Application Timeline

September 17, 2014
What makes a strong candidate?

• Academic strength—able to handle the work load in a professional program

• Understanding of the profession
  ◦ Demonstrated through clinical volunteering & shadowing

• Interpersonal skills
  ◦ Ability to work with a variety of people, leadership skills, teaching ability

• Service-oriented

• Ability to communicate strengths
The Personal Statement

- Center for Writing, Learning & Teaching (CWLT)
- Julie Nelson Christoph, Director
- Personal Statement Workshop at CWLT, Howarth 109, 5:30 pm, Oct 7th
The Interview (Mock Interview)

- **Spring semester** (sign up in Jan/mid-Feb – early Apr)

- **Pre-application advising**—this semester
  - Meet with Kathy—Sign-up
  - **Goals:**
    - Identify “gaps” in your application
    - give you some advance practice
  - **Question:** “Why do you want to be a…” (practice verbalizing your answer)
Letters of Recommendation

Select letter writers to communicate different aspects of your qualities & experiences:

- Academic (2 science, 1 non-science)
- Other areas (2-3)
  - Employer
  - Coach
  - Clinical
Application Process

- **Primary application**—centralized application service (application fee)
- **Secondary applications** from individual schools (& application fees)
- Review by admissions committee
- Invitations to interview
- Acceptances
COMPONENTS OF AN APPLICATION

Primary Application –
- AAMCAS (M.D. schools) or AACOMAS (D.O.)
- AADSAS (dental)
- other programs -- committee letters not standard

Secondary applications

Admissions Committee Review
Deadlines are Deceiving

- Most schools have rolling admissions
  - Interview & admit applicants months before “closing date”
- Time is of the essence—early applicants are receiving interview invitations in August
- Programs become more selective as the year progresses
What You Can Do Now

- Study & plan to take entrance exam (MCAT, DAT, GRE, PCAT, OAT, etc.)
- Pre-application advising with Kathy
- Work on personal statement
- Request recommendation letters
- Investigate specific programs (where to apply?)—stats, pre-requisite courses, program features, etc.
Test prep approaches

- Self-study
  - Test prep books
    - Pre-health Collection within MedEdPORTAL’s iCollaborative
      https://www.mededportal.org/icollaborative/about/initiatives/prehealth/
    - Khan Academy MCAT Collection
      https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat

- Prep courses

- Most important—PRACTICE TESTS

- Note: Fee assistance programs
Spring Dates

- Mock interviews
  - Sign up in January—watch for announcement
  - Interviews held mid-Feb to early-April
- Committee letter request due
  April 1, 2014
- Recommendation letters due
  June 1, 2014
Target Date for Application: June

- Submit primary application in June (application forms available online in early May)
- Work on & submit secondary applications in July/August
- Invitations for interviews Sept →
Other Tips

• **Early application**
  ◦ Allows you to be more competitive
  ◦ Application processing can take 4-6 (even 8) weeks
  ◦ Allows for glitches in the process

• **MCAT/test timing** *(MCAT has 1 month turnaround for scores)*
  ◦ Ideal—take in June or earlier
  ◦ OK—July
  ◦ Application can be submitted w/o scores
  ◦ Warning on re-takes
Feeling stressed?

- Don’t apply simply to apply
- Consider a gap year
  - Can enhance application...HOWEVER...
    Don’t rely on a single gap year for all your experience
- Planning ahead...
  - MCAT scores good for 2-3 years (school dep.)
  - MCAT changes in March 2015—
    - Add social sciences section (Psych & Sociology)
    - Test will include biochemistry & statistics
    - https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/mcat2015/testsections/
QUESTIONS?
How ADEA AADSAS Works

Beginning June 3, 2010, AADSAS applicant submits to AADSAS

AADSAS Online Application, http://portal.aadsasweb.org (1)

Application Fee Payment (2)

All Official Transcripts (3)

Letters of Evaluation (4)

Application Processing (4-6 weeks*)

Application is considered complete and processing begins.

Transcript Verification

Application Processing and Printing

Application distributed to designated dental schools in electronic and print format

AADSAS does not delay the processing of your application if letters of evaluation have not been received. Letters of evaluation received after your application has been processed are forwarded to schools in the next mailing.

*Application processing time varies based on volume of applications being processed. AADSAS processes all applications received by a school's deadline, but applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their application, official transcripts, and fee payment well in advance of application deadlines.