Guide Three: Applying to Health Professions School

Guide Three: Applying to Professional School

The guidelines presented in this document provide important details for Johns Hopkins University undergraduates or recent graduates as they relate to the intention of applying to allopathic (MD), osteopathic (DO) and dental (DDS, DMD) schools, all of which utilize the Committee Letter process offered at Johns Hopkins. Details of the support provided to applicants to other health professions schools, including veterinary medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, and others, are covered in individual guides available on the Pre-Prof. website. The advisor with primary responsibility for advising students interested in pursuing careers in these professions is Ms. Katie Cruit. She can be reached at kcruit@jhu.edu and, to set up an appointment, go to Pre-Prof. Appointments.

To download a specific guide to one of these health professions, go to: http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/health/Health.professions.guides

In general, reference in this Guide to “Medical School” refers to applicants to allopathic (MD), osteopathic (DO) and dental (DDS, DMD) schools.

Focus of Guide Three

Guide Three: Applying to Health Professions School focuses on the process of applying to medical and dental schools, specifically the numerous details you need to consider as an applicant. In this guide, we:

• provide an overview of the application process to medical, osteopathic, and dental school as well as a discussion of the timing and readiness that is essential for success in the process,
• review the “internal process” of preparing the Health Professions Committee Application,
• review the “external process” of completing the professional school application, whether it be the AMCAS (for MD applications), AACOMAS (for DO applications), or AADSAS (for DDS/DMD applications).

Advice on navigating the medical or dental school application process following the submission of your professional school application is the subject of Guide Four: The Ongoing Application Process.

Overview of Applying to Health Professions School

The Office of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising offers advice, support, and feedback throughout the application process. The vast majority of medical and dental school applicants from Johns Hopkins University utilize the Health Professions Committee Process to formally present themselves to schools. Our goal is to assist you to the best of our ability throughout the application process. Please remember, however, that we traditionally assist between 350 - 400 applicants per year and ask that you do your best to make sure your requests are reasonable.
The Office of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising utilizes the Blackboard management system for sending information to and receiving information from students going through the Health Professions Committee Process.

Applicants using the Health Professions Committee Process through Johns Hopkins will be required to utilize Blackboard to complete and submit information that is part of the Committee process. Blackboard provides quick and easy access to critical and timely information and resources regarding your application to medical or dental school, including forms, PowerPoint presentations, and important links. Resources within our Blackboard site will help keep you organized and up-to-date as you continue through the application process. You will be able to track and account for all of your steps via an applicant checklist and monitor your submissions.

What are My Responsibilities as an Applicant?

In one word, professionalism is required through every stage and aspect of the application process. In order to do our work as professionally as possible, we rely on you upholding all of your responsibilities including:

- Stay organized. Establish electronic and paper files for your application materials.
- Meet deadlines. Missing a deadline could mean you have to delay your application for a whole year. Set up your calendar now. Use whatever tools or devices at your disposal that will help you remember the timelines and deadlines of applying.
- Arrive on time. When you have meetings or interviews, remember that “early is on-time, and on-time is late.”
- Read and save emails. You will receive a good number of emails from the Pre-Professional Office. It is important to read them in full and save them in an electronic folder.
- Address all involved in the application process in a professional manner. Pay special attention to how you introduce yourself, recognize others, and follow-up from a correspondence or interaction. Always express appreciation for the support others provide on your behalf.
- Establish good verbal and non-verbal communication. Make sure you establish eye contact, shake hands, and send thank you notes where appropriate.

What Can I Expect of My Pre-Professional Advisors?

First and foremost, our job is to advise and support you through the process. Part of this responsibility, however, is to provide a realistic assessment of your standing as an applicant. We suggest that students who are in need of academic enhancement or additional experience consider delaying their application; we then follow this up with concrete suggestions and long-term planning. Our goal is to help you become the strongest applicant possible and, for some of you, that might mean slowing down the process by delaying your application to a later cycle. Ultimately, we advise and support you as an
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Perhaps the most salient aspect of applying to health professions school is the importance of personal skills and attributes. Medical schools refer to these as the personal competencies essential in patient care and being a member of the health care delivery team. Do you have strong communication skills and the ability to relate to people from diverse backgrounds? Have you shown evidence of professionalism, humanism, and integrity? Are you a caring, compassionate and tolerant person? These are questions that are important for you to reflect upon when considering upon your application.

As endorsed by the Committee on Admissions of the American Association of Medical Colleges, there are 15 core competencies that are the most integral to future clinicians:

- **Thinking and Reasoning Competencies**
  - Critical Thinking
  - Quantitative Reasoning
  - Scientific Inquiry
  - Written Communication

- **Science Competencies**
  - Living Systems
  - Human Behavior

- **Intrapersonal Competencies**
  - Ethical Responsibility to Self and Others
  - Reliability and Dependability
  - Resilience and Adaptability
  - Capacity for Improvement

- **Interpersonal Competencies**
  - Service Orientation
  - Social Skills
  - Cultural Competence
  - Teamwork
  - Oral Communication

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For Dental Applicants - The field of dentistry requires a high degree of dedication and social consciousness. A good way to help you decide whether dentistry is right for you is to spend time visiting different dental offices. This will provide you an opportunity to observe the work of a dentist as well as discuss what a career in dentistry involves. In addition, it is helpful to attend an informational program at a dental school or to take the initiative to visit as a prospective student. A dentist must be able to communicate effectively, develop rapport with others, and to demonstrate similar personal competencies as outlined above. Dental school applicants are advised to also be concerned with community affairs.

Timeline for Applying

There are several possible timeframes for applying to medical school and each of them depends on how strong you are as a candidate at that point. The three main timeframes are:

- Applying junior year and going directly to medical school the fall after graduation
- Applying senior year, having a bridge year, and then going to medical school the next fall
- Applying after several years of work/other experience

Regardless of when you apply to medical or dental school, here are the steps to consider:

The fall before you are applying:
- Set up a veCollect account to collect your letters of recommendation.
- Attend Applicant Kick Off Session in November or view the online presentation.

The winter/spring of the year you apply:
- Set up your Blackboard account, submit materials, and read all announcements.
- Download and complete the Health Professions Committee Application (HPCA).
- Submit your HPCA by the proposed deadline. We do not accept late submissions!

April:
- Start drafts of your personal statement/essay.
- Continue reading all Blackboard announcements.

Early May:
- The American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS), go online for you to begin completing. This is your primary application to medical school.
- Continue reading all Blackboard announcements.

Early June:
- First date that you can submit your applications to AMCAS, AACOMAS, or AADSAS (Associated American Dental Schools Application Service). APPLY EARLY!!!
- Continue reading all Blackboard announcements.
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Mid-July:
- The Pre-Prof Office begins submitting Committee letters and individual letters of recommendation to medical schools.
- The uploading of Committee letters and letters of recommendation continues into late August.

Mid-summer through December
- You will begin receiving secondary applications in early July. Try to return them within a few weeks. The sooner you submit your secondary applications, the better chance you will have at securing earlier interviews.

Early September
- Interviews at most medical and dental schools begin.

Mid-October
- Earliest acceptance decisions go out to students for schools with rolling admissions.

Late February/early March of the following year
- Interviews end.

April 30th
- The last day students can hold multiple acceptances to medical schools.

What are the Implications of a Gap Year?

There are several reasons to delay your application, most notably that you want to take a year or more to accomplish goals or pursue experiences. We have had many Hopkins alumni choose to pursue research or a master’s degree, or join the Peace Corps, Teach for America, City Year, and other opportunities before applying to and starting medical school. Medical schools value the maturity and life experience gained after graduation, and engaging in one of these types of activities may ultimately make you a more competitive applicant. For more information about how to approach a gap year, go to: http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/health/gap.year.html.

When Should You Apply?

You should apply to medical school when all of the relevant aspects of your application are strong and competitive, and you have a reasonable chance to be invited to interviews.

All applicants are encouraged to apply only once to medical or other health professions school. Think carefully about the timing of your application, so that you to apply at your strongest. Here are some good reasons to delay applying:
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**Your MCAT or DAT scores are not yet competitive.** We strongly encourage you to consult the *Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR)* to reference MCAT acceptance ranges for your schools of interest. If your overall MCAT score falls below the 10th percentile for a majority of your schools of interest, we strongly encourage you to retake the MCAT and, for most of you, this means delaying your application for one year. We also encourage pre-dental applicants to consult the *ADEA Official Guide to Dental School* to reference DAT ranges and means at individual dental schools. Each dental school will review DAT scores on an individual basis.

1) **Your cumulative and/or BCPM GPAs are not yet competitive.** Again, we strongly encourage you to consult the MSAR to reference the cumulative and BCPM ranges for your schools of interest. If your overall cumulative or BCPM GPA falls below the 10th percentile for a majority of your schools of interest, we strongly encourage you to delay applying a year to allow your senior year grades to impact your application. If you are a senior, you may want to look at academic record enhancer post-bac programs or to complete additional science coursework to enhance your GPA before applying.

2) **Your references will not be sufficiently strong.** It is absolutely critical that you feel that your references are strong and are going to be an asset to your overall application. This is no easy task at Johns Hopkins; with large lecture classes and team-taught courses, it can be hard to get to know your professors. If you do not have solid relationships with at least a few faculty members going into the junior year, you should look at this as a sign that it might be best for you to delay a year in applying to medical school. Classes during the junior and senior year are often smaller and, if you put your mind to it, you will certainly be able to develop the type of rapport with your professors and others that will result in strong recommendations.

3) **You struggle answering the basic question "Why do you want to be a doctor or dentist"?** Struggling with this question often means that you have not had sufficient exposure to the medical profession, meaningful work and volunteer experience, and challenged yourself to reflect upon those experiences.

4) **You face competing priorities.** You have essays to write, letters of recommendations to gather, standardized tests to study for, schools to research, as well as the rest of real life and figuring out what to do this summer. If you can’t spend the time you need on application prep now (and secondary essay writing this summer/fall for MD/DO applicants), it might be better to start getting organized this year, but focus on applying next year.

5) **You have limited exposure to clinical medicine or patient interaction.** Without having participated in some activities that allow you to serve the community, and build the skills you need to be a physician, it will be hard to convince schools that you have a realistic understanding of what you’re about to undertake. If you are concerned that you lack significant clinical and/or volunteer experiences, it is important that you speak with a premed advisor in the Pre-Prof. Office.
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**Basic Questions to Assess Whether You are Ready to Apply**

It is important that you are able to step back and assess your developing profile as an applicant to health professions schools. Consider these questions:

- Have you met with a Pre-Professional advisor? Will at least one advisor in the office recognize you as an applicant?
- Will your numbers be sufficiently strong?
- Will your medically-related experiences be sufficiently strong?
- Will you be able to share “clinical” interactions and express your ability and passion for clinical care?
- Do you have experience relating to others in significantly different life circumstances?
- Are you in a position to have assembled a complete set of recommendations by June?

The bottom line is this: Are you applying at your strongest point?

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**Admissions Tests**

Allopathic, osteopathic, and dental schools all expect applicants to take standardized tests relevant to their professions. We suggest you aim to take the MCAT or DAT once, when you have allowed ample study time and have put forth your best study habits.

**The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)**
Comprehensive MCAT information can be found at the Association of American Medical Colleges website: [https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/](https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/).

**The Dental Admissions Test (DAT)**
Comprehensive DAT information can be found at the American Dental Association website: [http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx](http://www.ada.org/dat.aspx)

Another helpful site is Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dental_Admission_Test](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dental_Admission_Test)

MCAT and DAT information can also be found on the Pre-Professional website: [http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/health/Applicants/mcat.dat.html](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/health/Applicants/mcat.dat.html)

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**Fee waiver** or reduction options are available for both the MCAT and DAT and each of the application services. The forms for AMCAS can be found online at Fee Waiver. Any applicant who qualifies for the AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP) automatically qualifies for an HPCA fee waiver through this office. FAP eligibility decisions are tied directly to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services’ poverty level guidelines. To learn more about FAP, go to: [http://www.aamc.org/students/applying/fap/](http://www.aamc.org/students/applying/fap/)

If you did not apply for a fee waiver and are dealing with circumstances that you believe impact your ability to pay our $60 application processing fee, please make an appointment to speak with Dr. Verrier.
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When should I take the MCAT or the DAT?
In deciding when to take the MCAT or the DAT, the optimal time is prior to beginning work on your HPCA and embarking on the full application process. For students who are taking a gap year, optimal timing can be taking the MCAT late in the summer between the junior and senior year. Some applicants take the January test prior to an application cycle. For others, it is necessary to take the MCAT in a timeframe close to submitting the AMCAS application.

What is the best way to prepare for the MCAT?
Both self-study and preparation courses are effective, though each has pros and cons. A test prep course gives you copious review materials and practice exams, as well as a lot of structure. However, the price is high. Self-study is less expensive and many good review books and practice exams are available at bookstores and through online booksellers. Note that this approach requires self-discipline. If you opt for self-study, consider forming a study group, though be sure your partners are self-motivated, reliable, and dedicated. The AAMC has great self-study guides: https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/preparing/

How/when are my MCAT or DAT scores sent to schools?
For the MCAT, scores are automatically released to AMCAS. You may release your scores to non-AMCAS schools via the MCAT Testing History (THx) System. Scores generally are processed and sent within 30 days of your test date. For dental schools, AADSAS will obtain your official DAT scores from the American Dental Association's Testing Services Center and will import them directly into your application. If you take the DAT after your ADEA AADSAS application has been sent to your designated dental schools, an updated application, reflecting your DAT scores will be forwarded to schools just as soon as the scores are received. At the time that you register for the DAT, you can opt to have your DAT score forwarded to as many dentals schools as you select, at no cost. You will be charged a fee for reports requested and forwarded at a later date -- and once you have received your DAT score.

When is it appropriate to re-take the MCAT or the DAT?
In deciding when to take and how you will prepare for the MCAT or the DAT, your goal should be to take the test a single time. These tests are in no way like the SAT where it is generally accepted that students sit for the test multiple times. It is in your best interest to take the MCAT or DAT only once. If your score is below the average score of medical or dental schools of interest (e.g., for medical schools reference MSAR), then you should consider re-taking the MCAT. Only re-take the MCAT when you have done additional preparation and you have proven to yourself in practice tests that you can get a higher score. Medical schools vary in how they view multiple MCAT scores; regardless, you can assume that they see multiple MCAT scores.

In addition, it is typically not a good idea to retake the MCAT or DAT without truly assessing what you need to improve, how to make the necessary improvements, and to give yourself the time needed to achieve this goal. This means that, in most cases, you do not want to immediately repeat the test without some pause.

We advise you to consult with a Pre-Professional advisor about your decision of whether or not to re-take your MCAT or DAT, and the appropriate time to retake if you find yourself in that situation.
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**Should I re-take the MCAT or DAT if I have a solid overall score but a low score in one section?**
Although this can happen in any section, this situation more often occurs when students have high biological and physical science scores but lower verbal scores (or reading comprehension scores for the DAT). A low score in any one section can be a liability. Medical and dental schools like to see consistency and a balanced MCAT or DAT score profile, respectively. If one section is significantly lower than the others, speak with a Pre-Professional advisor about whether it makes sense to re-take and strategies to improve in that section.

**If I have a very high MCAT or DAT score but average grades at Hopkins, will the medical or dental schools place less weight on my grades?**
An applicant should never assume that a high MCAT or DAT score will offset average grades. Standardized test scores are only one metric of what health professions schools evaluate. Remember that your academic record and MCAT or DAT score are just part of the components necessary in accumulating a strong and competitive medical or dental school application.

**What if I have not taken the MCAT or DAT prior to submitting my application?**
If you are taking an MCAT or DAT in June or July, we recommend you submit your application before receiving your test scores, so that your application is not delayed. AMCAS and AADSAS will verify and process your application without an MCAT or DAT score.

**What if I already have an MCAT or DAT score but am planning to retake the MCAT or DAT after I have submitted my AMCAS/AACOMAS or AADSAS application?**
If you have taken the MCAT or DAT once and will be re-taking the test in the summer, you will need to indicate the date of your future MCAT/DAT on your AMCAS/AADSAS application. When the schools review your application, they will see a future test date and will delay the process of reviewing your application. Your test score will then automatically be made available to your designated schools. Schools will not review your application until your new test scores, secondary applications, and letters of recommendation are received.

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Please note: It is imperative that you keep your projected MCAT/DAT date accurate on your application. If you decide to NOT take the MCAT/DAT again, you must update your AMCAS/AADSAS application, indicating that you are NOT planning to take the MCAT/DAT at the date you designated. Please follow the AMCAS/AADSAS instruction manual in regard to any changes with your MCAT/DAT test dates.
The Internal Application Process

The “internal application process” of applying to medical and dental school refers to the application procedures required by Johns Hopkins University and the Office of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising. This section of Guide Three will focus on the following topics:

- Overview of the Health Professions Committee Process
- The Health Professions Committee Application (HPCA)
- The Committee Letter
- Sections of the Committee Letter
- Letters of Recommendation and veCollect
- How and When the Committee Letter Gets Sent to Medical Schools

Overview of Health Professions Committee Process

The Health Professions Committee Process is how Johns Hopkins University formally presents candidates for medical or dental school. The Committee Process includes the Health Professions Committee Application (HPCA) and the Committee Letter, both of which are discussed below.

The Health Professions Committee Application (HPCA)

The HPCA is the internal application for all applicants from JHU who participate in the Health Professions Committee Process. Submission of your HPCA (typically March 15) is an important step in the application process as it serves three main purposes:

- It is a document that lets the Pre-Professional Office know that you are applying to medical or dental school.
- It is designed, in many respects, to mirror the AMCAS application used by allopathic medical schools. Specifically, it provides you with practice to write descriptions of activities and experiences that will also appear on the AMCAS application, as well as analogous essays and biographical entries.
- It is used to write your Committee letter (which is described below).

The Committee Letter

The Committee Letter is generally two to three single-spaced pages that provide schools with an overview of you as an applicant.

Sections of the letter include: Candidate Introduction, Academic Accomplishments, Research and Inquiry, Medically-Related Experience, Community and Public Service, Additional Experiences, and Closing Comments.
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The reference to a “Committee” is really a misnomer as it is not a “committee” of people writing your letter. Your Committee Letter is primarily produced from your HPCA; a Pre-Prof advisor will oversee your letter’s composition and final edits.

The sections of the Committee Letter closely resemble the sections of the HPCA. These sections have been carefully and purposefully chosen because they cover the basic components of a well-balanced and well-rounded applicant to health professions school.

- **Candidate Introduction** discusses childhood experiences, early influences on your decision to pursue a career in medicine (if applicable), and why you chose to attend Johns Hopkins University.
- **Academic Accomplishments** looks beyond grades alone to consider investment in academics, intellectual breadth, trends in performance, and coursework beyond graduation (i.e., masters & post-bac programs).
- **Research and Inquiry** assesses engagement with academic research, inquiry, and other investigation.
- **Medically-Related Experience** focuses on clinical exposure to medicine and patient care, including time spent shadowing, working in clinics, and other patient-centered settings.
- **Community and Public Service** primarily focuses on service to the local community.
- **Additional Experience** highlights leadership, teamwork skills, co-curricular activities, special talents, employment, and/or other character-building activities.
- **Closing Comments** provides the writer’s overall perspective on the candidate.

**Letters of Recommendation and veCollect**

Letters of recommendation are a critical element in the health professions application process. Schools value the perspectives of people who have observed your work and can speak to your abilities and personality. At Johns Hopkins, you are responsible for monitoring all aspects of requesting and collecting recommendations through our online letter of recommendation system called veCollect. An overview of how to obtain letters of recommendation and a description of the veCollect letter system are covered in Guide Two: Letters of Recommendation and the veCollect Letter System: [http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/Forms/Guide.Two.12.12.pdf](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/Forms/Guide.Two.12.12.pdf)

**Is there anything special I need to do if I am applying to osteopathic medical schools?**

If you are applying to both MD and DO schools, you will need to create two quivers, one for MD schools and the other for DO schools. (NOTE: Quivers are described in Guide Two.)

**How and When the Committee Letter Gets Sent to Medical and Dental Schools**

Applicants often wonder when the Committee Packet (Committee Letter and individual letters of recommendation) will be uploaded to medical schools. You must remember that the Committee Packet is submitted through a completely different process and conforms to a totally different timeline than your submission of the AMCAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS application. In contrast to the importance of early
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submission of your AMCAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS application, early submission of the Committee Packet by the Pre-Prof. Office is not necessary. The Pre-Prof. Office begins uploading Committee Packets to medical schools is mid-July, and the process continues into August (and the fall for some applicants).

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The External Application Process

The “external application process” of applying to medical and dental school refers to the application procedures required by the application services (AMCAS, AACOMAS, AADSAS). This section of Guide Three will focus on the following topics:

- Application Services
- FAQs: Where to Apply
- FAQs: Transcripts
- FAQs: AMCAS & AADSAS Coursework
- FAQs: AMCAS & AADSAS Experiences
- AMCAS & AADSAS Letters of Evaluation/Recommendation
- The Personal Statement
- Resources

Application Services

There are four application services associated with applicants to medical and dental school:

1) American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS)
2) American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS)
3) Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS)
4) Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Services (TMDSAS)

FAQs: Where to Apply

When deciding where to apply, make sure to review the Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) for detailed information about each medical school or the ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools for dental schools. You can only apply to one type of program at each institution (e.g., MD, MD/PhD). If you decide to change the type after submitting your application, notify the school directly. In addition, you can add schools after you’ve submitted your AMCAS, but you cannot delete schools.
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How many schools should I apply to?
As a general rule, it is good to aim for 15 to 20 schools unless you there are some good reasons for applying to fewer. When an applicant applies to more than 25 schools, it implies that the schools have not been well researched and there was little to no strategy behind school selections. Dental school applicants should aim for about 10 schools.

How does my state of residency impact where I should apply?
Applying to schools as an in-state candidate usually puts you at an advantage in the admissions process. Many state schools have less than 15% of their class come from outside of their state. In-state tuition also tends to be lower. Conversely, some state schools admit over 20-25% of their students from out-of-state. These are schools that may make sense to investigate, particularly if you have some connection. Don't be afraid to look at medical/dental schools in states that, upon first glance, you would not consider!

How do I determine my state of residence? Can I switch my state of residence?
The first thing to understand is that residency rules vary by state. If you have a question about state residency, please contact an official at the medical school in question; usually the admissions office can direct you to the proper person or office.

- You can only be a resident of one state. The state you list as your home state on your application is the state that medical/dental schools will consider your choice.
- If you are included as a dependent on either parent's tax return, then you are a resident of their state. If you are considering switching states and you're still enrolled as a college student, then most likely it is because one or both parents are moving. If this is the case, then make sure you change your driver's license and voter registration on your own, to match your parents' address.
- If you have graduated and are claiming residency in a new state, then you should not only have a permanent address, driver's license, and voter registration card in that state, but you should also plan to work in that state and file state taxes. Some public medical schools require this last item.
- Residency rules vary from state to state, and HOW residents and non-residents are defined by an admissions committee varies from school to school. In fact, public medical schools within the same state sometimes vary in terms of these rules. Your first step when considering a change in residency is to contact a residency official at the universities in question. Reference the Medical School Admissions Requirements (MSAR) to see data on each school's listing of the numbers of "resident" and "non-resident" applicants, interviewees, and matriculants.
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Are there special interstate agreements?
Yes, some states that either do not have medical schools or who have very few have created special interstate agreements so that their residents still have in-state privileges. These include:

- **WICHE.** Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education operates an exchange program for students from 13 western states that gives them preference in admission and reduced tuition in selected out of state medical and other professional schools.
- **WWAMI.** The University of Washington School of Medicine serves as the public school for Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho.
- **FAME.** Finance Authority of Maine’s Access to Medical Education Program, which gives Maine residents preferred access to Dartmouth, Vermont, and UNECOM.
- **DIMER.** Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research, which has Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia serve as Delaware’s medical school.

What if I am applying to Texas medical schools?
If you are a Texas resident you must use TMDSAS to apply to Texas medical and dental schools. Applicants who are not residents of Texas rarely if ever apply to Texas medical and dental schools. For more information on the application and TMDSAS, please visit [http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas](http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas) as well as the Pre-Prof website, [http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/health/Applicants/tmdsas.html](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/health/Applicants/tmdsas.html). Applicants will need to create a TMDSAS quiver in veCollect.

How should my GPA and MCAT score affect where I apply?
Each year, the Association of American Medical Colleges publishes the *Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)*. The MSAR Online contains admissions statistics including each school’s median GPA and MCAT for accepted applicants, as well as the GPA and MCAT ranges for accepted applicants. Using this data, you can assess whether or not you will be a competitive candidate at a specific school. For dental school applicants, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) publishes the *ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools* annually. It lists the admissions requirements for all U.S. and Canadian dental schools. Follow the same advice above, and select schools with median GPAs and DAT scores close to yours.

How important should rankings be as I decide where to apply?
Be careful about putting too much emphasis on rankings. The *U.S. News and World Report* ranking uses a methodology that may change year to year and may emphasize qualities that are not as important to you. What is most important is not the "prestige" of the medical school you attend. Rather, it is selecting a school where you can thrive and be a leader.

I have heard medical/dental school admissions deans refer to their mission statement. Aren’t they all about the same?
While you may think that all medical/dental schools have the same basic mission of helping to train compassionate physicians who are able to care for patients, mission statements can vary dramatically between schools. Some schools, like Loma Linda (owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church), emphasize Christian principles whereas others, like University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine, emphasize interdisciplinary scholarship and innovation for the betterment of humanity. While you can read each school’s mission statement in the *MSAR/ADEA Guide*, you should also explore the websites of your schools of interest. They often feature more in-depth information about the school's
philosophy. You want to identify schools whose mission parallels your professional goals and personal values.

**What should I look for as I examine a school’s curriculum?**

In looking at curricula, you need to consider your learning style. In college, in which classes did you learn best? Were they lecture-based or more hands-on and interactive? Did you like group work or did you prefer to work on your own? These types of questions can help you establish whether medical schools with a more traditional, lecture format, a problem-based learning approach, or a combination of the two styles would be best for you. If you are interested knowing which medical schools have combined programs (e.g., MD/PhD; MD/MPH), go to the Curriculum Directory page of the AAMC website: https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/medaps/curriculumreports/

You should also take the grading policy of the school into account. Some schools rely entirely on a Pass/No Pass grading system because they feel it fosters a spirit of cooperation rather than competition between their students. Other schools use a letter grading system (A, B, etc.) beginning in your first year and continuing throughout your time in medical school.

**Should cost be a factor in my decision of where to apply?**

Medical/dental school tuition varies greatly based on factors including residency, availability of scholarships, and others. While nearly all medical students graduate with some debt, the amount of debt can range from a few thousand dollars upwards of $200,000. The MSAR/ADEA Guide includes information on financial aid and you can also check directly with schools to see what their policies are. If you are fortunate enough to qualify for a scholarship to a medical/dental school, you will need to weigh carefully the financial benefits against how well that school matches your needs.

**What other factors should I consider?**

- **Location.** You will be spending four years of your life at medical/dental school so you want to make sure it is in an environment you like. Where have you lived before and what did you like about those places? Are you a city person or do you prefer a more rural setting? What climate do you prefer? What is the cost of living like?

- **Composition of Student Body.** Do you prefer a smaller or a larger class? How diverse is the class? What is the male/female ratio? Think about your preferences in these areas when selecting schools.

- **Personal Factors.** Are you close to your family and want to be at a school near them? Do you have a significant other who needs to stay in a specific location? During medical school, you will probably be too busy to travel great distances to be with loved ones and friends. You should consider whether any of these factors will shape your choice of schools.

**I want to apply to MD/PhD programs. How do I decide where to apply?**

First, you should consider what type of research you are hoping to do and which faculty members you would like to work with. You should also look at the structure of the program. Do you complete three years of your MD and then do your PhD and finish your last year of medical school after that, or do you complete your PhD first and then your MD? In the MSAR, you can see the number of MD/PhDs that matriculated to each school. Make sure to apply to at least a few schools that have five or more MD/PhDs per year.
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**What if I apply to additional medical/dental schools?**
Please review the AMCAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS instruction manual for details on applying to additional medical schools after submitting your initial application. In addition, you must send an email to Mrs. Krause or Mrs. Sanders indicating the schools you added, so that they can upload your Committee Letter and letters of recommendation to those schools.

**I want to apply to osteopathic medical schools. How do I decide where to apply?**
When applying to osteopathic medical schools, you can utilize many of the same strategies as when applying to allopathic schools. You need to ask yourself similar questions about your background, the school’s mission statement and curriculum, cost, location, etc. Your best source of information about osteopathic medical schools is the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, http://www.aacom.org/Pages/default.aspx. They publish the *Osteopathic Medical College Information Book*, which we recommend you purchase.

**Is there anything special I need to do if I plan on applying to dual degree programs?**
When applying to MD/PhD programs, you indicate the program type (MD or MD/PhD) on the AMCAS application. If you apply to a combination of MD and MD/PhD programs, you create only one quiver. In the case of applying to any other MD dual degree program (such as MD/MPH or MD/MBA) you, again, only create one quiver. Typically you apply to these programs through the secondary application process. However, sometimes you apply as a first year student, once you’re already accepted to the MD program. See each school for specific information regarding their application process.

**FAQs: Transcripts**

**How should I request a transcript from the Registrar?**

Key points:
1) AMCAS/AADSAS will generate a transcript request/matching form. Make sure you print the form, sign it, and forward it to the JHU Registrar’s Office.
2) You will have to do this for every college you have attended.
3) We suggest you request a transcript when your spring semester grades have been posted.
**Will medical/dental schools see my transcripts?**
No. You will be submitting your transcript from JHU and any others (e.g., from summer coursework or study abroad) to the application service (AMCAS, AACOMAS, AADSAS) and your primary application will list all of your college coursework.

**Can I submit my AMCAS application prior to AMCAS receiving my transcript?**
Yes, you can submit your AMCAS application before they receive your transcript.

**Can I submit my AMCAS application if I have not yet made my quiver in veCollect?**
Yes. Your AMCAS application is completely separate from veCollect.

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**FAQs: AMCAS & AADSAS Coursework**

Before entering your coursework, you must have a current copy of your transcript as well as access to the AMCAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS application manual. The Q&A’s below relate to aspects of completing your application that are specific to Johns Hopkins University.

**Can I have my first semester grades uncovered?**
For the majority of situations, the answer is no. However, if you receive correspondence from a medical/dental school asking you to uncover grades, please direct this to our attention and we will follow up with the school.

**How do I enter my covered grades from first semester of freshman year?**
You will enter the grade as "S" or "U" and then check the "Pass/Fail" box on the bottom of the screen. In fact, you should do this for any class you took S/U (or P/F or P/NP if taken at another school).

**How do I classify “Semester Type” for coursework at Johns Hopkins?**
JHU’s semester description is 4-1-4. (4 months in the fall, 1 month during the winter break, and 4 months in the spring.)

**How do I assign “Class Year” status to my coursework?**
If you have been continuously enrolled at JHU since you were a freshman, then assign class year as follows: first year at JHU = Freshman (FR) status; second year at JHU = Sophomore (SO) status; etc. If you were enrolled part-time at JHU, or if you had interrupted enrollment at JHU, you should use the chart in the AMCAS Instruction Manual to determine your Class Year status.

**How should I identify course titles on my AMCAS/AADSAS application?**
Enter course titles on your AMCAS/AADSAS application exactly as they appear on your JHU transcript (or transcript from any other schools you may have taken coursework). If the exact course name does not fit into the designated field, enter a logical abbreviation.

**When entering the “Course Number,” should I include AS or EN before the number?**
Yes, you can include any letters that appear before the official course number. Here are the AMCAS manual instructions: “Course numbers should include all letters and numbers associated with the course… If a course number does not fit in the space provided, include the last eight digits rather than
the first ones. Decimal points, if part of the course number on your official transcript, should be included when entering the course number.”

**What courses count towards my “BCPM GPA”?**
Your BCPM GPA is composed of courses that are considered to be Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. Although you are the one who decides how to classify specific courses, the AMCAS instruction manual has a list of suggested courses for each category, which is consistent with AADSAS policies. Generally speaking, a course should be classified as the discipline from which 60% or greater of its subject matter originates. AMCAS/AADSAS typically refrains from changing these classifications if the applicant’s selection appears to be reasonable and consistent. In the event that AMCAS/AADSAS does change the classification, and you believe the change is incorrect, please review the AMCAS Instruction Manual for direction on how to file an “Academic Change Request” to your application.

**Will my engineering courses count towards my BCPM GPA?**
A number of engineering courses count toward the BCPM GPA including Molecules and Cells and Systems Bioengineering I, II, and III. Additional engineering courses can be included in the BCPM GPA if 60% or more of the course material was biology, chemistry, physics, or math related.

**How does AMCAS/AADSAS calculate GPA? Do they include Graduate GPA with the Undergrad GPA?**
The AMCAS/AADSAS application provides a GPA for freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years. AMCAS also subdivides your GPA into three GPAs: (1) BCPM, 2) All Other (non-science/math), and (3) Cumulative. The graduate school GPA, if applicable, is separate. AADSAS calculates two science GPAs, one with math coursework (BCPM) and one without (BCP).

**If I will be taking classes in the fall, should I enter the classes in my application?**
Yes. If you are planning to take classes in the coming year, you will list those projected courses and indicate "Current/Future" as the course type. This is particularly important in the case of a pre-med requirement (e.g., one of your designated English courses) or an advanced science course. If you end up not taking one of the courses, it is not necessary for you to contact AMCAS or individual medical schools.

**Should I include +/- modifiers (A+, etc.) when I enter my grades?**
Yes, you should list your grades exactly as they appear on your JHU transcript. This includes listing + or - modifiers.

**What “Course Classification” and “Course Type” do I select for Research for Credit?**
For "Course Type," select “Lab Only” in the case of Research for Credit. For “Course Classification,” select the abbreviation of the department that is awarding the credit (e.g., BIOL). Do not designate Research for Credit as “Special Studies.” If the Research for Credit is graded, the course will be calculated into your GPA and if the department awarding the credit and grade is Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Math, the course will be calculated into your BCPM GPA.

**What Course Classification do I use for a Medical Tutorial? Do I list it as "lab only" or "lecture only?"**
Medical Tutorials can be classified under “Health Sciences” (HEAL). For lab or lecture, there really isn’t a right or wrong answer. Just be sure to justify whatever you do select, in case you are asked about it.
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What if I am a Public Health Studies major and will be (or have taken) classes at JHSPH?
If you will be taking or have taken classes at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health while you were an undergraduate (as part of your Public Health Studies major), you do not enter JHSPH as a separate school. List the public health classes just as you would regular semester classes and classify them as Senior Year (SR) and not as graduate classes. It is not necessary for you to request a separate transcript from the JHSPH.

I repeated a course while at Johns Hopkins, what do I do?
On AMCAS/AADSAS, you must enter the grades you earned in both attempts of a repeated course. The original grade and repeated grade will be averaged together. Here are some guidelines:

- For the initial attempt of a repeated course, the grade entered into AMCAS/AADSAS must be the original grade earned before the course was repeated (even if the original grade has been removed from the transcript or GPA).
- Be certain to designate both attempts of the course as “Repeat” (there is a checkbox for repeat at the bottom of the screen).
- You have an ethical obligation to enter the original grade for all repeated courses.

I earned my Bachelor’s degree in 3 years. How do I assign statuses to my coursework?
Assign Freshman (FR), Sophomore (SO), and Senior (SR) status to your courses (skip Junior).

I took a course at another university, but did not transfer the course credit to JHU. Do I need to enter that course into my AMCAS/AADSAS application and submit a transcript for that university?
Yes. You must enter every course you have attempted, even if no JHU credits were earned, and you must request a transcript from that college or university.

While in high school, I took courses at a community college. Are these courses considered high school status or college status?
Assign high school status to college-level courses taken while you were in high school.

I have transfer credit from another university on my JHU transcript but the course listing appears differently on each transcript. How should I list these courses on my AMCAS/AADSAS application?
Enter the courses on your AMCAS/AADSAS application as they appear on the transcript from the school where you originally attempted the courses, not as they appear on your JHU transcript. List courses under the school at which you originally took the courses and do not list them twice.

How should I enter classes or lessons taken at Peabody if I am not a Peabody student? Courses taken at Peabody can be listed as if you took them at Homewood since they are listed that way on your Hopkins transcript.

When entering coursework and choosing an academic term, which “system” should I choose?
For the majority of colleges and universities, you can look at the back of your official transcript to see the particular system by which the institution operates. If you are unsure, you can contact the Registrar’s Office or an AMCAS Applicant Relations Specialist at 202-828-0600. In addition, it will not negatively affect your application if you choose the incorrect system.
**FAQs: AMCAS & AADSAS Experiences**

This section should be relatively straightforward in light of completing your HPCA.

*What “Experience Type” should I select?*
Experience options on the application are similar to those on the HPCA. Choose the experience types that most closely approximate your situation. In cases where more than one option may be chosen, use your best judgment; there isn’t a right or wrong answer to which experience type you choose.

*How should I name my experiences?*
Give each experience a descriptive, detailed, and logical name. It’s always a good idea to provide more information as opposed to less information. The AMCAS Instruction Manual has some general guidelines for naming your experiences.

*How should I select and approach writing about my “most meaningful” experiences?*
You can choose up to three experiences that have been the most meaningful to you. Admissions committees are going to pay special attention to these experiences. Once you choose an experience as “most meaningful,” you will have space to write 1325 additional characters to summarize why you selected the experience as such.

*In what order should I list my experiences?*
It doesn’t matter since AMCAS automatically sorts the entries by date initiated.

*What if I don’t know who to put for “Contact Name & Title” for one of my experiences?*
You must list someone, so use your best judgment for both the HPCA and AMCAS applications.

*I was elected to a leadership position that I will hold during the upcoming academic year. Can I include this position on my AMCAS/AADSAS application, even though I will not technically hold the position until after I have submitted my application?*
You may include positions for which you have already been elected to if your responsibilities begin before you submit your AMCAS/AADSAS application.

*Should I include upcoming summer experiences if I begin them after I submit my application?*
No. Only include current or past experiences, not future experiences that have not yet begun.

*I have experiences that are significant to me but that are not “medically/dental related.” Should I include them?*
Yes. If the experiences are significant to you and if you invested a notable amount of time in them, you should include them on your AMCAS application. For instance, if you have studied an instrument or played a sport for several years, you may wish to include this in the Work and Activities section, even if you pursue that interest informally.

*How much detail should I include in the descriptions?*
It is very important that you complete your experience descriptions with the assumption that the reader has no knowledge of the organization or activity in which you participated. The suggested format is to:
- describe the nature of the organization or experience,
- describe what you did or accomplished, and
- describe what you learned.
Do you have any other tips in completing this section?

- Quality is more important than quantity.

- Remember that each experience you list is "up for grabs" if you are invited to interview -- you might be asked anything about it, and places where you may have embellished beyond your actual participation will become painfully obvious.

- Be sure that you’re proof-reading, and having someone else double-proof, all of your text. Print out the section when it’s complete and go over it carefully!

- High school activities should only be included if they were very important/significant and show continuity into college activities.

- Brevity and conciseness are preferred, but you also want to expand on what you gained from each experience.

- If you list a publication, make sure it's been accepted for publication and cite it properly. If the paper is just being "prepared for submission" or "submitted," include this fact as part of the research description.

- If you participated in a student group and then moved into a leadership position, note that in the description and label it as “Leadership.”

- The majority of honors can be listed under one experience description. If you made Dean's list (or any type of honor like that) for more than one semester, use the description area to list the other semesters.

- If you received any scholarship, fellowship or other honor that is not nationally recognizable, describe it briefly.

- You can creatively combine activities if you want to include more and are running out of space – work with your advisor to brainstorm good activities to combine.

- If you won an award, provide the granting organization, the basis on which you were selected for the award, and some measure of the award’s competitiveness. Remember, you want to provide medical/dental school admissions committees with plenty of data on which to evaluate you as a candidate.

**AMCAS & AADSAS Letters of Evaluation/Recommendation**

*Guide 2: Letters of Recommendation and veCollect Letter System* details how to obtain and process your individual letters of recommendation. However, the instructions below review how to list recommendations on the AMCAS application.
If you are utilizing the Committee Process at Johns Hopkins University and therefore have a Committee Letter written by the Pre-Professional Office, list “Dr. David Verrier” as your only letter of evaluation when you complete the Letters of Evaluation section of the AMCAS application. The Pre-Prof. office compiles your Committee Letter and your individual letters of recommendation into one PDF. That will be your entire Committee package!

This process will generate a single AMCAS Letter Request Form that will list Dr. Verrier’s name and have your AMCAS letter ID. You will be submitting this form to the Pre-Professional Office and it will accompany your Committee letter and your individual letters of recommendation (your “Committee packet”) to be uploaded to medical schools.

Here is the information you will be entering into the AMCAS Letters of Evaluation section:
(This will make more sense when you are working on the AMCAS application and get to this section.)

Add a letter of evaluation /recommendation:
Letter Title: JHU Committee Letter
Institution Name: Johns Hopkins University
Primary Contact Information:
Prefix: Dr.
First Name: David
Last Name: Verrier
Title: Director, Pre-Professional Programs and Advising
Email: dverrie1@jhu.edu
Phone: 410-516-4140
Organization Name: Johns Hopkins University
Address: 3400 N. Charles Street
Country: United States
State: Maryland
City: Baltimore
Postal Code: 21218
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When you submit your AMCAS application, you will receive an email like the one below:

-----Original Message-----
From: amcas@aamc.org [mailto:amcas@aamc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2014 5:01 AM
To: FIRST.LAST@gmail.com
Subject: AMCAS Letter Status Notification

Name: FIRST.LAST
AAMC ID#: ############
AMCAS Application Year: 2015

According to our records, you have applied to at least one school participating in the AMCAS Letters Service. These schools receive letters of evaluation/recommendation via AMCAS. Letters will not be sent to medical schools until all of the following occur: 1) the application is processed; 2) the letter is in received status; and 3) the letter is assigned to the medical school where you would like it to be delivered.

Please be aware that your processed application will be sent to your designated medical schools even if your letters have not been received by AMCAS.

Following is a summary of the letters that you have entered on your AMCAS application and the statuses of the letters:

1. Author Name: Dr. David Verrier
   Author Institution: Johns Hopkins University
   Status: Not Received

***Checking the Status of your application***
You may check the status of your application throughout the admissions process by returning to your application. Your application’s Welcome page is dynamic, meaning that it provides information specific to your application, including processing status and letter receipt status.

When you receive the above email from AMCAS, please DO NOT contact us regarding the “letter receipt status.” We will be doing all we can to process your Committee packet (your Committee Letter plus individual letters of rec.) in a timely manner.
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**For Dental Applicants:**
If you are utilizing the Committee Process at Johns Hopkins University and (will) have a Committee Letter written by the Pre-Professional Office opt for the electronic Letter of Evaluation (LOE) request when completing the AADSAS application. When completing the request, use the Dental School Advisor’s contact information:

Ana L. Droskoski, J.D.
Associate Director & Pre-Dental Student Advisor
Office of Pre-Professional Programs & Advising
Johns Hopkins University
Garland Hall Suite 300
3400 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218
Tel: 410.516.4140
Fax: 410.516.4040
email: adrosco1@jhu.edu

The earliest date that medical schools actually begin receiving AMCAS/AADSAS applications is late June. The earliest date that the Pre-Prof. Office begins uploading Committee Packets is mid-July.

**PLEASE NOTE:** the submission of your AMCAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS application is not associated or connected with the uploading of your Committee Packet by the Pre-Prof. Office. These are two separate processes. You take care of your application, and we will take care of your Committee Letter.

What if I ask for a letter to be uploaded at a later point in the process?
The Pre-Prof. Office uploads your Committee Letter (with your initial set of individual recommendations) to your medical schools. Following that initial upload, this office does not upload individual letters of recommendation. If the situation arises where you would like an additional letter uploaded to either all of your schools, a subset, or a single school, you will do so by using the AMCAS Letter Service. The instructions for utilizing the AMCAS Letter Service can be found in the AMCAS Instruction Manual. You will need to pay special attention to the “Letters FAQ” and instructions for the “Letter Writer Application.” For those applying to dental school, your Committee Letter will be uploaded directly to AADSAS. If you apply to one of the few dental schools that do not utilize AADSAS, the Pre-Prof Office will send your Committee Letter directly to the individual dental school, as requested in writing.

What if I am applying to a medical school that does not utilize the AMCAS Letter Service?
This is not a problem. A very small number of medical schools do not participate in the AMCAS Letter Service. These schools are still uploaded through the Pre-Prof. Office. However, in such cases, your Committee “Packet” is uploaded directly and not through AMCAS. For questions about this situation, please contact Mrs. Krause (ckrause@jhu.edu) or Mrs. Sanders (ladytee@jhu.edu).
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**Personal Statement**

The Personal Statement is your opportunity to describe who you are, why you are uniquely qualified for a career in the health professions (beyond GPA and standardized test results), and perspectives on your motivations, influences, and experiences that have informed your decision making. Most importantly, it is your opportunity to leave the reader with a message or theme that symbolizes a key aspect of your candidacy. The personal statement plays a significant role in determining who gets an interview, and you can greatly improve your chances by submitting a well-written and interesting essay.

To assist you with the technical aspects of your essay, we recommend you schedule an appointment with The Writing Center. To schedule an appointment please visit the Writing Center web site and click on the "Make an Appointment" link at: [http://krieger.jhu.edu/writingcenter/](http://krieger.jhu.edu/writingcenter/)

The Pre-Prof. Office sponsors personal statement workshops during the spring semester. You can receive general feedback on your personal statement — specifically on the suitability of the theme -- by scheduling an appointment with any of the advisors in Pre-Professional Programs and Advising.

Please refer to the Pre-Professional website for additional information and details on how to write a personal statement. [http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/health/Applicants/personal.html](http://web.jhu.edu/prepro/health/Applicants/personal.html).

**Miscellaneous Questions**

**Does it really matter when I submit my primary application?**
Yes. The Pre-Prof advisors often talk about the benefit of applying early in the med school cycle. We define “early” as anytime in June because it allows you to potentially finish your secondary applications in August, which in turn increases your chances for an early fall interview. But please understand that it won’t be considered “late” if you submit your application in July—it’s more important to submit a thorough, error-free application in July than a rushed, mistake-ridden application in June.

Each school has its own application deadline, but we hope that you submit your materials well before those dates. The specific application deadlines for each school can be found here: [https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas/faqs/147932/finishing_shared_5.1.html](https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas/faqs/147932/finishing_shared_5.1.html)

**When entering a school ID, can I use my badge ID number or the Hopkins ID (the one that is listed on ISIS)?**
You should be using the ID # that appears on your transcript. The ID # is to help AMCAS match your school’s transcript with the application. This is especially important for students who have more than one school submitting transcripts to AMCAS—each with different student ID #s.

**Is there anything special I need to do if I plan on applying to MD/PhD programs or other dual degree programs, such as MD/MPH?**
For MD/PhD programs, indicate the program type (MD or MD/PhD) on the AMCAS application. If you apply to a combination of MD and MD/PhD programs, you create only one quiver.

In the case of applying to any other MD dual degree program (such as MD/MPH or MD/MBA) you, again, create only one quiver. Typically you apply to these programs through the secondary application
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process. On the other hand sometimes you apply as a first year student, once you’re already accepted to the MD program. See each school for specific information regarding their application process.

**Resources**

We suggest all students applying to medical school register to use the *Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR)* or the *Osteopathic Medical College Information Book (CIB).*

- The **MSAR** is a top source for students applying to allopathic medical schools and includes information on application procedures and deadlines, MCAT and GPA data, medical school class profiles, costs and financial aid packages, and MD/PhD and other combined degrees. The **MSAR** can be purchased online from the Association of American Medical Colleges, [https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar/](https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar/).

- The **Osteopathic Medical College Information Book (CIB)** is a valuable resource for prospective applicants and students interested in learning about applying to osteopathic medical school. Updated admissions requirements, tuition, fees, deposits, important deadlines and special programs are included for each of the nation’s osteopathic medical colleges. To order the print edition of the publication, or to download an online version, visit the AACOM Bookstore: [http://www.aacom.org/resources/bookstore/cib/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.aacom.org/resources/bookstore/cib/Pages/default.aspx).

- Dental applicants are encouraged to buy the **ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools**, [http://www.adea.org/publications/Pages/OfficialGuide.aspx](http://www.adea.org/publications/Pages/OfficialGuide.aspx). Prospective applicants gain general information about each school's entrance requirements, application and selection processes, dental curriculum, special programs and services, costs, and financial aid.

**In Closing**

Navigating your way through academic requirements at Johns Hopkins is, in itself, a challenge that takes careful planning and great patience. If you are pursuing pre-medical or pre-dental requirements, the academic planning process requires precision, adaptability, and flexibility. Each student’s academic path is unique and the one you set for yourself should take into account your ability to handle multiple sciences, your emerging strengths as a student, and a timeline that is yours alone. Most of all, we encourage you to seek input from your advisors to make sense of your situation and to devise a plan that is appropriate for your emerging academic and professional goals.

**ADVISORS IN PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING**

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