HPAC Instructions for All Applicants

The Health Professions Advising Committee (HPAC) is charged with preparing committee letters of evaluation for students applying to professional schools. The HPAC interviews and advises students prior to their application to professional schools. Information about applying to specific programs is included in this brochure.

Procedure:
Contact Dr. Chopin (suzzette.chopin@tamucc.edu) to schedule an appointment with the committee. At least one week prior to the meeting, the student submits the following documents to Dr. Chopin via email:
1. The Personal Statement essay, including the prompt
2. Any other essays required in the application, including the prompts
3. A resume
4. The HPAC information form that includes the student’s personal identification numbers

In addition, each student should have at least three letters of evaluation emailed to Dr. Chopin directly from the evaluator. These letters will be used in the HPAC letter.

Students should register for the HPAC workshop, which is given every February/March. Students will receive an email in January about registering for the spring workshops.

Physical Therapy School Applicants

Applicants to physical therapy schools are interviewed by HPAC. Only Incarnate Word & UT Southwestern use the Physical Therapist Central Application Service (http://www.ptcas.org/). Applications for all other Texas schools are on the school’s website.

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation:
February
• Attend the on campus essay workshop
March
• Contact Dr. Chopin to schedule your HPAC meeting
April
• Take GRE ($195); GRE re-take has to wait one month

(Refer to Health Professional School Requirements Brochure for more information about applying to Physical Therapy School)

Veterinary School Applicants

Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine prefers individual letters of evaluation, not HPAC letters. However, pre-vet students can schedule an appointment with the committee for advice on their application, including their essays.

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation
February
• Attend the on campus essay workshop
March
• Contact Dr. Chopin to schedule your HPAC appointment, if desired

April
• Take the GRE ($195); re-take has to wait one month
• Solicit letters of evaluation from faculty member and at least one practicing veterinarian; complete the top section of the TMDSAS Evaluation Form and give a copy to each person you ask for a letter
• Attend on campus TMDSAS application workshop
May
• Order all college transcripts sent to TMDSAS
• Begin completing the application
June
• Submit your application to TMDSAS
  http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/

Medical and Dental School Applicants

Medical and dental school applicants are interviewed in the spring of their junior year. Students are urged to take the MCAT or DAT in April of their junior year to have sufficient time to retake the test, if necessary. A student has to wait a month before retaking the MCAT and three months before retaking the DAT.

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation
November/December
• Pre-Meds: Register for the Kaplan MCAT Prep Course
February
• Attend the on campus essay workshop
• Research each school, and write essays with their mission in mind
• Study for the GRE
March
• Contact Dr. Chopin to schedule your HPAC appointment
• Attend the on campus interview workshop
April
• Complete MCAT prep course
• Attend the on campus TMDSAS application workshop
• Take MCAT ($300) or DAT ($385)
  • MCAT re-take has to wait one month
  • DAT re-take has to wait three months
May
• Order all college transcripts sent to TMDSAS
• Begin completing the application
June
• Submit application to the TMDSAS
  (http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/)

Physician Assistant School Applicants

Applicants to physician assistant schools are interviewed by HPAC. Applications are submitted to the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA; https://portal.caspaonline.org/)

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation
January
• Study for the GRE
February
• Attend the on campus essay workshop
• Research each school, and write essays with their mission in mind
• Study for the GRE
March
• Contact Dr. Chopin to schedule your HPAC appointment
• Solicit letters of recommendation from two or more individuals, including at least one practicing physician assistant; these individuals will submit their letters directly to CASPA

April
• Take the GRE ($195); you have to wait one month to re-take

May
• Begin completing application on CASPA

June
• Submit application
• Note: Your application will not be processed until all letters are received
• Note: CASPA may take 4 to 6 weeks to process your application before it is sent to your selected schools. (This is why you do not wait until a month before the October 1 deadline; your application must be received by the PA schools, not CASPA, by that date).

July – August
• Complete supplemental applications

(Refer to Health Professional School Requirements Brochure for more information about applying to Physician Assistant School)

Pharmacy School Applicants
Texas pharmacy schools prefer individual letters of evaluation, not HPAC letters. However, students can schedule an appointment with the committee for advice on their application, including their essays.

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation
February of junior year
• Attend the on campus essay workshop

Summer/Fall of senior year
• Take PCAT ($199)

October
• Contact Dr. Chopin to schedule a HPAC appointment, if desired

(Refer to Health Professional School Requirements Brochure for more information about applying to Pharmacy School)

Optometry School Applicants
Pre-optometry students do not have to go through the HPAC. However, they can schedule an appointment with the committee for advice on their application, including their essays.

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation
February
• Attend the on campus essay workshop

Fall of senior year
• Take Optometry Admission Test (OAT-$330); must wait 90 days to retake the test

October
• Contact Dr. Chopin to schedule a HPAC appointment, if desired

(Refer to Health Professional School Requirements Brochure for more information about applying to Optometry School)