than acrylics, the one who won the world clogging championships at the age of 12, or the one who worked hard at becoming a varsity football player but ended up handing out towels on the bench. These are the personal statements that convey appreciation of fear, conflicted emotions, beauty, success, and failure. These are the ones that demonstrate a feature that is still key to being a doctor: humanity. How else are we to know about this side of our candidates if not for their personal statements? And don't even think about suggesting that we rely on the letters of recommendation: I have read far too many that are written for different individuals but are word for word identical. They're frequently much worse than the personal statement, and for that, shame on us.

Our medical students need to be encouraged to bring themselves to life in their personal statements. They need to find something—anything—that describes them as an individual. Encourage them to share their love of dogs, their fear of clowns, their culinary successes, and their camping nightmares. Tell them to present themselves as someone swimming in this ocean of life and not the buoy bobbing on top of it. For the sake of program directors everywhere, I beg this of you.

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