Yusuf Alhamdani - Application packet (AMCAS 2026 and Wayne State University School of Medicine secondary)

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Applying to: Wayne State University School of Medicine MD program, 2026-27

Fictional applicant written for this sample. The person, his employers, his organisations and his supervisors are invented.

Academics

- University of Michigan-Dearborn, BS Biological Sciences, minor in Environmental Science, April 2023. GPA 3.52 (science 3.41). I commuted from home all four years and worked 20-25 hours a week.
- Lowest grades: W in Organic Chemistry I (fall 2020); retook it in spring 2021 and earned a C+. Organic Chemistry II: B+. Biochemistry: A-.
- Post-baccalaureate evening courses, Wayne State University (non-degree), fall 2023: Human Physiology (A), Biostatistics (A-).
- MCAT: August 2024, 501 (125/126/125/125). April 2026, 511 (127/128/128/128).
- Languages: English (native), Arabic (Yemeni dialect, fluent; I read Modern Standard Arabic slowly).

AMCAS personal comments essay

Mr. Saeed came to the pharmacy counter on a Friday at 6:40 p.m. with an empty insulin pen and a rejected claim. His insurance had changed plans on the first of the month. His doctor's office was closed. He had been a friend of my father's for twenty years, and he asked me, in Arabic, to just give him a box and sort it out Monday.

I couldn't, and I told him so. I called the prescriber's after-hours line, waited 35 minutes on hold, and got an emergency supply authorized before we closed. He was angry with me the whole time, and he told my father about it at the mosque. A week later he came back to pick up a refill and asked for me by name.

I have worked at Conant Avenue Pharmacy in Hamtramck since 2021, about 4,600 hours. Most of what I do is ordinary: counting, prior authorization calls, explaining copays in Arabic to people who were embarrassed to ask in English. But the counter is where I learned what diabetes looks like over years instead of one visit. My father has type 2 diabetes. My uncle started dialysis in 2022. I watched both of them get good care in fragments: a specialist who never knew about the other specialist, a medication change nobody explained.

I thought for a while about pharmacy school. Mr. Nasser, the pharmacist who owns the store, told me honestly that he spends half his day fixing problems that started in a ten-minute visit he never saw. I

also shadowed a physician assistant and a family physician. I respect both roles. What pulled me toward medicine was the responsibility for the whole diagnosis and plan, and the long training that goes with it. Dr. Teresa Okafor, the family physician I work beside at Northend Neighbors Free Clinic, is the doctor who sees the fragments and puts them back together. I want to be that person.

My path has not been fast. I withdrew from organic chemistry in my first pandemic semester, when I was working full time at my family's store and studying on a phone in the stockroom. My first MCAT was a 501. I took evening courses at Wayne State, built a study schedule around pharmacy shifts, and scored 511. I am slower than some applicants. I am also more certain.

Work and activities (AMCAS, abbreviated)

1. **Pharmacy technician**, Conant Avenue Pharmacy, Hamtramck (Jun 2021 - present, about 4,600 hours). *Most meaningful.* Fill and check prescriptions under the pharmacist, handle insurance and prior authorizations, and interpret for Arabic- and Bengali-area customers (Arabic myself; I find a coworker for Bengali). I deliver to six homebound patients on Wednesdays. In 2025 the pharmacy adopted software that uses AI to flag drug interactions and predict refills. I noticed we were overriding most alerts out of habit and kept a two-week tally for Mr. Nasser; we changed which alerts interrupt the workflow.
2. **Undergraduate researcher and honors thesis**, Environmental Health Lab (Dr. Mark Brennan), University of Michigan-Dearborn (Sep 2021 - Apr 2023, about 650 hours). *Most meaningful.* Placed low-cost PM2.5 sensors inside and outside three Hamtramck elementary schools. Thesis: *Indoor and Outdoor Fine Particulate Matter at Three Elementary Schools Near Interstate 75.* Halfway through, a teammate and I disagreed about whether a drifting sensor's data could be kept; I argued for recalibrating and losing three weeks. We compromised: we reported both versions. Poster at the UM-Dearborn Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2023.
3. **Volunteer Arabic interpreter and intake**, Northend Neighbors Free Clinic, Detroit (Jan 2022 - present, about 320 hours). *Most meaningful.* Saturday clinic for uninsured adults; intake, blood pressure checks, interpreting for Dr. Okafor and nurse practitioners.
4. **COVID-19 vaccine day volunteer**, Yemeni American Family Association, Hamtramck (Feb - Aug 2021, 90 hours). Registered people, answered questions in Arabic, and walked older neighbors from the parking lot. I had to learn mRNA well enough to explain it in a second language.
5. **Volunteer driver and cashier**, Six Mile Fresh Cart, Detroit (May 2023 - present, about 140 hours). Mobile produce market stopping at senior buildings and churches in neighborhoods without a full grocery store. We accept SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks.
6. **Shadowing** (2022 - 2025, 72 hours): family medicine, 30; emergency medicine, 20; nephrology, 14; physician assistant in urgent care, 8.
7. **Family business**, Alhamdani Market, Hamtramck (2014 - 2021, 15-40 hours a week). Stocking, register, ordering. My parents came from Ibb, Yemen, in 1998; my father ran the store until his health made it hard.
8. **Hobbies**: adult-league soccer (defender, Sunday league since 2019); fixing donated bicycles for neighborhood kids, about 40 so far; cooking saltah with my mother; running the Detroit RiverWalk when I need my head clear.

Wayne State secondary (2026-27; prompts abbreviated)

How will you contribute to the diversity of the School of Medicine and to serving the communities of Detroit?

I grew up two square miles from campus, in a city that is surrounded by Detroit and shaped by it. I am the oldest of five, the son of Yemeni immigrants, and the person my family sends to every appointment. At the free clinic I interpreted for Mrs. Ahmed, a retired schoolteacher, while a volunteer spoke to me about her as if she were not in the room and simplified everything. Her English was limited; her understanding was not. I said so, politely, after the visit. I would bring that awareness, plus Arabic, to classmates and patients, and I plan to keep serving the same neighborhoods I serve now.

Why Wayne State University School of Medicine?

I want to train where my patients already are. Wayne State's mission centers urban health, and its students train in Detroit hospitals and community clinics, not in a city they visit. I took physiology on your campus at night after pharmacy shifts and saw how many students were working adults like me. I want service-learning that continues the free-clinic and produce-market work I started, and I want to practice primary care or nephrology in Southeast Michigan.

Describe a challenge or setback and what you learned.

My first MCAT was 501. I studied around 35-hour pharmacy weeks with no plan, and after the score my research mentor, Dr. Brennan, told me my practice notes showed I reviewed content I already knew because it felt good. That stung, and he was right. I switched to timed passages and tracked every wrong answer by reason. Twenty months later I scored 511.

What will you do between now and matriculation?

I will keep working about 35 hours a week at the pharmacy, interpret at Northend Neighbors on Saturdays, and drive for Six Mile Fresh Cart twice a month. If I am not admitted this cycle, I will ask for feedback, keep working, and reapply.