**HPApplication Meeting: Your to-do list**

**17 November 2021...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; complete Fall 2021 in a strong position. And when you fall short, learn from it and grow from it!
2. The process is LONG. Enter it prepared and aware. GreenSheet 2021 Advising is the pre-emptive onset of the process. If you missed this, you will be asked to complete RedSheet 2021 Advising to enter the cycle. ***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 in a prior academic year.*** You must email us to request the RedSheet 2021 Advising form. Appointments will be scheduled as-available first-come basis only through December 3 to December 10, 2021.
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 on letterhead, signed by recommenders with the countersigned cover sheet no earlier than **January 4, 2022**. Follow directions on how to ask and what to provide, along with notice of deadlines.
4. NOW draft and revise your HP CV, your PIF and your Personal Statement Essay. 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 distinct? Prioritize and highlight relevant experiences. Strive for submissions that are utterly perfectly error free. Show that you can follow directions!
5. NOW develop an admissions test study plan and STICK TO IT! Plan on ~500 hours studying. Investigate and apply for Fee Waivers EARLY, since there is no reimbursement available.
6. NOW BOOKMARK CAS openings and Instruction Manuals! Review what all is involved. For most you get a month from launch to earliest submission…because you will need it!
7. Prepare for your application tests (MCAT, DAT, GRE, OAT, etc). Start with free reputable resources—AAMC and Khan Academy, so check out this [link.](https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat?utm_campaign=partner&utm_medium=post&utm_source=facebook) Our own Gateway Career Center resource listings at <https://gateway.lafayette.edu/career-planning/considering-graduate-professional-school/>. Use what works for you—we cannot recommend, but can list many commercial test prep options if feasible: Princeton, Kaplan, ExamKrackers, TestMasters, AdaptPrep, NextStepTest Prep. strong performance? ~500 hours of study!
8. **1 February 2022 First Forms Deadline**: Submit your HP Waiver Form either in a signed pdf or signed in hard copy—hand written or authorized electronic signature. You may be asked to meet with the HPA Team and Dean as needed (more information to come)!
9. Revise your Personal Statement Essay at our Peer Editing Workshop in early February 2022.
10. **1 March 2022 SUPER DEADLINE**! Submit completed HP CV, PIF, Essay, 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 just before the mid-term exam period so another hot-button heavy-action time for applicants!

***When these are complete…***

1. Attend interviewing programs and use Gateway CC resources (InterviewStream, Mock Interviews, etc.) to prepare for interviewing. Research the schools to which you will apply, starting with your Bellwether Schools. It is a good idea to have a core list (6/8) to bring to your HPAC Interview. You can add schools…but you cannot delete any!
2. Undergo your HPAC On Campus Interview. Debrief in accordance with directives. HPAC performs a metanalysis of ALL of your materials to provide Composite Letter of Evaluation (CLoE). Your portfolio earns one of the following 5 categories: ***Highest Recommend***, ***High Recommend***, ***Recommend,*** ***Recommend with Reservation***, ***Present for Consideration***. This CLoE will be submitted *along with all individual Letters of Recommendation* provided to HPAC on your behalf by us around **July 10th 2022. NOTE:** You may solicit letters as you move through your newer experiences, so you will have to request your letter writers to upload their letter directly to the CAS. Pay attention to specific directions.
3. Continue to investigate your schools for preferences, choices; compile your lists strategically**.** Get specifics. Use online tools available for allopathic, osteopathic, dental, vet and optometry, physician assistant and other allied health admissions guides (note: encourage your clubs to consider buying the newest versions!). Plan to submit your core list **May 1st 2022.**
4. **1 May 2022** submit HP CLoE Release Form **AND** List of Schools Form.
5. **PAY ATTENTION to CAS openings!** VMCAS ~late January 2022. CASPA ~April 2022. AAMC & AACOMAS ~May 2022; ADEA AADSAS ~early June 2022; OptomCAS ~late June 2022; PTCAS ~early July 2022; AACPMAS ~early August 2022.
6. Plan to sit for your admissions exam when you have prepared yourself to score well. Aim for formal test completion in **April, May, or early June 2022** (~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!
7. **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 ~ January 2022 for vet schools and through into May 2022 for others (see above). 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. Early matters! For an experience to have impact, it should be ***completed*** by submission! Stay focused!
8. **INSURE AND CONFIRM SUBMISSION OF ALL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS WITH GRADES!** You are the only one able to handle TRANSCRIPT releases! We cannot for FERPA reasons. **NOTE:** This was a HUGE issue with Covid so be prepared. Refer to CAS directions.
9. **SUBMIT 1° Application as early as you can** after CAS opens! When ALL OF YOUR ELEMENTS for the application are 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 2022. Our CLoE goes up concurrently to attend your release.** Stagger your school designations (see below re: secondary applications).
10. **WE SUBMIT your Composite Letter of Evaluation (CLoE) by 10 July 2022.**
11. Requests for 2° applications will then be issued, some automatically. Complete them expeditiously—within a week! These take WORK and THOUGHT! Consider pre-writing some components. Staggering your applications in concentric rings from your core set of schools can help. Plan on 2-7 days of turnaround time for each!
12. Interview invitations commence late July 2022. Earliest interviews get scheduled beginning late August 2022 and interviews may continue to March 2023. Notifications for acceptances may be within 2 weeks or as long as 6 months after interview. October 5th 2022 is the earliest official notification date. Be your own best advocate! Update your application with meaningful accomplishments! Don’t be a “1 ‘n’ done”!
13. 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!