Lafayette College Health Professions Advising Pre-Application Information Session

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Faculty Health Professions Advisor; HPAC Chair

Ms Simona Glaus, Director

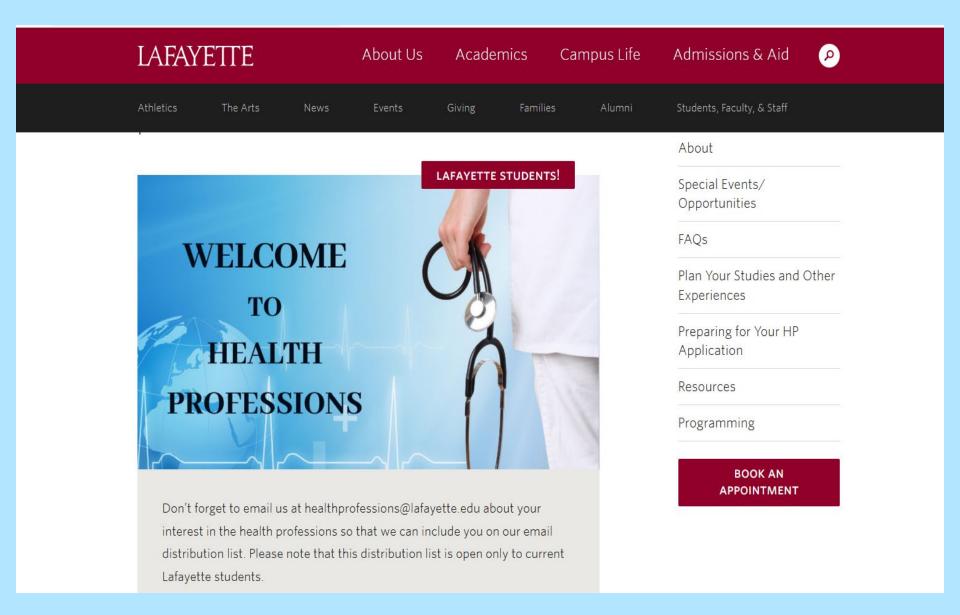
Health Professions Program

Ms Sue Herschlag, Administrative Coordinator

Health Professions Program

3 October 2024

Health Professions Website





KNOW YOUR WHY!

Each of your decisions can eliminate some possibilities, but each may also lead to new opportunities. Make choices that reflect and demonstrate why they are valuable to you. The best thing to do is always that for which we have the best reasons! Be sure your reasons are authentic, rooted in knowledge, and are well-conceived.

Today we will...

- ... communicate our expectations for students seeking guidance, and those choosing to enter the upcoming application cycle,
- ... preview the preparation required of you for both on-campus and professional school application processes,
- ... provide overview of where you should be at this stage of consideration in the steps you are taking to seek a career in the health professions.

Upcoming Events – see Welcome Email and watch our HP website!

You missed Cookie Friday ⊗!

Oct 10: Get Started Study Abroad, virtual 12:20-1:05pm

Oct 16: Careers in Neuroscience, virtual 4:15-5pm

Oct 16-17: AAMC Virtual MD School Fair, 11-5:30pm (w/PostBacs!)

Oct 17: Candid Conversations Dr Ashley Hayes '03, virtual, 6:30pm

Oct 18: DEADLINE! 5pm Free Kaplan Course Scholarship appl

Oct 19: LVHN Supporting Safer Community Training, 9am-1:15pm

Oct 30: Mandatory Application Info Session; 12:15-1:15pm RISC 262

Nov 1: Giesinger Commonwealth SOM, RISC 262, 12-1pm

Nov 3: DEADLINE! 11:59pm GCC SLUHN Sp'25 Pre-Med Observer appl

Nov 11: PCOM for PA and DO, RISC 104, 12:30-1:30pm

Nov 18: HealthProf School Interviewing, RISC 262, 12:15-1:15pm

Nov 20: USArmy Suture Clinic 4:10 to 6pm, RISC 104

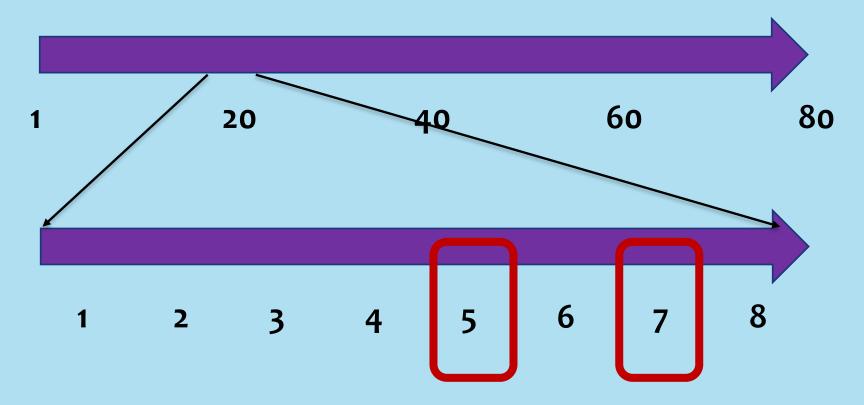
...plus Meritus SOM Western Atlantic SOM, PS workshops....!

Lafayette College Advising Principles

Cultivate in you, our students, how to research and use available resources independently to enable you to define your academic and personal goals.

Is your application strong and competitive?
Who is your reference pool?
Are you ready to apply?

CONSIDER YOUR LARGER TIMELINE



4 years, 8 semesters, that shape your future! Semesters 5 & 7 are pivotal.

From where have you come? How far will you go? How have your expectations grown and changed while pursuing your education here at Lafayette College?

Undergraduate Preparation for Admission to Graduate and Professional Schools in the Health Professions

You KNOW each school has its own criteria, but key to all are:

Academic/Science grades (major contributor)

Admissions tests (major contributor)

Health-related experiences

Research experiences

Community service and volunteer work

People skills & Humanist competencies

Letters of recommendation, HPAC, CLoE

HP school interview

While some criteria will be more variable than others, ALL remain important to those making admissions decisions; you will need to do more than say it, you need to SHOW and provide EVIDENCE of your resilience and durability in the face of challenges!

Undergraduate Preparation – Academic coursework

Required Undergraduate Coursework Check your bellwether schools Typically required or strongly encouraged:

1 Year EACH of:

Biology with labs (e.g., 111 & 112)

Physics with labs (e.g., 111 & 112; 131 & either 132/133; 151 & 152)

Mathematics/Calculus/Statistics; minimally 1 calc + 1 stats

English composition/Writing-Intensive Coursework (1 or 2)

2+ Years of:

Chemistry with labs (Chem107/108; OCh 221/222) and Survey of Biochemistry (Chem 351)...but check with your schools!

Other frequently required or specialty required courses:

Sociology, Psychology, Bioethics; Microbiology, Nutrition, Genetics, Anatomy & Physiology or equivalent

~12-14 Core Courses needed; 1st semester juniors should have completed ~10-12 courses to stay on track; 1st semester seniors should have nearly all core requirements completed. Schools are increasingly preferring completion of ALL core courses AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION, not upon matriculation!

EXPLORE course options in natural science, social science, humanities, and engineering divisions wherever possible!

Undergraduate Preparation – REMINDERS!

If there is a reason to set aside an application, they will!

Advanced Placement. School scrutiny is rising! Be certain you are getting rigorous academic courses and laboratory training! Reduce/remove ambiguity in interpretations of your choices!

Summer Coursework, **Pass/Fail**, **Light loads**. Policies remain variable so try to limit vagueness or negative interpretations in your portfolio; elect full grading practice, complete challenging courses at home in full load.

Study Abroad. Request transcripts EARLY!!!

Research, Electives, Minors. Avoid appearance of trophy collection! Know why you seek these distinctions. *Do that for which you have the best reasons!*

Internships/Externships. Show your Depth, Breadth, Passion, Dedication! Push your boundaries and limits, stretch your comfort zone!

Extracurricular Activities. Focus on what you control NOW!

...and **Read!** Widely! Especially on healthcare. On policy. On current events. On music, theatre, sports, literature... See the HP Program website for suggestions.

Undergraduate Preparation - Reminders! If there is a reason to set aside will Do will an application, Advanced Placement. School scrutiny is rising! Be norous academic courses and laboratory training! Reduce interpretations of your choices! un upprovide a reason. Reduce Summer Coursework, Pass/F limit vagueness or negative Researd seek the Control of Contr

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UNIVERSAL Pre-Professional Competencies how schools evaluate the avalanche of applicants

Commitment to learning and growth

Cultural awareness

Cultural humility

Empathy and compassion

Ethical responsibility to self and others

Interpersonal skills

Oral communication

Reliability and dependability

Resilience and adaptability

Service orientation

Teamwork and collaboration

Critical thinking

Quantitative reasoning

Scientific Inquiry

Written communication

Human behavior

Living systems...MD & DO

Knowledge of biomedical and clinical sciences practice Interpersonal and communication skills

Person-centered care

Interprofessional collaboration

Professionalism and ethics

Practice-based learning and quality improvement

Society and population health...PA

Critical Thinking

Professionalism

Communication and interpersonal skills

Health promotion

Patient care:

Assessment, diagnosis, planning, treatment Establishment & maintenance of oral health

Practice management and informatics...DMD & DDS

Practice-based learning and improvement

Patient care and procedural skills

Systems-based practice

Medical knowledge

Interpersonal and communication skills

Professionalism

Compassion for all animals and people

Moral and ethical standards

Motivation to serve

Expectations on interactions with those of all ethnic, social, cultural, and religious backgrounds...DVM

Observation abilities: tactile & audio/visual

Communication ability

Sensory and motor coordination ability

Intellectual, conceptual, integrative, quantitative ability

Behavioral and social attributes...OD

UNIVERSAL Pre-Professional Competencies how schools evaluate the avalanche of applicants

Commitment to learning and growth **Critical Thinking Professionalism** Cultural awareness **Cultural humility** Communication **Us** Anatomy of an Applicant **Empathy and compassion** Ethical responsibility to self and others Guide! A GREAT AAMC resource with developmental Interpersonal skills Oral communication ment Human be, Living syste. planning worksheets you can worksheet you can worksheet you can work you Reliability and dependability health use to gauge your progress: no matter your intended field! Knowledge of cations on interactions with those of all ethnic. Interpersonal a social, cultural, and religious backgrounds. Person-centere Interprofessiona Professionalism a Communication ability

Sensory and motor coordination ability

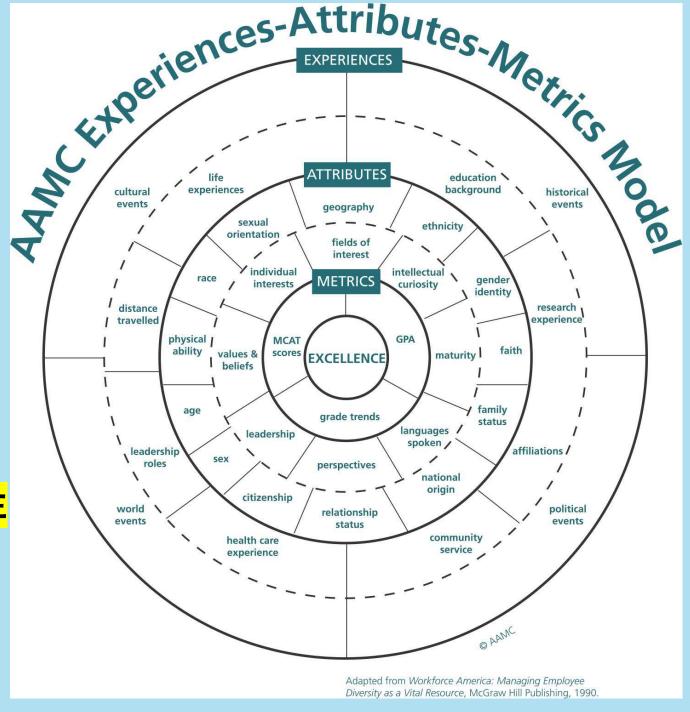
Behavioral and social attributes

Intellectual, conceptual, integrative, quantitative ability

Practice-based learning and quality improvement

Society and population health

Review this as you zero in on EXCELLENCE as an Applicant!



Self-reflective insight to...

- Think BROADLY rather than narrowly as you complete coursework and develop your vision
- Devour your bellwether schools—3 is a start and evaluate NOT just metrics, but
 - Consider your vision of yourself as a health care provider; NOT a given specialty or residency, but how you see yourself contributing to the profession
 - Consider the mission of the school as it relates to that vision

Application Components

- Complete undergraduate coursework: core science, writing; Grades matter!
- Select meaningful and diverse experiences; push your comfort zone; Be Active!
- Pursue and understand meaningful research skills; Be able to relate!
- Continue with service and extra-curricular involvement; Be dedicated!
- Plan for expenses: \$7500 on average per applicant for a full cycle; Be prepared!
- Develop back-up plans 1, 2 and 3; Strengthen your portfolio!

UNDERSTANDING HOLISTIC REVIEW

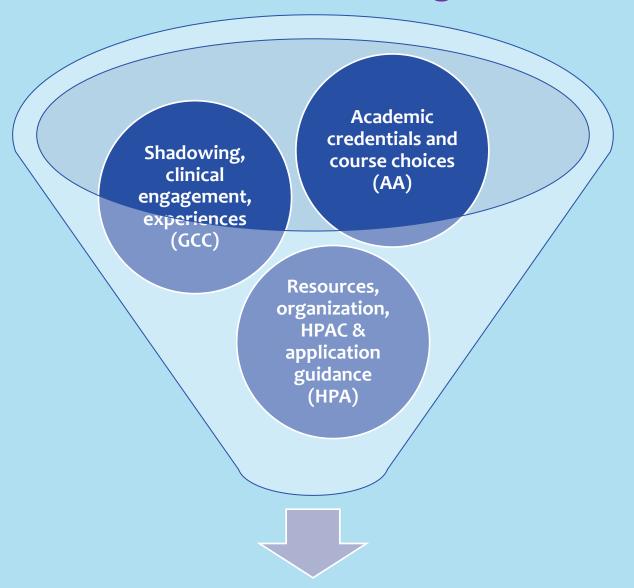
- ➤ Useful in 'first cut' review for deciding/considering interview offers, HR places credentials of applicants contextually to life experiences; it insures applicants meet the school's mission.
- ➤ HR is NOT 'robbing Peter to pay Paul' nor 'using an overflowing bucket to fill an empty bucket'... strong performance in some areas will NOT mitigate weak performance elsewhere.
- ➤ "No one is saying that skills and inclination in science are not important," Dr. Witzburg said. "But in this rapidly evolving and diverse society, they alone are insufficient."

"I have a really strong application, except for..."

Do not fall into this trap and fallacy!

If there is a reason to set aside an application, they will!

How does this all fit together?



Your complete, competitive portfolio, ready to apply!

Application Timeline



Our HP website timeline resource

For most applicants (and especially for medical schools), the optimal time to apply to HP graduate school is in spring/summer of senior year, or within a year of graduating. This enables you to have amassed a competitive portfolio! The gap or growth year is now the 'norm' for MD and DO schools, PA programs and others. *This poses added challenge for international student applicants.* The smaller pool originally predicted with pandemic actually expanded by ~25% nationally. The most recent cycle shows a more typical application increase. Your disruptions are shared! You are not alone!

If your portfolio is competitive enough you must complete your application in spring/summer of junior year to enroll in the fall following graduation. Schools are increasingly emphasizing completion of all core academic requirements before applying! Not just by matriculation! It is a matter of competitiveness!

HP Advising works with you when *you* have all the components in place: completed science requirements; Admissions Test (MCAT, DAT, OAT, or VMCAT/GRE) on the horizon; a competitive profile of academic, research, health care experiences, extracurricular accomplishments. Your application (letters of recommendation, HPAC interview, CLoE, etc.) develops in spring semester of your application year...December to December to August matriculation! An 18-month process to BEGIN to apply!

Recent Lafayette College Applicants

- Top UG majors: Biology, Neuroscience, but 26% of applicants were non-science majors
- Acceptance rate to med school was 84%
- 53% of applicants had 2+ glide years
- Applicant metrics:
 - GPA=3.79, BCPM GPA=3.72, MCAT=508.4
- Successful Matriculant metrics:
 GPA=3.81, BCPM GPA=3.77, MCAT 509.6

How to assess your readiness? Who is your comparison Group? Some recent national data...

- Allopathic medical schools admitted 22,712 from 55,188
 applicants (41.2%); osteopathic schools admitted 5,750 out of
 23,000+ applicants (25%)
- 68 US dental schools admitted 6,327 of 11,180 (57%)
- 48 US/International veterinary schools admitted 3,860 of 10,811 applicants (35.7%)
- 23 US optometry schools admitted 1,954 of the 2,700 who applied (72.4%)
- 11 colleges of podiatry admitted 531 from 716 applicants (74.2%)
- 260 PA programs admitted 12,035 from the 30,137 applicants (39.9%)...with more programs gaining accreditation

LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR DATA ARE TELLING YOU...

Applicant	Acceptance	Acceptance	Acceptance	Acceptance
Matriculation	GPA	GPA	GPA	Overall
Year	3.60+	3.59-3.20	3.20 & under	
LAFAYETTE	73 %	50%	25%	66%
2018-2022	(59 of 81)	(13 of 26)		
Aggregate data	(59 01 01)	(13 01 26)	(1 of 4)	(73 of 111)
(MD + DO)				
NATIONAL				
2020-2023	F > 0/	50 %	430/	A 40/
(MD only)	53%	28%	13%	41%

Fall 2023 medical students saw 79% or our 14 LC applicants in MD or DO schools.

For 2018-2023 LC aggregate data:

80% dental school applicants were accepted (12 of 15)

80% veterinary school applicants were accepted (4 of 5)

100% optometry applicants were accepted (3 of 3)

Data for DP, PA, MPH and other allied health specialties are not yet available.

Fall 2023: 22,981 of 52,577 applicants for 44% rate; successful GPA 3.77, MCAT 511.7

YOUR NEW BEST FRIENDS?

- HP ADVISING PAGE AND GATEWAY CC
- YOUR BELLWETHER SCHOOLS AND...
- AAMC & AMCAS
- ADEA & AADSAS
- AAVMC & VMCAS
- AAPA & CASPA

AACOM & AACOMAS
AACPM & AACPMAS
ASCO & OPTOMCAS
... AND OF COURSE...

MCAT, OAT, DAT

IS FINANCING PART OF THE EQUATION AND YOUR DECISION? MAYBE IT SHOULD BE!

- APPLICATION CYCLE EXPENSES: \$7400
- MEDIAN COST FOR 4 YEARS OF HP SCHOOL:
 - \$278,455 (PRIVATE) OR \$207,868 (PUBLIC)
- MEDIAN DEBT FOR 4 YEARS OF HP SCHOOL:
 - \$174,000
- **FEDERAL LOANS:** 6.8-7.9%
- UNDERGRADUATE ADDED INDEBTEDNESS: \$29,400
- RESIDENCY TRAINING SALARIES: ANNUAL AVERAGE IS
 - \$55,300 FOR 3+ YEARS, SO AN ADDED DEBT LOAD OF
 ~\$30,000 YEARLY

... WATCH FOR CAS PROGRAMMING ON THIS!

More recent helps and resources...

Fee Assistance Programs

Considering applying for financial help? Applicants need to apply to Fee Assistance programs before registering for their admissions tests or submitting their applications. Info about AAMC Fee Assistance program can be found at this link.

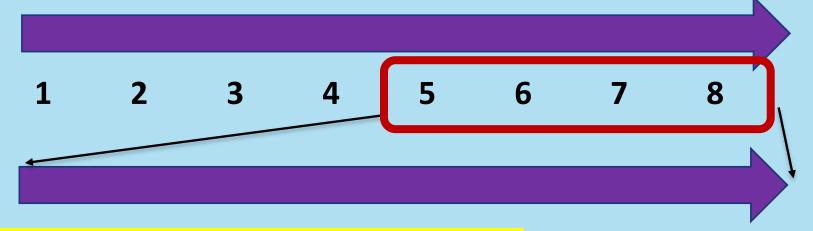
MCAT/Preview Accommodation Process Updates

AAMC is combining the MCAT and PREview accommodations application process into one system. The updated and integrated system will allow applicants to apply for accommodations for one or both exams. Applicants will be able to log into the new MCAT/PREview accommodations application system beginning on Thursday, Oct. 10. More information is available at this link. In addition, we urge our dental, optometry, or veterinary applicants to review accommodation process for their respective application services in advance of applying.

MCAT Preparation

There are many unofficial prep videos for other health professions applicants, however, none of them are directly offered by ADEA AADSAS or OptomCAS. So consider "Start your MCAT Prep Right with Proven Learning Strategies by Dr. Wynn, an AAMC consultant at this link.

CAMPUS HPAC APPLICATION TIMELINE



Campus HPAC Application PRECEEDS school application Highlights???

Complete your GreenSheet® advising/self-assessment Provide your HP CV; schedule your GS Session with us Solicit individual Letters of Recommendation Draft Reflective Application Personal Statement Essay Fill out your Personal Information Form Interview with HPAC...

... THEN... Shift to your Application Portal!!

SUMMARY APPLICATION FALL 2026 TIMELINE

REFER TO YOUR HP PRE-APPLICATION MEETING HANDOUT

- -GreenSheet Form and HP CV submit by October 30 2024 to access our personal GS appointment evaluation sessions through Fall 2024
- -Recommenders—WHO to recruit? 2 science faculty, 1 non-science faculty, 2 non-faculty supervisors...choose wisely! WHEN to ask? Before close of Fall 2024. HOW to request? A formal email asking for consideration and a meeting, providing drafts of materials attached with your request. WHAT to provide? Cover sheet dated 2025.
- -Draft your Reflective Personal Statement Essay; complete your PIF
- -Establish your exam preparation schedule...and adhere to it. If you intend to pursue test accommodations, do so EARLY! And don't forget PreView, Casper and/or SJT requirements!
- -FIRST DEADLINE 1 February 2025: Provide to HPA your HP Advising Waiver Form (may require Dean's meeting for follow-up)
- -SUPER DEADLINE 1 March 2025: Provide to HPA ALL Letters of Recommendation with ratings and counter-signed cover sheet; updated PIF, HP CV, and draft of your Reflective Personal Statement Essay

...MORE TIMELINE...KEEP THAT HANDOUT OUT@

- -HPAC On-Campus Interview invitations are extended with HPAC subcommittees through March and April 2025
- -Sit for Examination by May 2025 to have scores by 1 June 2025
- -Create your account with your CAS when application services open in Spring 2025; you need a month to populate from your PIF/HP CV
- -Manage your TRANSCRIPTS following CAS policies asap; wait for your LC transcripts until Spring 2025 grades are available
- -Sit for PreView, CASPER or SJT exam as directed by your schools!
- -2^{ndary} requests extended, sometimes after previews, sometimes automatically, but finish them within a week of receipt!
- -School interviews initiated in late July 2025 and may continue through March 2026; interviews may be in person, virtual or MMI
- -Admission offered perhaps within 3 weeks or as long as 6 months, but October 1 2025 is earliest acceptance date (ED); waitlist use varies
- ...so maybe you can see why 25 is the mean age of matriculating HP students

Employing the GAP year(s) effectively

experiences you select!

What should I do? Assess your portfolio REALISTICALLY...

Your goal? Apply at maximum competitiveness!

How? Don't gloss over cracks...Fill in the gaps!

Enhance and focus!

Be creative and innovative!

Push beyond your comfort zone!

Is Post-Bac or MSc a good fit? They are HIGHLY variable

...AND...leverage successful completion of any post graduate

By gliding, you defer entry into on-campus HPAC application cycles until your senior year or thereafter; the process then runs in normal sequence for secondaries, interviews...and acceptance?!?!?

...But stay connected so you do not miss meeting on-campus deadlines! Update your materials so HP Advising can assist!

Your To-Do List ...

- SET SMART GOALS:
 SPECIFIC
 MEASURABLE
 ACHIEVABLE
 REALISTIC
 TIMELY
- >TRACK YOUR COMPLETED COURSEWORK
- REVIEW DATA AT PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY AND BELLWETHER SCHOOL WEBPAGES
- >ATTEND HP SESSIONS AND GCC EVENTS
- > MANAGE YOUR COMMITMENTS

WHAT DO EACH OF US NEED?

EXTERNAL FEEDBACK THAT IS

-COMPASSIONATE

-INFORMED

-CONSTRUCTIVE

INTERNAL SELF-ASSESSMENT THAT IS

-COURAGEOUSLY HONEST

CAN I DO, CAN I BE BETTER?

AM I COMPETITIVE AND READY?

All of us at Lafayette College look forward to your success as you plan for a career in the health professions. Follow our Twitter account @HPLafCol, connect with Gateway Career Center, and visit us at http://healthprofessions.lafayette.edu/

COMPETITIVE ADMISSIONS TESTS TARGETS...

MCAT HTTPS://WWW.AAMC.ORG/STUDENTS/APPLYING/MCAT/

- BIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL FOUNDATIONS OF LIVING SYSTEMS
- CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL FOUNDATIONS OF BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS
- CRITICAL ANALYSIS AND REASONING SKILLS
- PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL & BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF BEHAVIOR
- TARGET: 510 (80TH %ILE) AND GPA 3.6+, 800 HOURS

DAT

HTTP://WWW.ADEA.ORG/DENTAL_EDUCATION_PATHWAYS/AADSAS/APPLICANTS/PAGES/TAKETHEDAT(DENTALADMISSIONTEST).ASPX

- NATURAL SCIENCE (BIOLOGY, GENERAL AND ORGANIC CHEMISTRY)
- PERCEPTUAL ABILITY (2- AND 3-DIMENSIONAL PROBLEM SOLVING)
- READING COMPREHENSION
- QUANTITATIVE REASONING
- TARGET: 20-21 (75TH %ILE) AND GPA 3.6

...TARGETS CONTINUED...

OAT HTTPS://HTTP://WWW.ADA.ORG/EN/OAT

- NATURAL SCIENCES (BIOLOGY, GEN CHEM, ORGANIC CHEM)
- READING COMPREHENSION
- PHYSICS
- QUANTITATIVE REASONING
- TARGET: 350 (75TH %ILE) AND 3.5 GPA

CRE- GENERAL TEST, SUBJECT TESTS

HTTP://WWW.ETS.ORG/GRE/REVISED_GENERAL/ABOUT/2W1.AC=GREHOME_GREADOUT_A_150213

- VERBAL REASONING
- QUANTITATIVE REASONING
- ANALYTICAL WRITING
- BIOLOGY (CMB, OBCANISMAL, EE)
- BIOCHEMISTRY, CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
- VET AND PA TARGET: ~155-160 (70TH%ILE) AND 3.4-3.8 GPA

...if you budget ~600-800 hours? That is 3+ college courses to prepare

FINANCIAL COMPONENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

TESTING FEES (SCORES MAY BE REPORTED INSTANTLY... OR UP TO 4 WEEKS LATER DEPENDING):

MCAT \$335 (\$455, \$140)

DAT \$525

OAT \$515

GRE GENERAL \$220

GRE SUBJECT TEST FEES \$150

PREVIEW® TEST \$100

CASPER TEST \$85 (N=7)+ \$18X/SCHOOL

PRIMARY APPLICATION FEES (SECONDARY FEES, COLLEGE SERVICE FEES ADDITIONAL)

AMCAS \$175+ \$45

AACOMAS \$198 + \$57

ADEA AADSAS \$264 + \$115

OPTOMCAS \$187 + \$80+ SUPPL

VMCAS \$234 + \$128

AACPMAS \$205 + \$70

CASPA \$184 + \$61

"Things I wish I had known/done..."

- -STUDIED AVAILABLE ONLINE RESOURCES! MSAR, HPAC HANDBOOK, LINKS, ETC!
- -PREPARED BETTER FOR ADMISSION TESTS
- -PRACTICED INTERVIEWS, REVIEWED QUESTIONS, READ MORE
- -OWNED MY PERSONAL CHOICE OF SCHOOLS; ASKED MYSELF THE "ONLY" QUESTION!
- -HONESTLY ASSESSED MY APPLICATION; NOT "EXCEPT FOR XXXX, MY APP IS GOOD."
- -THOUGHT MORE STRATEGICALLY

Ways to stay engaged and expand readiness

Subscribe to news feeds

>Consider Apple News, New York Times, Scientific American, Medscape, KevinMD; they can help you to stay current and expand your worldview!

Strive for excellence in what you CAN do now!

- >Build your portfolio, UPDATE your CV, plan out cover letters for multiple opportunities.
- >Develop personal statement fodder, prompts for reflection, keep a journal, get & stay organized!
- Consider coursework that will ALSO provide research training (CURE) to support pursuit of Summer 2025 research opportunities.

HPAC?? Health Professions Advisory Committee faculty and staff who review student applications to medical, dental, optometry and veterinary schools

Chaired by Professor Waters, Biology, RISC 218 with faculty from across campus who review, interview and recommend student and alumni applicants

Mrs Glaus, Director, HP Advising, Scott Hall 101

Ms Schultz, Senior Associate Director, Gateway, Hogg 201

... along with the Office of HP Advising, HPAC contributes to sources of programming for advising, career exploration, internships, externships, off-campus resources and more! It is up to YOU to access these resources!

Academic Integrity and Conduct Violations

Practice Principles of Intellectual Honesty: Make judicious choices in your behavior! Assume the consequences of your actions!

Exhibit high personal standards of ethics and deportment. Exercise sound judgment. Students who lack high standards of character and integrity, either in academics (cheating, plagiarism) or in personal behavior (alcohol, drugs, vandalism, etc.) risk being eliminated as applicants... especially if they fail to own up to them!

The application process requires that the Dean of Advising report any disciplinary action to the HP schools where you seek admission. Problems arise when what is reported differs from what you disclose. Graduate schools also do background checks for offcampus violations. HP can help you contextualize your experiences.

... AND ANOTHER THING ABOUT CONDUCT...

Etiquette and Manners Matter

Do YOUR homework first, sometimes it does hurt to ask!

Address persons with respect; use their titles.

Treat <u>e-mail</u> as formal correspondence—faculty and admissions staff treat it that way! Grammar and spelling matter! Use a signature and start your brand!

Introduce yourself; Provide complete information, specific context (subject header? context? email signature? Useful and relevant attachments?)

Request, rather than demand or instruct.

Provide sufficient advance notice.

Always say 'Thank you!' and mean it!