HPAC:
HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING COMMITTEE

- Presented by Xavier Fonz Gonzales, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.

- [http://prepro.tamucc.edu/](http://prepro.tamucc.edu/)
WHAT IS THE ROLE OF HPAC?

- Evaluate your probability of success in professional school
- Advise students in the application process for professional schools
- Prepare committee letters of evaluation for
  - Medical School
  - Dental School
  - Physical Therapy School
  - *Physician Assistant School *
- Interview students applying to professional school
- Students who do not need a HPAC letter, but are welcome to interview with the committee:
  - Pharmacy
  - Optometry
  - Veterinary
WHEN DO I MEET WITH HPAC?

• The semester you are applying to professional school
• Pre-med, pre-dent, pre-PT and pre-PA*: spring of your junior year
• Other students are invited to meet with HPAC, but we do not provide a letter of evaluation
  – These schools prefer individual letters from faculty and/or practicing professionals
  – Timeline:
    • Pre-pharmacy: October of your senior year
    • Pre-optometry: October of your senior year
    • Pre-vet: spring of your junior year

FOR MORE INFO:
REFER TO THE HPAC BROCHURE
WHO ARE THE CORE HPAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS?

- Greg Buck, PhD., Microbiology
- Xavier Fonz Gonzales, Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences
- Riccardo Mozzachiodi, Ph.D., Neurosciences
- Jean Sparks, Ph.D., Clinical Lab Science
Professional Committee Members

Dr. Blanca Gray, M.D.
Dr. Fernando Medina Carbonell, M.D.
Dr. Greg Fossom, DDS
Jose Recio, PA-C
Cynthia S. Solis, PA-C
Belinda Flores, RN
Dante Gonzalez, PhD
HOW DO I SCHEDULE AN HPAC INTERVIEW?

➢ Today: Place your name on the sign in sheet
➢ Later: Email Dr. Gonzales with your information no later than February 15th.
➢ HPAC lottery pool:
   ➢ There are 25 available slots, there are usually enough spots for everyone!
   ➢ Students will be randomly selected
➢ Dates to pay close attention to:
   ➢ By the end of February, Dr. Gonzales will randomly select from the pool. You will be informed by email that you have been selected for an interview slot.
   ➢ All essays and Science GPA should be submitted by the end of February or you will not be considered for an HPAC slot.
   ➢ You will be given your assigned interview date and time.
   ➢ You have 48hrs to confirm your interview date and time.
   ➢ By March 8th all documentation must be submitted to Dr. Gonzales otherwise you will lose your spot.
➢ March 9th alternates will be emailed that they have been assigned to newly released HPAC slots. You have until March 12th to provide all the documents to solidify one of the alternate slots.
WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN HPAC INTERVIEW?

• Required Documents: emailed to Dr. Gonzales by the dates mentioned on previous slide (appoints will be canceled if items not turned in on time)
  – All essays required in your application
  – Resume
  – Have MCAT date scheduled and taken a practice MCAT
  – Recommendation/evaluation form for each school to which you are applying
  – At least three letters of evaluation from faculty; you are strongly encouraged to send more letters
    • Emailed from faculty to Dr. Gonzales: Have your evaluators include in subject line HPAC Letter (Last Name)
    • Prefer letters from science faculty
• GPA Requirement: Science GPA of 3.25 or above. (Appeals will be considered on a case by case basis) email Dr. Gonzales prior to February 22\textsuperscript{nd} with your appeal. The appeal is a 500 word essay on why we should reconsider your application although you do not meet the GPA requirement.
• Pin Requirement: You will have to send your TMDSAS, AMCAS and AACOMAS and AADSAS PIN(S) to Dr. Gonzales. Send your PIN to Dr. Gonzales when service opens June 1
BE AWARE TO HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS THAT YOU RECEIVED AND HPAC INTERVIEW

• If HPAC writes you a letter of evaluation you are required to apply this cycle.
  – If you do not apply this cycle you will not be allowed a re-evaluation in subsequent years.

• You will have all documentation ready on time.

• You will have made a valid effort to have taken your respective professional school exam prior to your interview
  – (you will have at least taken several practice exams in order to share your scores with the committee)
INTERVIEW DATES

Everything Else

Professional Exam

GPA
BEING COMPETITIVE

• Shadowing: more is better
• Community service: expected
• Campus involvement: expected
• Follow the suggested degree plan
  – Take all courses highlighted in yellow
  – You will be able to apply to all Texas schools

• DO NOT APPLY TO ONLY ONE SCHOOL
  – Apply to as many schools as you can afford
  – What is the best school?
    The one that accepts you!
WHEN DO I APPLY TO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL?

• **Medical, Dental and Vet Applicants: Junior year**
  – Take MCAT/DAT/GRE: Spring of junior year
  – TMDSAS opens May 1
  – AMCAS opens May 3
  – AACOMAS opens May 4
  – AADSAS opens June 1
  – **Submit all documents to the service by June 30**
  – Registration closes in early fall, but your chances are ZERO if you apply this late

• **Physician Assistant Applicants: Junior year**
  – April: Take GRE
  – May: Complete application on CASPA
  – June: Submit all application documents

• **Physical Therapy Applicants: Junior year**
  – Take GRE in April of junior year (allows time for re-take, if necessary)
  – October 15 of senior year: submit all application documents
WHEN DO I APPLY TO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL?

• Pharmacy Applicants: Senior year
  – Take PCAT in fall of senior year
  – Submit applications in fall of senior year

• Optometry Applicants: Senior year
  – Take OAT in fall of senior year
  – Submit applications in fall of senior year
SPRING WORKSHOPS

• **Personal Statement Workshop: Date for 2018 TBD**
  - Essential workshop to assist on how to write personal statements and ask any questions pertaining to pre-professional schools.
  - Useful for all students

• **TMDSAS Workshop: Date for 2018 TBD**
  - Matthew Meeks and Dr. Scott Wright from the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS)
  - How to complete the TMDSAS application
  - For junior and senior pre-med, pre-dent and pre-vet students applying to Texas schools this application cycle

• **Interview Workshop: Date for 2018 TBD**
  - Interviewing tips, what to expect at the interview and possible interview questions
  - For junior and senior pre-professional students applying this application cycle
LOOKING AHEAD: THE TEST!!

Brochure: A Student Guide to Admission Exams for Graduate and Professional Schools

• Medical: MCAT
• Dental: DAT
• Vet: GRE
• Pharmacy: PCAT
• PA: GRE
• PT: GRE
• Optometry: OAT
Medical Colleges Admission Test (MCAT)
www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat

- 6 hours, 15 minutes
- Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems: 59 items; 95 minutes
  - Foundational concepts in the biological and biochemical sciences
  - Scientific inquiry, reasoning, and research and statistics skills
  - Solve problems that demonstrate readiness for medical school
- Chemical & Physical Foundations of Biological Systems: 59 items; 95 minutes
  - Foundational concepts in the chemical and physical sciences
  - Scientific inquiry, reasoning, and research and statistics skills
  - Solve problems that demonstrate readiness for medical school
- Critical Analysis & Reasoning Skills: 53 items; 90 minutes
  - Analyze information from a wide range of social sciences and humanities disciplines
- Psychological, Social & Biological Foundations of Behavior: 59 items; 95 minutes
  - Knowledge and use of the concepts in psychology, sociology, biology, research methods, and statistics
  - Have solid foundation for learning in medical school about the behavioral and socio-cultural determinants of health and health outcomes
Dental: Dental Admission Test (DAT)
www.ada.org/dat.aspx

• Survey of Natural Sciences: 100 questions
  – Biology: 40
  – Gen Chem: 30
  – Organic Chem: 30

• Perceptual Ability: 90 questions
  – Apertures
  – View recognition
  – Angle discrimination
  – Paper folding
  – Cube counting
  – 3D form development

• Reading Comprehension: 50 questions
  – Three reading passages

• Quantitative Reasoning: 40 questions
  – Algebra
  – Calculations (fractions, decimals; percentages, scientific notation)
  – Conversions (temperature, time, weight, distance)
  – Probability and Statistics
  – Geometry and Trig
  – Word problems
GRE
www.takethegre.com/new-gre-test

- Analytical Writing
  - Two essays
- Verbal Reasoning: 40 questions
  - Text completion
  - Sentence equivalence
  - Reading comprehension
- Quantitative Reasoning: 40 questions
  - Quantitative Comparison
  - Multiple choice
  - Data interpretation
  - Numeric entry
Pharmacy College Admission Test: PCAT
www.pcatweb.info

• Format of previous version: Look to website for changes
• Verbal ability: 48 questions
  – Analogies: 60%
  – Sentence completion: 40%
• Biology: 48 questions
  – General Biology: 50%
  – Microbiology: 20%
  – Anatomy & Physiology: 30%
• Chemistry: 48 questions
  – Gen Chem: 50%
  – Organic Chem: 30%
  – Biochem: 20%
• Reading Comprehension: 48 questions
  – Comprehension: 30%
  – Analysis: 40%
  – Evaluation: 30%
• Quantitative ability: 48 questions
  – Basic math: 15%
  – Algebra: 20%
  – Probability & Stats: 20%
  – Precalculus: 22%
  – Calculus: 22%
• Written essays: 2

PCAT videos on YouTube
http://www.youtube.com/user/pearsonfieldresearch

PCAT Testing Dates
Look at website for upcoming test dates.
Optometry Admission Test: OAT
https://www.ada.org/oat/index.html

• Survey of Natural Sciences: 100 questions
  – Biology: 40 questions
  – Gen Chem: 30 questions
  – Organic Chem: 30 questions
• Reading comprehension: 40 questions
• Physics: 40 questions
• Quantitative Reasoning: 40 questions
  – Algebra
  – Numerical calculations (fractions, decimals; percentages, scientific notation)
  – Probability and Statistics
  – Geometry, Trig
  – Word problems
RE-TAKING THE TEST

• MCAT: wait one month
• DAT: wait three months
• GRE: wait 21 days up to 5 times in 12 month period (Practice before taking the real thing)
• OAT: wait three months
• PCAT: can test once/testing window, i.e., four times/cycle
PREPARING FOR THE TEST

• See test website for practice tests
• Pay for a prep course
  – Kaplan Prep course  www.kaptest.com
  – How bad do you want to go to professional school
  – Contact Suzanne Osuna:
    suzanne.osuna@kaplan.com
QUESTIONS??

Mad Cow?

Swine Flu?
HEADS UP

• Do not believe everything you read
• Your photo
  – Professional
• Criminal Background Check
  – Be honest
DO NOT BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ
ESPECIALLY FROM THE WEB
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND

• Most common transgressions
  – Public Intoxication
  – Drunk driving
  – Shoplifting

• Be honest

• Will be dropped/expelled if revealed later

• Expunge record – need a lawyer

• Consider having a criminal background check run to be sure your record is clean
DO NOT BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ ESPECIALLY FROM THE WEB
REMEMBER TO ---

Make good choices

Plan Ahead