HPAC APPLICATION MEETING
15 November 2012…THINGS THAT YOU REALLY need TO DO!

You have been studying and working, you've been doing service projects and applying for shadowing, you have been practicing application tests and researching your specific schools …now you are ready to launch into the HPAC process. Embrace your role as choreographer of your portfolio and your future!

1) This commences the formal Lafayette HPAC Application Process, NOW at this November meeting. Review http://healthprofessions.lafayette.edu/the-campus-application/. Some key features:

a. By 1 December 2012 you should have recruited referees to write strong letters of recommendation (LOR) for you. Be polite and willing to provide more information to them if they request it. Obtain 3 faculty members and 2 non-faculty supervisors willing to write for the HPAC process; we will need their completed LORs (we include them with our composite) on official stationary plus the correct Recommendation Form (Faculty or Non-Faculty) by 1 March 2013. Both of these items (each LOR with its 2 page form) are submitted to Ms. Glaus in HARD COPY.

b. The bulk of your remaining materials can be submitted electronically. By 1 March 2013 submit your picture-perfect picture of yourself in your Personal Information Form. This 7 page document includes what you did, when you did it, how extensive it was and why it was meaningful. Its components (check out website!) are:
   i. A 4 page checklist of documentation
   ii. A 1 page description about your HPAC application essay/personal statement
   iii. An Applicant Waiver Form description (1 page) and Form (1 page)

Realize that much of this information ends up in both on-campus and HP School materials!

c. In the meantime, compose your HPAC Application Essay/Personal Statement – Attack “WHY?” ... then use what you have chosen to DO as meaningful evidence that you are prepared to achieve your goal. What strengths have you honed? What weaknesses have your targeted? What makes you unique? This MUST be utterly perfect and error free, so access the College Writing Program! Make it Concise, Direct, Focused! (This is your chance so HPAC places NO word limits! Later, in the HP School application, AMCAS allows 5300, VMCAS permits 5000, AACOMAS and ADEA are both 4500, characters.). Since this is part of your PIF it is due on 1 March 2013.

d. Meanwhile, research the schools to which you will apply—get specifics to make decisions.

e. Complete an updated Resume (confer with Career Services if needed) due 1 March 2013.

f. Complete the Request for Clearance, Health Care Professional School from the Dean of the College—a description and 1 page form due 1 March 2013.

g. All of THESE materials AND your Lafayette College Transcript for HPAC are due no later than 1 March 2013! When complete, HPAC will schedule an interview: April through May. At your interview, be sure to bring your Applicant Authorization to Release HPAC Letter. This one page form allows us to send your materials to the schools you select.
h. HPAC interviews you and we complete a Composite Letter of Evaluation or CLOE. There are 5 categories of HPAC recommendation: VHR, HR, R, RWR, PforC.

2) About the APPLICATION TEST...invest in ongoing preparation for application tests (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc). Access GRE/MCAT free online practice tests at http://bit.ly/LafayettePracticeTest or contact Kerri Quick, Campus Manager Kaplan Test Prep 570.225.8648 or kerri.quick@kaplan.com (Lafayette College does not endorse any specific test companies). Others like OAT require a fee and some application services allow you to purchase practice tests.

   We recommend the formal test in April, May, or June 2013, but take it when you are ready to excel. Only 8-9 test dates are in that window and they fill up quickly, so check out this link to the 2013 Registration Deadline and Score Release schedule: https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/reserving/261800/deadlineandscorerelease.html

3) Meanwhile….continue to maintain strong academic performance, add medical experiences during break periods, complete research experiences that you want to contribute to your portfolio, and maintain your service dedication throughout the exhausting process.

4) Application portals to HP schools typically open late May/early June 2013, depending on discipline and school. But…portals and their deadlines DO NOT supersede the school deadline! So know what your chosen schools have published as their deadlines and be sure to MEET them!

   a. As you make your primary application, HPAC will release your materials from campus as early as June 2013. We HOLD your package only as long as needed to get Final Spring 2013 grades.

   b. For off campus study, the HPAC committee will rely on your Lafayette College transcript that contains transferred courses, BUT…for your HP school application, you must obtain release of official transcripts from other institutions and submit them based on the school's deadline!

   c. Your Admissions scores will be reported as soon as they are available depending on when you sit for the test. Depending on the competitiveness of your application, you can expect calls for interviews typically in late July 2013 and the earliest interviews scheduled for late August 2013. Calls and interviews will continue through April 2014 until the seats are filled.

   d. In some instances financial aid may be available but follow the guidelines of the school and be sure to submit and need forms early and on time.

5) Be strategic! Have a back-up plan. Consider the gap year—have a professional Post-Bac Plan! Develop a reapplication strategy!