

MED SCHOOL CORRUPTION EXPOSED:

WHY THE HELL DO WE PAY SECONDARY APPLICATION FEES (AVG \$100/SCHOOL) THEN??

STORY

I applied to UConn School of Medicine and did not pay my fees. I forgot to check the status of my application because I was in the middle of submitting many other applications and life got crazy, long story short, I did not pay my secondary fees to UConn and did not receive an email confirmation from them. Every other school I applied to and submitted my fees for sent me a confirmation email stating that my application has been received and will be reviewed by the committee of admissions etc. So now that it is the end of March and UConn is the only place I haven't heard back from, I thought maybe I received a rejection letter but just missed it. I searched my inbox only to find out that I never received a completed application confirmation email from UConn SoM! And that's when I then discovered I didn't pay the fee and my application was therefore never 'completed' --hence the fact that I never received a confirmation email. I knew there was no shot they'd empathize, but decided to still at least email the Associate Dean for Medical Student Affairs at UConn SoM, Dr. Melissa Held, and see what I get. Couldn't hurt, right? Well, here's the SHOCKING response I got from the Administrative Program Coordinator:

 Gmail

UConn SoM Applicant [REDACTED] Consideration

Medical School Admissions <admissions@uchc.edu>

Fri, Mar 27, 3:24 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your continued interest in the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Your application is considered complete and although you didn't submit your payment that has not affected the status of your application. Unfortunately we have reached the end of the cycle and will not be extending any interview invitations at this point. All applicants who were not invited for an interview will be receiving an email with this information in the coming weeks.

Best,

Antonella

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:53 PM

To: Medical School Admissions <admissions@uchc.edu>

Subject: UConn SoM Applicant [REDACTED] Consideration

*** Attention: This is an external email. Use caution responding, opening attachments or clicking on links. ***

[Quoted text hidden]

“Your application is considered complete and although you didn’t submit your payment that has not affected the status of your application.”

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM, AND HOW COULD THIS BE ILLEGAL?

This is what the application portal looks like (similar for most schools):

Supplemental Application

Please limit your responses to 1,800 characters (including spaces) for each essay question.

Read and review the Technical Standards document in order to be able to answer the last question.

To complete your UConn SoM secondary application, please submit your application fee using the following link <https://enrollmentfees.uhc.edu/MedAppFees.html>. You should receive an email receipt from PayPal.

Applicants in the AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP) may email a copy of the FAP confirmation to admissions@uchc.edu, and they will be granted a fee waiver for the UConn SoM secondary application.

Applicants who are not in FAP, but would like to request a fee waiver for the UConn SoM secondary application may email their request to admissions@uchc.edu.

Note the third paragraph stating that: **To complete your UConn SoM secondary application, please submit your application fee using the following link.** Now, the above picture of the application portal clearly states that the secondary can not be completed without the payment. Given I did not pay the fees, I did not complete my application. I also never received a completed application confirmation email, which I have received from every other school, and this is what (more or less) these confirmation emails look like (ex. Yale, Cornell, and Case Western).

Your Yale application is now complete and in review!

Application Updates: At anytime throughout the application season, you may upload application updates (in pdf format) via our online Document Upload tool. This tool is found on the application website (<https://application.med.yale.edu>).

Greetings!

We have the pleasure of informing you that your application for admission to the 2020 entering class at Weill Cornell is complete. However, please be advised that the evaluation process is long, and it may take months before you hear from us again.

Dear 

Thank you for your interest in the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. This email serves as a confirmation that your application is now considered complete for the University Program. Your application has been placed in the queue for our screeners to review.

This begs many questions, here are some...

Implications:

What does this mean for medical schools in general and the application process, and what is this potentially exposing?

- ❑ How is the school able to review and render a decision on the application without this payment per their own application instructions?
- ❑ If select applications are reviewed without being “complete”, does this prove and showcase how unnecessary this fee is in regards to reviewing applications?
- ❑ Applicants pay fees so that schools can pay admissions officers/committees to open, review, and assess their applications (supposedly), but according to this email, you do not need to pay the fee for them to review your application. Is there major corruption in the application process?
- ❑ If UConn has been doing this, what could this say about all the other medical schools? Are other schools charging applicants money to “open” their profiles as well but not using that money to actually carry out what they claim the fees are for?
- ❑ Isn't it unfair for applicants who paid the fee and still got rejected? They could have not paid the fee and still got their applications opened?
- ❑ Should applicants who spent money on applications get refunded?
- ❑ How many years has this been going on for? And how far back must they go to fairly pay applicants back.
- ❑ If schools review your application regardless, what is the actual purpose of the fee? This is the question UConn **must** answer.
- ❑ This would be **unfair** to exceptional students who did **NOT** apply to more prestigious medical schools because they were financially incapable of doing so. They may have been strong applicants but decided to reserve their money for safety and lower tier medical schools. If the fee had **nothing** to do with the status of the application, then these students essentially wasted the opportunity to apply, all because they couldn't afford to send out more applications.

SOME DATA

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), **896,819 applications** were received by the 151 medical colleges reported, averaging **5,939 applications received per school**. On average, secondary application fees cost around 100 dollars, and according to AAMC, there were 53,371 applicants, averaging **17 applications per applicant**, which is approximately **\$1,700 per applicant** each year! Now, the numbers reported by AAMC are 21,869 matriculated/accepted applications out of 896,819, which is a **2.438% matriculation rate. THAT IS 97.562% WHOSE APPLICATIONS LEAD TO... NOTHING. IF THE FEES DON'T MATTER, WHY ARE ABOUT 874,954 APPLICATIONS PAID FOR EVERY YEAR (even if we take out 50% of those, assuming 50% get their 'money's worth' between fee waiving and getting interviewed or getting in and not matriculating, that's still 437,477 APPLICATIONS PAID IN VAIN!)**

https://www.aamc.org/system/files/2019-11/2019_FACTS_Table_A-1.pdf

Potential Action/Reformation:

- Pay back all the applicants who have gotten rejected for who knows how long!!!!
- Future direction: you pay the fee, but if you get rejected you get refunded ⇒ **get rid of the corruption!**
- Lower the secondary application fees if the cost of assessing applications is too inflated!