Resources & Tips for Applicants

- Aim for an early application—the new applications generally become available in early May for medical (AMCAS & AACOMAS) and dental (AADSAS) application services.

- Reminder—sign up for veCollect (https://collect.virtualevals.net/start_registration) and ask your letter writers to submit letters BY JUNE 1st. You will be able to check veCollect to see which letters have been submitted. Please contact your letter writers after June 1st with a friendly reminder to submit your letter.

- Request your transcript from the Registrar’s office (and other academic institutions) and double check to be sure your transcript has been sent. Transcripts must be sent directly to the application services.

- We always field questions about listing course credit on the applications...
  - For AMCAS, list your class credit in units just as it is on your transcript.
  - For other application services, you will need to convert units into semester or quarter hours.
    - 1 unit = 4 semester hours
    - 1 unit = 6 quarter hours
    - Here’s the link to the official information on conversion: http://www.pugetsound.edu/student-life/personal-safety/student-handbook/academic-handbook/credit-hour-policy/

- As current students and graduates, you have access to the faculty writing advisors at the Center for Writing, Learning, and Teaching (CWLT).
  - During the semester (through the last Wednesday of classes—May 7th this year), request an appointment at http://www.pugetsound.edu/academics/academic-resources/cwlt/request-an-appointment/
  - After May 7, 2014 and through the summer, contact the Center’s Director, Julie Nelson Christoph directly: jchristoph@pugetsound.edu. Be aware that response times during the summer may take considerably longer—plan ahead and get an early start on that personal statement.

- Students and graduates also have access to Career and Employment Services (CES) for advice and practice with interview skills. Danielle Manning, Career Counselor, participates in our mock interview process. Demand for her time varies over the semester; summer would be an ideal time to arrange a meeting with her in person, by phone, or by Skype. dmanning@pugetsound.edu
Everyone knows that the personal statement is a critical part of the application. The activities section of the application also plays a crucial role and should be constructed with care.

- The UW School of Medicine posts application advice on their website. This link takes you to a listing of upcoming sessions in 2014 as well as postings of previous topics. [http://www.uwmedicine.org/education/md-program/admissions/applicants/advice](http://www.uwmedicine.org/education/md-program/admissions/applicants/advice)
- This document highlights examples of descriptions (from personal statements and activities listings) that are good, bad, or indifferent. [http://www.uwmedicine.org/education/documents/md-program/2013-Putting-Best-Self-Forward.pdf](http://www.uwmedicine.org/education/documents/md-program/2013-Putting-Best-Self-Forward.pdf)
- If you come across helpful sites from other schools, please pass that information along to us. We were alerted to the UW information by two different graduates.

Seek LOTS of feedback. The Admissions personnel who do the initial application screening are inundated with files. Little things may make an application compelling or cause it to be placed in the “Reject” pile; and different aspects of one application may appeal to different screeners. It is in your best interest to solicit the reactions of multiple individuals. You may find the feedback contradictory—what one person finds interesting and intriguing another person may find concerning or dull. You will then need to weigh the conflicting advice and select your own course (but at least you will know the range of responses that your application may elicit). So, in addition to CWLT, where else can you turn for feedback?

- Family & friends
- Joyce & Kathy
- We work closely with several physicians who have volunteered to serve as sounding boards. Each of them would be quite willing to read over a personal statement or activities section and provide feedback.
  - Dr. Andrew Bowdle, anesthesiologist, UW School of Medicine, [anesthpchol@aol.com](mailto:anesthpchol@aol.com)
  - Dr. Debra Wechter, surgeon, Virginia Mason [dgwechter@aol.com](mailto:dgwechter@aol.com)
  - Dr. Jeremiah Ray, emergency medicine, Multicare [jeremiah.w.ray@gmail.com](mailto:jeremiah.w.ray@gmail.com)