

**Westminster Tutors**



**UCAS APPLICATION POLICY:  
MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY**

**2026-2027**

## Contents

|                                                            |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Introduction .....                                      | 1 |
| 2. GCSE Requirements .....                                 | 1 |
| Minimum Benchmark: .....                                   | 1 |
| Preferred Benchmark: .....                                 | 1 |
| 3. A Level Requirements .....                              | 1 |
| Minimum Benchmark: .....                                   | 1 |
| Strong Applicant Benchmark: .....                          | 2 |
| Exceptional Applicant Benchmark: .....                     | 2 |
| 4. UCAT Requirements .....                                 | 2 |
| Minimum College Benchmark: .....                           | 2 |
| Strong Applicant Benchmark: .....                          | 2 |
| Exceptional Applicant Benchmark: .....                     | 2 |
| 5. Work Experience And Volunteering .....                  | 3 |
| Minimum Benchmark: .....                                   | 3 |
| Strong Applicant: .....                                    | 3 |
| Exceptional Applicant: .....                               | 3 |
| 6. Interview Readiness .....                               | 3 |
| Minimum Interview Benchmark: .....                         | 4 |
| Strong Applicant: .....                                    | 4 |
| Exceptional Applicant .....                                | 4 |
| 7. Strong Medicine/Dentistry Applicant .....               | 4 |
| 8. Exceptional Medicine/Dentistry Applicant .....          | 4 |
| 9. College Benchmarking System .....                       | 5 |
| 10. A Level Resit Medicine or Dentistry Applications ..... | 6 |

## 1. Introduction

- 2.1 This policy establishes the college's internal criteria for identifying students who are academically and personally ready to apply for Medicine or Dentistry at UK universities.
- 2.2 The criteria should be regarded as admissions-readiness benchmarks, not as formal university entry requirements. Medical and dental Schools vary considerably in how they assess GCSEs, A levels, UCAT, work experience, personal statements and interviews. Students must therefore check each university's specific requirements before making their final choices.
- 2.3 The policy is designed to distinguish between:
- Suitable for Medicine/Dentistry application
  - Strong applicant
  - Exceptional applicant

## 2. GCSE Requirements

- 2.1 A student should normally meet all or nearly all of the following criteria before being approved for a Medicine or Dentistry application.

### Minimum Benchmark:

- GCSE grades predominantly 7–9.
  - Normally no GCSE below Grade 7.
  - Grade 7 or above in Mathematics and English Language.
  - Grade 7 or above in the relevant sciences, with particularly strong performance in Biology and Chemistry where these are studied separately.
  - Students applying to the most competitive medical and dental schools should normally have a stronger GCSE profile than the minimum above.
- 2.2 The college will consider GCSE performance in context rather than treating the number of GCSEs as the sole measure of academic ability.

### Preferred Benchmark:

- 8 or more GCSEs at grades 7–9
- With a significant proportion at grades 8–9
- Strong grades in Biology, Chemistry, Physics/Combined Science, Mathematics and English.

## 3. A Level Requirements

### Minimum Benchmark:

- Students predicted AAA or above [mandatory]
- With the appropriate subjects for Medicine or Dentistry.

Students should have achieved:

- AAB or better in A level mock examinations

- For most UK Medicine and Dentistry courses, students should normally be studying both Chemistry and Biology.

#### Strong Applicant Benchmark:

- Predicted A\*AA or above
- Predicted AAA or above, plus relevant EPQ predicted A

Students should have achieved:

- AAA or better in A level mock examinations

#### Exceptional Applicant Benchmark:

- Predicted A\*AA or above, with A\* grades in the most relevant subjects

Students should be achieving:

- A\*AA or better in A level mock examinations
- Students achieving A\*A\*A or higher in demanding science subjects are regarded as academically very strong candidates.

## 4. UCAT Requirements

4.1 The UCAT is a central component of the application process for the majority of UK Medical and Dental Schools. Most Medical Schools require the UCAT, although universities use the score in different ways: some rank candidates by score, some establish a cut-off, and others assess it alongside other elements of the application.

4.2 Since 2025, the UCAT has three cognitive sections:

- Verbal Reasoning
- Decision Making
- Quantitative Reasoning

Each section is scored from 300–900, for a total of 900–2700.

Situational Judgement is reported separately as Band 1–4.

NB: In 2025, the national mean was 1,891, the 8th decile was 2,100, and the 9th decile was 2,220. Therefore, a score of approximately 2,100 placed a candidate in the top 20% nationally, while approximately 2,220 placed them in the top 10%.

4.3 The college's benchmarks below align with recent national UCAT performance rather than arbitrary percentages.

#### Minimum College Benchmark:

- UCAT score of at least 1,900

#### Strong Applicant Benchmark:

- UCAT score of 2,100 +

#### Exceptional Applicant Benchmark:

- UCAT score of 2,200 +

## 5. Work Experience And Volunteering

- 5.1 Medicine and Dentistry applicants should demonstrate that they have actively explored the reality of a healthcare career.
- 5.2 The college does not require students to obtain prestigious hospital placements or particular numbers of hours. Instead, students should be able to demonstrate:
- Meaningful exposure to a range of healthcare, caring or community settings
  - Understanding of the responsibilities of healthcare professionals
  - Experience of interacting with people from different backgrounds
  - Evidence of teamwork and communication
  - Reflection on what they have learned
  - Awareness of the challenges of working in healthcare

### Minimum Benchmark:

- Evidence of meaningful healthcare, caring, volunteering or community experience and the ability to reflect intelligently on it.

### Strong Applicant:

- Several meaningful experiences demonstrating sustained interest in healthcare, accompanied by thoughtful reflection.

### Exceptional Applicant:

- Sustained engagement with healthcare or caring environments, together with sophisticated understanding of the profession, ethical issues, teamwork, communication and patient-centred care.

## 6. Interview Readiness

- 6.1 Being academically eligible does not mean that a student is ready for interview. Most medical schools use either Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) or panel interviews. Students should demonstrate:
- Clear communication
  - Empathy
  - Teamwork
  - Resilience
  - Ethical reasoning
  - Professionalism
  - Reflection
  - Motivation for Medicine/Dentistry
  - Understanding of the NHS/healthcare system
  - Awareness of current medical or dental issues
  - Ability to discuss and show insight from work experience
  - Ability to think under pressure
- 6.2 The college will provide extensive mock interview preparation to students who have met the overall Medicine/ Dentistry readiness criteria.

### Minimum Interview Benchmark:

- Able to communicate clearly and demonstrate genuine motivation and basic understanding of the profession.

### Strong Applicant:

- Confident, articulate and reflective, with strong ethical reasoning and evidence-based answers.

### Exceptional Applicant

- Able to think independently under pressure, communicate with maturity and empathy, and demonstrate sophisticated understanding of professional and ethical issues.

## 7. Strong Medicine/Dentistry Applicant

7.1 A student will normally be classified as a Strong Applicant if they meet most or all of the following:

| Category            | Strong benchmark                                                       |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GCSEs               | 8+ GCSEs at 8–9, remaining grades normally 7 and above                 |
| A level mocks       | AAA or above                                                           |
| Predicted A levels  | A*AA                                                                   |
| Relevant subjects   | Excellent performance in Biology/Chemistry and other required subjects |
| UCAT mock           | 2,100+                                                                 |
| SJT                 | Preferably Band 1–2                                                    |
| Work experience     | Meaningful healthcare/caring experience with strong reflection         |
| Application         | Excellent motivation, exploration and suitability                      |
| Interview           | Strong communication, ethical reasoning and reflection                 |
| Academic engagement | Wider reading/research/lectures or other relevant activity             |

7.2 A student meeting these criteria should be regarded as academically and personally competitive for Medicine or Dentistry, provided they choose universities strategically.

## 8. Exceptional Medicine/Dentistry Applicant

8.1 An Exceptional Applicant would normally demonstrate:

GCSEs:

- 8–10 + GCSEs at grades 8–9
- Very few or no grades below 8
- Exceptional science and Mathematics results

A levels:

- A\*AA + predicted
- Strong mock examination performance
- A\* performance in relevant subjects where appropriate

UCAT:

- 2,200 +
- Preferably SJT Band 1
- Strong performance across all three cognitive sections

Experience:

- Sustained and meaningful healthcare/caring/community involvement
- Excellent reflection
- Clear understanding of the realities of the profession
- Academic engagement
- Wider reading
- Scientific or medical research
- Lectures and academic events
- Relevant competitions
- Independent academic projects
- Evidence of intellectual curiosity
- Interview
- Exceptional communication
- Strong ethical reasoning
- Empathy and professionalism
- Ability to think independently
- Excellent reflection
- Strong understanding of healthcare and the profession

## 9. College Benchmarking System

9.1 The following simple framework will be applied when assessing a student's readiness for a Medicine or Dentistry application:

|                     | Suitable            | Strong                 | Exceptional                   |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| GCSEs               | Predominantly 7–9   | 8+ GCSEs at 8–9        | 8–10+ GCSEs at 8–9            |
| A level mocks       | AAB +               | AAA +                  | A*AA +                        |
| A level predictions | AAA minimum         | AAA +                  | A*AA +                        |
| UCAT mock           | 1,900 +             | 2,100 +                | 2,200 +                       |
| SJT                 | Band 1–3            | Band 1–2 preferred     | Band 1 preferred              |
| Experience          | Meaningful exposure | Sustained & reflective | Sustained & highly reflective |
| Interview           | Developing          | Strong                 | Exceptional                   |

9.2 These benchmarking criteria are not a guarantee of admission and are instead used by the college to determine suitability. No single UCAT score, GCSE profile, or A level combination guarantees a place at Medical or Dental School.

## 10. A Level Resit Medicine or Dentistry Applications

10.1 A student who is resitting A levels may still be a viable Medicine or Dentistry applicant, but resitting substantially changes the range of universities to which they can realistically apply. The key principle the college applies is:

- An A level resit does not automatically prevent a Medicine or Dentistry application, but the student's first-sitting grades, the reason for resitting, the number of subjects being retaken, the target/predicted retake grades and UCAT performance must all be considered when determining admissions viability.

10.2 The following framework is applied by the college when assessing an A level retake student's viability for a Medicine or Dentistry reapplication:

|                          | Viable                           | Strong                                                    | Highly Competitive                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| GCSEs                    | Mainly 7–9                       | 8 + GCSEs at 8–9                                          | 8–10 + GCSEs at 8–9                                 |
| First A-level sitting    | ABB +                            | AAB +                                                     | AAA +                                               |
| Resit predicted grades   | AAA +                            | A*AA                                                      | A*AA +                                              |
| UCAT                     | 1,900 +                          | 2,100 +                                                   | 2,200 +                                             |
| SJT                      | Band 1–3                         | Band 1–2 preferred                                        | Band 1 preferred                                    |
| Number of A-level resits | 1-2 A levels                     | 1 preferred                                               | Only one resit                                      |
| Reason for resit         | Credible explanation             | Clear explanation & evidence of improvement               | Significant extenuating circumstances with evidence |
| Work experience          | Meaningful                       | Strong and reflective                                     | Extensive, sustained and highly reflective          |
| Previous school          | Provides previous UCAS reference | Provides previous UCAS reference & supports reapplication | Very strong support for reapplication               |
| University choices       | Restricted options               | Carefully targeted                                        | Wider range, subject to individual policies         |

10.3 Resit applicants who have been identified as viable and are enrolled at the college should take personal responsibility for researching and identifying suitable medical or dental schools.

10.4 Medic Portal is a valuable tool for initial research which must then be followed up with careful scrutiny of each school's website for current retake policies and criteria. Detailed information on Medicine can be found [here](#), and initial information on Dentistry can be found [here](#).

10.5 Assuming a resit student's application is identified as viable by the college, gaining additional work experience and improved application evidence will greatly enhance an application. The college will provide expert advice and guidance on these areas. The resit year should be used productively to develop:

- UCAT performance
- Healthcare experience
- Volunteering
- Reflection



- Academic reading
- Professional understanding
- Interview preparation

| Ownership and consultation |                                                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Document author (name)     | Virginia Maguire, Sr Consultant and DoS (UCAS and Careers) |

| Audience |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| Audience | Students and parents |

| Version control      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Implementation date: | August 2026 |
| Next Review:         | August 2027 |