

University of Dayton

# Health Professional School Application Guide

Premedical Programs Office  
10/15/2012

# Guidelines for Applying to Medical, Dental or other Health Professional School

Applying to medical, dental or other health professional school can be a daunting process. The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines to help you navigate successfully through this process. It should be used in conjunction with materials and information presented at the Premedical Programs Application Workshop. The basic steps of the process are outlined below.

- 1. Attend the Premedical Programs Office Application Workshop – Jan. 29 or Jan. 30 at 5:00 p.m.**
- 2. Follow directions for obtaining a composite letter packet (if applying to medical or dental school).**

Many Health Care Professional Schools accept either *individual letters of recommendation, a committee letter* or a *composite evaluation*. University of Dayton provides composite evaluations for our students who are applying to medical or dental schools. This evaluation consists of a single letter written by your Premed Advisor with the input from letters of evaluation chosen by each applicant. Follow the procedures detailed in the document entitled “**PROCEDURE FOR ACQUIRING A COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION LETTER**”.

### **3. Apply to take the Standardized Test for your Health Professional School**

Standardized tests are an important part of your application to one of the professional schools. Strong scores can greatly enhance the success of your application, so the sooner you begin to prepare, and the more familiar you are with the material and the test format, the better your chances are of reaching your full potential.

Visit the links below for details about individual standardized tests. You'll find background information, fees, schedules, on-line test registration, sample questions, forms, and performance data. If you are interested in taking a standardized test preparatory course, look into what [Kaplan, Exam Crackers](#) and [The Princeton Review](#) have to offer.

## Health Professional School Admission Tests

<b>MCAT</b>	<b>Allopathic, Osteopathic and Podiatric Medicine</b> <a href="https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/">https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/</a>
<b>DAT</b>	<b>Dental</b> <a href="http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx">http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx</a>
<b>OAT</b>	<b>Optometry</b> <a href="https://www.ada.org/OAT/">https://www.ada.org/OAT/</a>
<b>PCAT</b>	<b>Pharmacy</b> <a href="http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/pharmacyforyou/admissions/Pages/PCAT.aspx">http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/pharmacyforyou/admissions/Pages/PCAT.aspx</a>
<b>GRE</b>	<b>DPT, PA, OT, DVM</b> <a href="http://www.ets.org/gre/">http://www.ets.org/gre/</a>

### 4. Apply to the Centralized Service for the Health Professional School of your choice.

Centralized Application Services: Allow you to submit one application and apply to many professional schools.

Many professional schools have established centralized application services (CAS) to simplify the application process. Instead of filling out multiple forms and sending them directly to each school, the applicant submits one online standardized application to the CAS. The CAS charges an application fee.

The CAS then reviews each application to ensure that it is complete, verifies transcript information and sends a copy of the application to each school listed by the applicant. If the school requires more information, they contact the applicant directly. Schools may assess fees in addition to the CAS fee.

Before you apply, become familiar with the centralized application service to which you are submitting your application. Download the directions provided and refer to them diligently throughout the application process.

Here are web locations for several centralized application services:

Professional School	Centralized Service	Website
Allopathic Medicine	AMCAS	<a href="https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas/">https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas/</a>
Dentistry	AADSAS	<a href="https://portal.aadsasweb.org/">https://portal.aadsasweb.org/</a>
Osteopathic Medicine	AACOMAS	<a href="http://www.aacom.org">http://www.aacom.org</a>
Podiatric Medicine	AACPMAS	<a href="http://www.aacpm.org">http://www.aacpm.org</a>
Pharmacy	PHARMCAS	<a href="http://www.pharmacas.org/">http://www.pharmacas.org/</a>
Public Health	SOPHAS	<a href="http://www.sophas.org/">http://www.sophas.org/</a>
Veterinary Medicine	VMCAS	<a href="http://www.aavmc.org/vmcas/vmcas.htm">http://www.aavmc.org/vmcas/vmcas.htm</a>
Optometry	OptomCAS	<a href="http://www.optomcas.org/">http://www.optomcas.org/</a>
Physician Assistant	CASPA	<a href="https://portal.caspaonline.org/">https://portal.caspaonline.org/</a>

**The application process varies for each centralized service, but in general the application involves you submitting an online form, identifying the schools to which you are applying, paying fees, and submitting your transcripts.**

How do I decide to which schools I should apply?

One consideration is your state of residence. Many schools, particularly state-supported schools provide more of their seats for in-state versus out-of-state residents. Your chances of admission to a state-supported school in states other than your home state are smaller. Statistics on in-state and out-of-state acceptances are published for each allopathic medical school in the *MSAR* (Medical School Admission Requirements) which is available in the PPO and in the Roesch Library Reference Section. It's a good idea to divide your applications into schools that have a mean GPA slightly above your undergraduate GPA, about equal to your GPA and below your GPA. Your test score (MCAT, DAT, PCAT, etc) will also be an important predictor. Research the mean test scores of the present first year class at your schools of interest and use that data to help determine "best fit" schools. Also consider the tuition for both state residents and non-residents.

Finally, get to know the individual schools and consider curricular, philosophical and geographical features. Do you want to live in a city? Do you want to be affiliated with a teaching hospital tied to the medical school? Do you prefer a community based program such as

Wright State University Boonshoft School which is not affiliated with one particular hospital? Curricula differ a great deal also. Some schools will give you exposure to patients very early; others will wait until the third year. Some have mostly lecture-based courses in the first years while others use case studies and problem-based learning. Some have an extensive required curriculum, while others offer room for many electives. Consult their websites and the *MSAR* for this information. An additional resource is the AAMC's searchable online *Curriculum Directory*, <http://services.aamc.org/currdir/>, which profiles the curriculum at each medical.

When should I apply?

Apply early! Application dates vary from school to school and from one application service to the next, but most begin accepting applications in early summer and stop accepting applications in November or December. Most schools admit students on a rolling basis so early applicants have a better chance of admission than late applicants. It is therefore to your advantage to begin the application process as early as possible in the summer. This means filling out and submitting any centralized service applications as soon as available in May or June. Even though they utilize the centralized application services, many schools still require supplemental applications to be filled out and charge their own additional application fees. If you get all of your initial applications in early in the summer, you will receive many of the supplemental application forms from the schools starting later in the summer. You should complete and submit these supplemental materials as soon as possible.

How many applications should you file?

There is no correct number. The national average is about 13 per person. Estimate your chances. Even if you are confident about your admission, it is advisable to apply to 6-12 schools, perhaps more if you are a marginal candidate. It is ill-advised to apply to schools that publish average GPA and MCAT scores far above yours.

How do I submit my transcripts?

It is your responsibility to arrange with the Registrar's Office for the sending of all official transcripts requested by the schools you apply to and by any of the centralized application services. If you have attended any other college besides University of Dayton, you will also have to have official transcripts from these colleges sent. Directions for ordering UD transcripts can be found at <https://registrar.udayton.edu>. Be sure to follow the directions for submitting your transcripts as described by the centralized application service or individual school to which you are applying. For example, the AMCAS application contains a transcript request form that you must print out and submit to the registrar.