

1. Study! Being a student is a full-time job! Maintain excellence! Don't settle for mediocrity! Your comparison group? HUGE! Seek to earn the best grade you can. 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 2024, continues through the on-campus process in Spring 2025 to the CAS openings and primary application submission starting January 2025 for vet schools, ~May 2025 for dental, medical and others. BUT EARLIER for some schools! Then come secondaries and interviews beginning in Fall 2025 to offers in Spring 2026 to matriculate August 2026! All told nearly TWENTY-ONE MONTHS! You have a LOT to complete...along with all of your other important commitments. Be realistic.
3. Submit your GreenSheet form AND your HP CV to us as soon as you can but no later than **October 30, 2024** Be sure you provide significant insight, or we cannot provide meaningful advice. These will enable you to self-schedule your individual HP Advising GreenSheet session, sometime within the next 5 weeks.
4. Begin your Reflective Personal Statement/Essay and Personal Information Form. Attack "WHY?" ... then use what you have DONE to SHOW evidence. Consider how what you have done was meaningful...how are you distinctive? What strengths have you honed? What weaknesses have you targeted? What evidence supports your competencies? How are your experiences, attributes and metrics complementary?
5. Recruit your Recommenders, preferably before the end of fall 2024 classes. You need **3 faculty members (2 must be science faculty, 1 must be non-science faculty) and 2 non-faculty supervisors**. (Their SIGNED recommendation on LETTER HEAD and accompanied by COUNTER SIGNED Cover Sheet Rating Form, must all be submitted to HPA by March 1st 2025). **How to ask? Stay tuned!**
6. Do well in your fall courses. Seek additional experiences over **winter 2024-2025**. Also use that time to seek and apply for summer 2025 experiences—be aware that deadlines can vary!
7. Develop a PLAN to prepare for your application tests (MCAT, DAT, GRE, OAT, etc). **Apply for Fee Waivers or Accommodations EARLY!** AAMC offers a FREE prep course for MCAT through Khan Academy until 2026! A HUGE plus, so check out this [link](#). Explore Gateway Career Center [resources](#). Use what works for you: develop your own structure, visit AAMC, consider credible online or commercial test prep (we cannot recommend but can list Princeton, Kaplan, Blueprint, ExamCrackers, Altius, AdaptPrep, etc.). Strong performance requires ~800 hours of study! PLAN for it! **Do not overlook your PreView, Casper or other situational judgment test requirements as well!**
8. First Forms Deadline: Submit to HP Advising your HP Waiver Form by **February 1st 2025**, electronically as signed pdf with written or authorized electronic signature. You may be asked to meet with the HPA Team and Dean as needed (**more information to come!**)
9. Forms SUPER DEADLINE **March 1st 2025**: 5 Letters of Recommendation, EACH with signed Cover Sheet Rating form, PLUS PIF, CV, Reflective Personal Statement/Essay! NOTE: This happens during the mid-term exam period so another hot-button heavy-action time for you as an applicant. Plan ahead.
10. Prepare for your HPAC On Campus Interview in **March/April 2025** (**more information Item 14**)

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...800 hours!!). Aim for formal test completion in **April, May, or June 2025** (~2 dozen test dates available annually) to optimize your chances ... but **ONLY** take it when you are ready to excel! Access **FREE** practice tests through test prep companies. More extensive practice tests can be purchased, if you wish. **PRACTICE TESTS HELP!** Be flexible; dates and locations may be subject to change. Be resilient and forbearing (**potential practice test opportunity?!?**)
13. Research the schools to which you will apply. Start with your Bellwether Schools. Get specifics. Know their mission—does it mesh with your vision? It is helpful if you have a preliminary list at your HPAC Interview, but submit your core list at the start of **June 2025**. You can add schools...but you cannot delete any.
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 2025**. **NOTE:** For some fields, you must request a duplicate letter be uploaded by the recommender directly to the CAS. So let recommenders know this at the outset. 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 submission opens to HP schools beginning in January 2025 for vet school, through May for **MOST** others. Early matters! Important experiences must be in **concrete plans or underway** at your date of submission! Stay focused! Finish projects!
16. Handle all of your **TRANSCRIPT** releases! This must be done by **YOU!** FERPA precludes us from managing transcripts. **NOTE:** This was a **HUGE** issue with Covid! Be aware! HPA will provide more guidance on this.
17. Submit! When your application is **FULLY COMPLETE** it will be verified (~ 3-6 weeks depending). **THEN**, the CAS notifies your schools that your file is available to be released to them. **Our CLOE goes up concurrently.**
18. Requests for 2^o applications will then be extended to you. Complete them expeditiously—within a week! These take **WORK** and **THOUGHT!** Staggering applications to first a core set of schools and then adding a ring of more schools can help. Languishing 2^o application completion will sink a strong primary application.
19. Interview offers start in late July 2025. Earliest interviews get scheduled beginning late August 2025 and interviews continue to March 2026. Many schools will retain remote interviews; we will update!
20. Notifications for acceptances may be within 2 weeks or as long as 6 months after interview. Earliest date for acceptance (ED) is October 1st, 2025. Be your own best advocate! If permitted by your school, update your application with meaningful accomplishments! But check to be sure they will allow it!
21. Be strategic! Have a back-up plan. Consider the gap year(s)...to grow, to fill in your gaps. Evaluate critically professional Post-Bac programs, job opportunities, but have a plan! Develop a reapplication strategy!

This is nearly 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!