**HPApplication Meeting**

**6 November 2020...Considerations Worth Remembering!**

1. Study! Being a student and becoming a competitive applicant 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. The process is LONG. Enter it prepared and aware. GreenSheet 2020 Advising is the pre-emptive onset of the process. For students who somehow missed that, RedSheet 2020 Advising can be accessed. ***Please note this important change in our processes! We expect every applicant to engage in either GreenSheet or RedSheet advising for their application cycle, even if you have done GS Advising last AY.*** Your RedSheet 2020 Advising form will be available **Monday, November 9, 2020**, you must complete and submit it by **Monday, November 16, 2020** and appointments will be scheduled as-available first-come basis only through to December 3, 2020
3. NOW craft recommendation requests, complete cover letter waivers. REQUIRED: 2 Science Faculty, 1 Non-Science Faculty, 2 Added Recommenders. These can be submitted to us beginning **Monday, January 4, 2021**. Follow directions on how to ask and what to provide, along with notice of deadlines.
4. NOW start your Personal Statement Essay, your HP CV and your PIF. 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? Prioritize and highlight relevant experiences. Strive for submissions that are utterly perfectly error free. Show that you can follow directions!
5. NOW craft an admissions test study plan and STICK TO IT! Plan on ~500 hours studying.
6. BOOKMARK CAS openings and Instruction Manuals! VMCAS 2021 launches ~late January 2021; applications accepted ~mid-May 2021.
7. Prepare for your application tests (MCAT, DAT, GRE, OAT, etc). Check out Gateway Career Center for resource listings at <https://gateway.lafayette.edu/career-planning/considering-graduate-professional-school/>. Use what works for you—Princeton, Kaplan, ExamKrackers, TestMasters, AdaptPrep, NextStepTest Prep…we cannot recommend any commercial test prep…maybe look to your clubs? But remember, strong performance? ~500 hours of study!
8. **1 February 2021 First Forms Deadline**: Submit Request for Dean of Advising Clearance Certification by **February 1st 2021** signed in ***HARD COPY****!* Meet with the HPA Team and Dean as needed (more info to come)!
9. **1 March 2021 SUPER DEADLINE**! Submit completed HP CV, PIF, Essay, Applicant Waiver Form; transcripts from ANY course beyond Lafayette (we will access advising transcripts). ALSO insure Letters of Recommendation HAVE ARRIVED in Scott 101, submitted on letterhead, *and with cover letter waivers accompanying*! Letters of Recommendation, accompanying forms and clearances, PIF, HP 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!

***When these are complete…***

1. Prepare for your HPAC On Campus Interview in **March/April 2021**. Attend interviewing programs and use Gateway CC resources (InterviewStream, Mock Interviews, etc.).
2. Respond in March/April 2022 to scheduling for 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!
3. Investigate your schools for preferences, choices; compile your lists strategically**.** Get specifics. MSAR is available. So are dental, vet and optometry admissions guides (note: encourage your clubs to consider buying the newest versions!) You should have a preliminary list at your HPAC Interview, but will submit your core list no later than **May 1st 2021.**
4. **1 May 2021** submit HP CLoE Release Form **AND** List of Schools Form.
5. Maintain your community service/extracurricular dedication. Complete your spring semester with strong academic performance: By close of Spring 2021 semester, aim for you core coursework completed; your research wrapped; your key experiences executed.
6. **PAY ATTENTION to CAS openings!** CASPA ~late April 2021. AAMC & AACOMAS ~early June 2021; ADEA AADSAS ~early June 2021; OptomCAS ~late June 2021; PTCAS ~early July 2021; AACPMAS ~early August 2021.
7. Plan to sit for your admissions exam when you have prepared yourself to score well. 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! Generally, scores get reported 4 weeks AFTER your test. Access FREE practice tests at CAS sites. You should consistently be scoring on practice exams at 5-10 points higher than your median goal! More extensive practice tests can be purchased, if you wish. Be flexible; Covid changed dates and locations for tests this round willy-nilly. It may occur again. Be resilient and forbearing. Test scores are valid for ~3 years!.
8. **Open your CAS account as early as possible to start completing your Primary (1°) Application; u**se your PIF/HP 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. Schools will review differentially, so make note of school-specific deadlines. For any undergraduate or summer research experiences to be entered, it MUST be underway at submission. For it to have impact, it should be ***completed*** by submission! Stay focused!
9. **INSURE AND CONFIRM ALL OF YOUR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS ARE SUBMITTED!** You are the only one able to handle your TRANSCRIPT releases! We cannot for FERPA reasons. **NOTE:** This was a HUGE issue with Covid so be prepared.
10. **SUBMIT 1° Application as early as you can** after CAS opens! 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.** Stagger your school designations (see below re: secondary applications).
11. **WE SUBMIT your Composite Letter of Evaluation (CLoE) by 5 July 2021.**
12. Requests for 2° applications will then be issued. Complete them expeditiously—within a week! These take WORK and THOUGHT! Staggering applications and schools chosen can help. Plan on 2-7 days of turnaround time for each!
13. Interview invitation commence late July 2021. Earliest interviews get scheduled beginning late August 2021 and interviews may continue to March 2022. 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”!
14. Be strategic! Have a back-up plan. Or two! Or three! It must be specific! Consider the gap year…to grow, to fill in your gaps. Evaluate critically professional Post-Bac programs, as well as ways to strengthen your portfolio. Develop a reapplication strategy! If you decide to defer at any time along the process, alert us. You can reactivate up to 3 years post-Lafayette College graduation! You are that important to us!