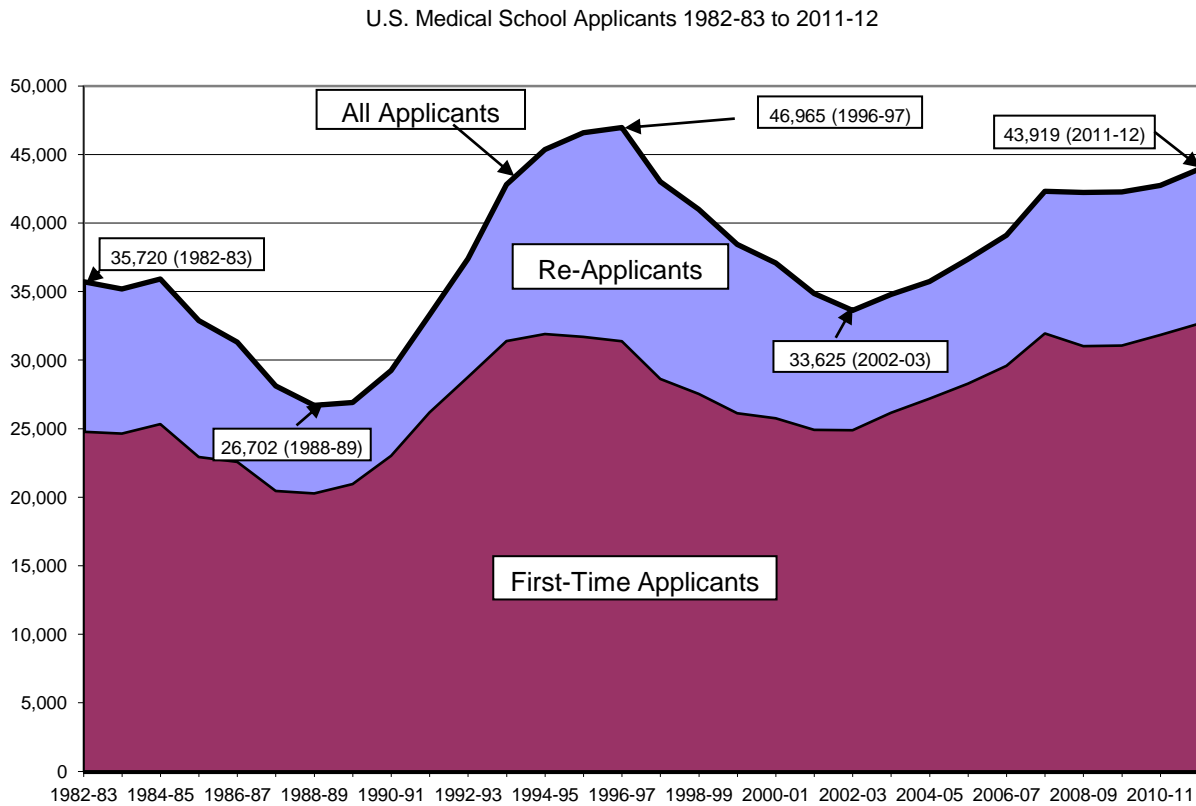


## U.S. Medical School Applicants and Students 1982-1983 to 2011-2012

**Overview:** The following four charts display historical information on medical school applicants, matriculants, and graduates. Sources are explained in more detail at the end of this document. The data supporting these charts, as well as many other data, are published in the *AAMC Data Book* (<http://www.aamc.org/publications>) and on the AAMC FACTS website (<http://www.aamc.org/data/facts>).

### Chart 1: Number of Applicants to U.S. Medical Schools, First-Time and Re-Applying

The numbers in the first chart reflect discrete applicants,<sup>1</sup> not the total number of applications. For the 2011-2012 entering class, U.S. medical schools received 609,312 applications from 43,919 applicants, an average of 14 per applicant. There were also 32,654 first-time applicants—up 2.6 percent from 31,832 in 2010-2011.



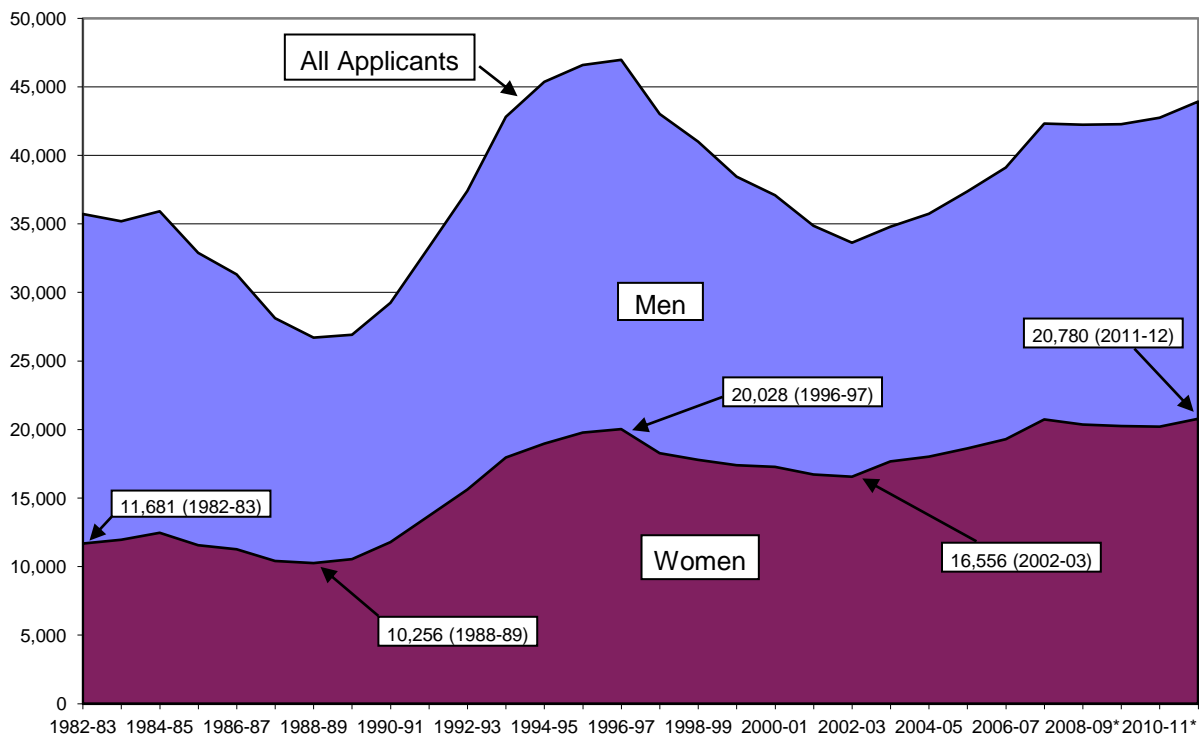
<sup>1</sup> Notes: Applicant data derived from the AAMC DW:AMF as of Nov. 9, 2011. First-time applicants are defined as those who did not file an application in the 9 years prior to the year being considered; their numbers were recalculated from the AAMC DW:AMF, 1982-83 forward.

## Chart 2: Number of Applicants to U.S. Medical Schools, by Gender

Since 1982-1983, the proportion of applicants who were women has ranged from less than a third (32.7% in 1982-1983) to just over half (50.8% in 2003-2004). Of the 43,919 applicants for the entering class of 2011-2012, 52.7 percent were men and 47.3 percent were women<sup>2</sup>. Despite small decreases in the *percentage* of women applicants since 2003-2004, the total *number* of women applicants increased to a high of 20,780 in 2011-2012.

The proportion of each year’s supply of college graduates who apply to U.S. medical schools has always been more heavily represented by men. Using the estimated totals for 2009-2010 U.S. college graduates, it can be said that about 3.2 percent of all male college graduates applied to medical school, compared with 2.2 percent of female college graduates. To put this disparity in context, note that women were expected to be awarded 57.2 percent of all B.A. and B.S degrees nationally in 2009-2010.<sup>3</sup>

U.S. Medical School Applicants 1982-83 to 2011-12



\* Totals include less than one percent for whom gender information was not available.

<sup>2</sup> Four applicants in 2011, who declined to report sex, are not reflected.

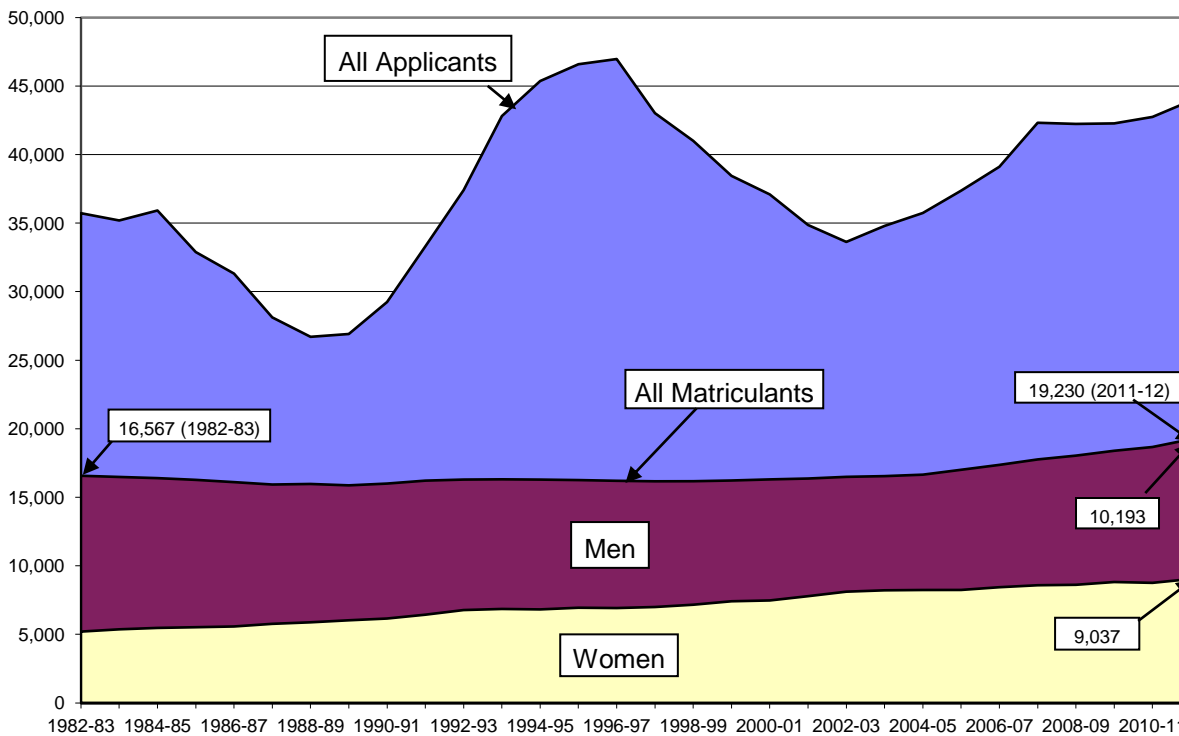
<sup>3</sup> Percentages are derived from middle alternative projections in National Center for Education Statistics (NCES 2009-062): *Projections of Education Statistics to 2018*. February 2009. Page 74, Table 28: Actual and alternative projected numbers for bachelor’s degrees, by sex of recipient: 1993–94 through 2018–19.

### Chart 3: U.S. Medical School Matriculants, by Gender

While the annual number of applicants has fluctuated in recent history, U.S. medical schools have enrolled new students at a more constant rate. In June 2006, the AAMC called for increasing enrollment over the next decade by 30 percent over the 2002-2003 level to address physician shortages projected by the year 2020.<sup>4</sup> The 2011-2012 entering class of 19,230 students<sup>5</sup> is 16.6 percent larger than the 2002-2003 baseline of 16,488.

Since 1982-1983, the total number of women entering U.S. medical schools has increased every year (in fact, the annual increases reach back to 1969-1970). Women’s share of the matriculating class has likewise increased. Women went from less than a third (31.4%) of all matriculants in 1982-1983 to a high of 49.6 percent in 2003-2004. In 2011-2012, women represented 47.0 percent of all matriculants.

U.S. Medical School Applicants and Matriculants 1982-83 to 2011-12



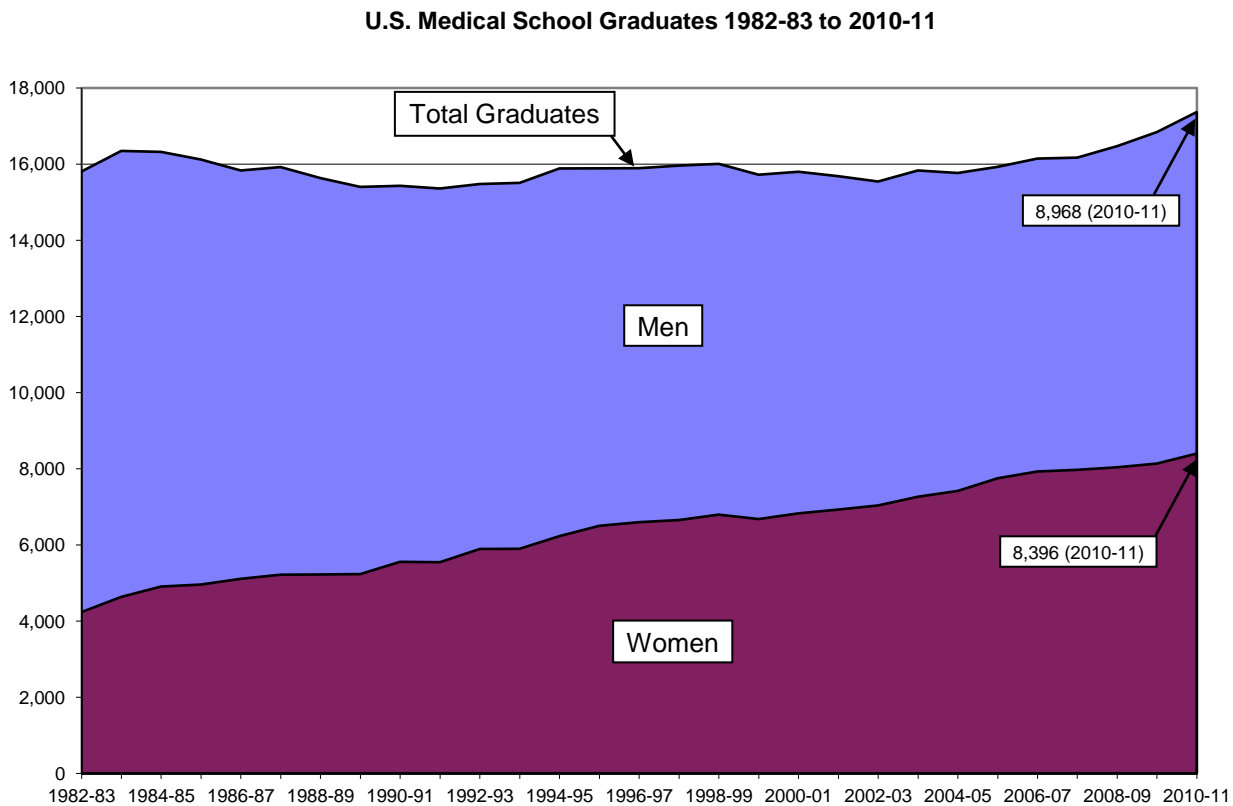
<sup>4</sup> AAMC. The Physician Workforce: Position Statement [<http://www.aamc.org/workforce/workforceposition.pdf>].

<sup>5</sup> AAMC DW:AMF, as of Nov. 9, 2011.

### Chart 4: U.S. Medical School Graduates, by Gender

The composition of graduates from U.S. medical schools has closely corresponded to matriculant trends. In 1982-1983, 26.8 percent of M.D. degrees were awarded to women. In 2010-2011, women received 8,396 (48.4%) of the 17,364 M.D.'s awarded.<sup>6</sup> This represented the largest number of women earning an M.D. of any national graduating class to date.

On average, 96 percent of all U.S. medical school students graduate with an M.D. within 10 years of entering medical school.<sup>7</sup> By comparison, nationally 62 percent of those who begin a postgraduate program will complete within 10 years.<sup>8</sup>



<sup>6</sup> AAMC DW:Student, as of January 5, 2012.

<sup>7</sup> AAMC. Medical School Graduation and Attrition Rates. *Analysis in Brief* 7:2 (April 2007) [<http://www.aamc.org/data/aib/>].

<sup>8</sup> National Center For Education Statistics (NCES 2007-159): *Where Are They Now? A Description of 1992-93 Bachelor's Degree Recipients 10 Years Later*. October 2006. Page 5. [<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007159>]

## Notes on Data Sources:

**Major Source Files:** The AAMC Data Warehouse (DW) stores two sections of data relevant to applicants and students: AAMC DW:AMF (Applicant Matriculant File) and AAMC DW:Student. From these two source files, we derive summary statistics about applicants, accepted applicants, matriculants, enrollees, and graduates that are referenced in the charts and tables above. AAMC DW:AMF compiles applicant and matriculant data from the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) and other medical school application processes. AAMC DW:Student compiles enrollee and graduate data from the AAMC Student Records System (SRS).

Applicant, enrollment, and graduate statistical data are arranged by academic year, which begins July 1 and ends June 30.

General queries about charts and data may be directed by email to [facts@aamc.org](mailto:facts@aamc.org).