

HP PRE-APPLICATION MEETING

29 SEPTEMBER 2020...WHAT LIES AHEAD

- (1) Study! Being a student is a full-time job! Maintain excellence! Don't settle for mediocrity! Seek to earn the best grade you can. And when you fall short, learn from it and grow from it!
- (2) Realize the application process is LONG: it starts with requesting Letters of Recommendation in November 2020, continues through the on-campus process in Spring 2021 to the CAS openings and primary application submission in early Summer 2021 to secondaries and interviews beginning in Fall 2021 to offers in Spring 2022 to matriculate August 2022! All told nearly TWENTY-ONE MONTHS! You have a LOT to complete...along with all of your other commitments. Be realistic.
- (3) Submit your GreenSheet form with this meeting **September 29, 2020** so you can enroll in our special HP Advising GreenSheet session.
- (4) Begin your Reflective Personal Statement/Essay, Personal Information Form and your Curriculum Vita **as soon as you can!** Attack "WHY?" ... then use what you have DONE to SHOW it as meaningful evidence. Consider how what you have done was meaningful. What strengths have you honed? What weaknesses have you targeted? What makes you unique?
- (5) Recruit your Recommenders. You need 3 faculty members and 2 non-faculty supervisors. (Their SIGNED letters accompanied by COUNTER SIGNED forms must be submitted by March 1st 2021).
- (6) Do well in your fall courses. If possible seek additional experiences over **winter 2020-2021**. Also use that time to seek and apply for summer 2021 experiences—deadlines may be early with Covid!
- (7) Prepare for your application tests (MCAT, DAT, GRE, OAT, etc). Check out Gateway Career Center for resources at <https://gateway.lafayette.edu/career-planning/considering-graduate-professional-school/>. Use what works for you—Princeton, Kaplan, ExamCrackers, TestMasters, AdaptPrep, NextStepTest Prep...but recognize strong performance requires ~500 hours of study! PLAN for it!
- (8) First Forms Deadline: Submit Request for Dean of Advising Clearance by **February 1st 2021** signed in **HARD COPY!** Meet with the HPA Team and Dean as needed (**more information to come!**)
- (9) Forms SUPER DEADLINE **March 1st 2021**: Letters of Recommendation, accompanying forms and clearances, PIF, CV, Reflective Personal Statement/Essay...the whole shebang! NOTE: This happens during the mid-term exam period so another hot-button heavy-action time for applicants!
- (10) Prepare for your HPAC On Campus Interview in **March/April 2021**.
- (11) Maintain your community service/extracurricular dedication throughout. Complete your spring semester with strong academic performance.

- (12) Plan to sit for your admissions exam when you have prepared yourself to score well (remember...500 hours!!). Aim for formal test completion in **April, May, or June 2021** (~2 dozen test dates available annually) to optimize your chances ... but take it when you are ready to excel! Access FREE practice tests at CAS sites. More extensive practice tests can be purchased, if you wish. **PRACTICE TESTS...MORE!** And be flexible; Covid changed dates and locations for tests this round willy-nilly. It may occur again. Be resilient and forbearing.
- (13) Research the schools to which you will apply. Get specifics. You should have a preliminary list at your HPAC Interview, but submit your core list no later than **May 1st 2021**.
- (14) Undergo your HPAC On Campus Interview. Debrief in accordance with directives. HPAC provides 5 categories for the Composite Letter of Evaluation (CLOE): Highest Recommend, High Recommend, Recommend, Recommend with Reservation, Present for Consideration. This CLOE will be submitted along with all individual Letters of Recommendation on your behalf by us on or around **July 5th 2021**. **NOTE:** For some specialties, you will have to request your letter writers to upload their letter directly to the CAS. Pay attention to specific directions. The devil is in those details!
- (15) Open your application at the CAS and use your PIF/CV to populate it. *You get a month or so because it really does take that long to finish the application!* Primary application to HP schools begins ~ June 1st2021. For any undergraduate or summer research experiences to have impact as part of your portfolio, they must be **completed** by your date of submission! Stay focused! Finish projects!
- (16) Handle all of your TRANSCRIPT releases! This must be done by YOU! We cannot manage your transcripts for FERPA reasons. **NOTE:** This was a HUGE issue with Covid so be prepared.
- (17) Submit! When your application is FULLY COMPLETE it will be verified (this can take 3-6 weeks depending). Once verified, the CAS notifies your schools that your file is available to be released to them starting **early July 2021**. **Our CLOE goes up concurrently.**
- (18) Requests for 2^o applications will then be extended. Complete them expeditiously—within a week! These take WORK and THOUGHT! Staggering applications and schools chosen can help.
- (19) Calls for interviews will start in late July 2021. Earliest interviews get scheduled beginning late August 2021 and interviews may continue to March 2022.
- (20) Notifications for acceptances may be within 2 weeks or as long as 6 months after interview. Be your own best advocate! Update your application with meaningful accomplishments! Don't be a "1 'n' done"!
- (21) Be strategic! Have a back-up plan. Consider the gap year...to grow, to fill in your gaps. Evaluate critically professional Post-Bac programs, but have a plan! Develop a reapplication strategy!

This is a 21-month process with a 21-item checklist. Be prepared and ready to tackle ALL of this! HP Advising will be there to help you seek out important nuanced information. And if you decide at any time to defer, just alert us. You can reactivate up to 3 years post-Lafayette graduation! You are that important to us!