



# Medical and Dental School Application Preparation

For Fall 2013 Professional School Matriculation

The following information is designed to help students plan and prepare for their application year to medical and dental schools. This document is a GUIDE only. Students must take an active role in the process which includes, but is not limited to, consulting with their Preprofessional Health Careers advisor on a regular basis and visiting the appropriate websites outlined in this document.

## Fall Semester 2011

- Meet with Preprofessional advisor to set goals, discuss grades, assess current strength/weaknesses, review application procedures, etc.
- Plan a review strategy for taking the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or the Dental Admission Test (DAT)
- Check dates & registration deadline for the admissions exams at the following:  
MCAT - [www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm](http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm)  
DAT - <http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx>

**Plan to take the MCAT or DAT in the spring or early summer.**

- Establish a credential file at Interfolio, [www.interfolio.com](http://www.interfolio.com). Interfolio provides electronic collection and distribution of letters of evaluation.
- Start requesting letters of evaluation. See the “Guidelines for Requesting Letters of Evaluation” handout for specific instructions. While **you must pay careful attention to the guidelines of each of the professional schools to which you apply**, we recommend that you have the following letters in your Interfolio account:
  1. Two science faculty who know you from a class or research experience
  2. One non-science faculty
  3. One or two additional individuals who know you well from a work or volunteer experience
  4. One individual working in the profession you wish to pursue (ie: dentist, osteopathic physician)
- Compile a list of your activities, work and volunteer experiences, research publications, clinical and community service experiences, etc.
- Begin working on your personal statement – consult the following for guidance:
  1. “Writing the Personal Statement” handout
  2. Your Preprofessional advisor
  3. The MSU Writing Center – 300 Bessey Hall, [writing.msu.edu](http://writing.msu.edu)

- Research medical and dental schools and their admissions criteria – utilize your Preprofessional advisor as well as the following:
  1. MSAR – Medical Schools Admission Requirement (MD schools) - available for purchase from [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)
  2. Osteopathic Medical College Information Book – available for purchase or free download from [www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)
  3. ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools – available for purchase from [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org)
- Look at Spring Semester 2012 credit load, work/volunteer commitments – make adjustments as necessary to allow for ample admission test preparation
- Update your email account and/or phone & voice mail messages NOW so that they are professional and appropriate. Check your privacy controls on Facebook and Twitter – recommend putting them at the highest level because schools can *and do* check.

### Spring Semester 2012

- Continue working on your personal statement – see key resources above
- Continue your preparation for the MCAT or DAT. Plan to take practice tests available at the sites provided above.
- **February 22** – Plan to attend the **Michigan Medical Schools Program, BPS Building Atrium – 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**. Watch for upcoming emails w/ exact details and/or contact your preprofessional advisor.
- February/March – Read the explicit instructions for the Centralized Application Services now to become familiar with the entire application before you can begin to fill it out.
  - AMCAS – for most MD schools - <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas/amcasresources/>
  - AACOMAS – for most DO schools – [www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)
  - AADSAS – for most dental schools - [portal.aadsasweb.org/](http://portal.aadsasweb.org/)
- Continue collecting letters of evaluation – verify at Interfolio that your letters are received
- Continue meeting with your Preprofessional Advisor to discuss initial list of schools to which you may apply, personal statement revisions, etc.
- May/June – access the Centralized Application Services and begin completing your applications on-line. Refer to web sites above. Contact medical and/or dental schools directly that do not participate with these services.
- Arrange to have ALL college transcripts sent to the application services and/or directly to schools not participating. **Students are advised to send grades AFTER spring grades are posted.**

## Summer 2012

- June 1<sup>st</sup> – First date to submit AMCAS, AACOMAS, & AADSAS applications. **Students are strongly encouraged to submit this primary application early in the summer.**
- Begin receiving secondary applications from the professional schools to which you have applied. Secondaries may arrive anywhere from a few days to up to 6 weeks after submission of the primary application – the timeline varies from school to school. Most secondaries are due 2-4 weeks upon receipt.
- Carefully read and follow the directions specified in the AMCAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS application about submitting letters of evaluation. Some schools will require you to send letters from Interfolio directly to the application service at the time of the primary application. While other schools will require that you have Interfolio submit letters directly to the health professional schools upon their request. Stay on top of the letter submission piece for each school to which you apply.
- Record ALL application activity in a notebook/spreadsheet – helpful items to keep track of include: date of primary & secondary application submissions, confirmation of receipt of all documents, etc.

## Fall 2012 – Spring 2013

- Plan to complete any remaining prerequisite coursework
- Look forward to scheduling interviews at the health professional schools. Schools may contact you via phone, email, or regular mail to schedule such interviews.
- Update your Preprofessional Advisor, letter of evaluation writers, and ALL individuals who have helped you on this journey with your progress in the application process.

NOTE: This handout should be used in conjunction with the “Applying to Health Professions Graduate Programs: A Guide to Centralized Applications” handout. While these two handouts were created to demystify the application process for preprofessional students, they do not alleviate the need to meet with advisors. Take advantage of the preprofessional advising resources.