2015 HPAC: HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING COMMITTEE

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Regents Professor of Biomedical Sciences
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 COMMITTEE MEMBERS?

• Pamela Brouillard, Psy.D., Psychology
• Greg Buck, PhD., Microbiology
• Suzzette Chopin, Ph.D., Biomedical Sciences
• Riccardo Mozzachiodi, Ph.D., Neurosciences
• Jean Sparks, Ph.D., Clinical Lab Science
WHEN DO I APPLY TO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL?

• Medical, Dental and Vet Applicants: Junior year
  – Take MCAT/DAT/GRE: Spring of junior year
  – TMDSAS and ACOMAS application services open May 1
  – AMCAS opens May 5
  – AADSAS opens June 3
  – **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 (service opens April 22)
  – 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
WHAT DO I NEED FOR HPAC?

• Email suzzette.chopin@tamucc.edu to schedule an appointment during April and May interviews

• Required documents: emailed to Dr. Chopin no less than one week prior to your interview
  – All essays required in your application
  – Resume
  – 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. Chopin
  – Prefer letters from science faculty

• Send your PINs to Dr. Chopin
  – CASPA opens April 22 2015
  – TMDSAS and AACOMAS: open May 1 2015
  – AMCAS opens May 5 2015
  – AADSAS: opens June 2 2015
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!
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

American Dental Association
America's leading advocate for oral health

DAT Sample Tests on Computer!
* Authentic Computer Simulation
* Comprehensive Study Guide
* Score Report Included

ScholarWare
Surf To:
www.DATreview.com

Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
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

- 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
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 two months
- OAT: wait three months
- PCAT: can test once/testing window, i.e., four times/cycle
PREPARING FOR THE TEST

- See test websites for practice tests
- Pay for a prep course
  - Kaplan Prep course  www.kaptest.com
REMAINING SPRING 2015 WORKSHOPS
5 PM in CI 108

• **Interview Workshop:** Wednesday March 25
  – Wanda Watson from Texas A&M College of Medicine
  – Interviewing tips, what to expect at the interview and possible interview questions
  – For junior and senior pre-professional students applying this application cycle

• **TMDSAS Workshop:** Wednesday April 22
  – Nicole Dubuque from the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS)
  – How to complete the TMDSAS application
  – For pre-med, pre-dent and pre-vet students applying to Texas schools **this application cycle**
QUESTIONS??

Mad Cow?

Swine Flu?