HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING COMMITTEE (HPAC)

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

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
  - Graduate School
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
- Jean Sparks, Ph.D., Clinical Lab Science
- Xavier Fonz Gonzales, Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences
- Riccardo Mozzachiodi, Ph.D., Neurosciences
Professional Committee Members

Dr. Blanca Gray, M.D.
Dr. Ana Salazar, M.D.
Dr. Greg Fossom, DDS
Dante Gonzalez, PhD
Jose Recio, PA-C
Belinda Flores, RN
HOW DO I SCHEDULE AN HPAC INTERVIEW?

- Meet the Science GPA requirement: 3.3 and above
- Email your completed packet to prehealth_education@tamucc.edu with your information no later than February 8th.
What if I do not meet the Science GPA?

• Using one of the many online Science GPA calculators double check your Science GPA.

• Send Dr. Gonzales your calculated score to Dr. Gonzales along with an appeal letter at prehealth_education@tamucc.edu; subject line: Appeal Science GPA score (Last Name, First Name, A#)
  • Appeals will be considered on a case by case basis.
  • Email Dr. Gonzales prior to February 8th with your appeal.
  • The appeal is a 500 word essay on why HPAC committee should reconsider your application although you do not meet the GPA requirement.
WHAT IS CONSIDERED A COMPLETED PACKET?

1. **Required Documents:** emailed to prehealth_education@tamucc.edu
2. All essays required by the professional or graduate school to which you are applying
3. Resume; include a color photograph of headshot
4. Recommendation/Evaluation form for each school to which you are applying
5. At least three letters of evaluation from faculty; you are strongly encouraged to send more letters (an instruction sheet for evaluators will be available on the HPO website: http://sci.tamucc.edu/LSCI/PREPRO/).
   1. **Emailed from faculty to prehealth_education:** Have your evaluators include in subject line HPAC Letter (Last Name)
   2. Prefer letters from science faculty
   3. **Remind Evaluators that letters are to be in a Word format document**
6. Calculated Science GPA; Total Science Hours; List of Science Courses with Grade
7. Scores from either a completed full practice or actual required admission exam from your respective field.
8. **Statement of Responsibility:** I (your name) will provide the necessary pin numbers and letter request emails prior to June 1st.
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I GET MY PACKET IN ON TIME?

❖ HPAC Interview Days for 2018:
  ➢ March 23rd & 24th
  ➢ April 5th & 6th
  ➢ April 12th & 13th

❖ HPAC Interview Times:
  ➢ Friday between 2pm and 5pm
  ➢ Saturday between 11am and 4pm

❖ HPAC selection:
  ➢ There are 24 available slots
  ➢ Students who provide completed packets first will be selected
  ➢ Completed packets will ”ONLY” be accepted on February 8th.
    ➢ Letters from evaluators in appropriate format will be accepted until February 22nd.

❖ Dates to pay close attention to:
  ➢ By February 16th, students will be informed by email that you have obtained an interview slot.
  ➢ You will be given your assigned interview date and time.
  ➢ You have 48hrs to confirm your interview date and time.
  ➢ If you do not confirm your interview date and time it will be offered to students placed in alternate list
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.
  • Remember: Even after you graduate you can still get an updated letter.

• 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)
BEING COMPETITIVE

- Shadowing: more is better
- Community service: expected
- Campus involvement: expected
- Follow the suggested degree plan available on the HPO website: http://sci.tamucc.edu/LSCI/PREPRO/
  - 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!

Which experiences will win them over?
WHEN DO I APPLY TO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL?

- **Medical & Dental: Junior year**
  - Take MCAT/DAT/GRE: Spring of junior year
  - TMDSAS opens early May
  - AMCAS opens early May
  - AACOMAS opens early May
  - AADSAS opens early June
  - 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)
  - Mid-October 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**: January 25th
- **Interview Workshop**: March (TBA)
- **TMDSAS Workshop**: April (TBA)
  - 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
- **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!!

Visit the HPO website: [http://sci.tamucc.edu/LSCI/PREPRO/](http://sci.tamucc.edu/LSCI/PREPRO/)

- Medical: MCAT
- Dental: DAT
- Vet: GRE
- Pharmacy: PCAT
- PA: GRE
- PT: GRE
- Optometry: OAT
I DID NOT GET A COMPETATIVE SCORE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

RE-TAKING THE TEST: PREPARE

- **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
QUESTIONS??
HEADS UP

• Do not believe everything you read

• Your photo
  • Professional

• Criminal Background Check
  • Be honest
YOUR PHOTO

YES

NO
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