GUIDE THREE

Applying to
Health Professions School

Johns Hopkins University
Guide Three: Applying to Health Professional Schools

The guidelines presented in this document provide important details for Johns Hopkins University students and alumni who intend to apply to allopathic (MD), osteopathic (DO) and dental (DDS, DMD) school. All of these programs expect to receive the Committee Letter provided by Johns Hopkins.

In general, reference in this guide to “medical school” refers to allopathic (MD), osteopathic (DO) and dental (DDS, DMD) schools. Details of the services we offer to applicants to other health professions schools, including veterinary medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, and others, are covered on the Pre-Professional website.

Focus of Guide Three

Guide Three: Applying to Health Professions School focuses on the process of applying to medical and dental schools, specifically the many details applicants should consider. 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 preparation that is essential for success in the process, review the Health Professions Committee Process.
- review the process of completing the professional school centralized application: AMCAS (for MD applications), AACOMAS (for DO applications), or AADSAS (for DDS/DMD applications).

Advice for successfully navigating the medical or dental school application process following the submission of your professional school application is covered in 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 as an office is to assist you to the best of our ability throughout the application process. Please remember, however, that we assist somewhere between 350 - 400 applicants per year and ask that you do your best to make sure your requests of our staff and Committee are reasonable.
The Office of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising utilizes the Blackboard system for disseminating information to and receiving information from applicants participating in the Health Professions 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 complete the application process. You will be able to track and account for all of your steps via an applicant checklist and monitor your submissions.

**Applicant Responsibilities**

In one word, **professionalism** is required through every stage 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 to help you remember the timelines and deadlines related to applying for your target programs.
- **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 during this time. It is important to read them carefully and save them for future reference.
- **Address all involved in the application process in a professional manner.** Pay special attention to how you introduce yourself, acknowledge others, and follow-up from a correspondence or interaction. Always express appreciation for the support others provide on your behalf (for example, thank the writers of your letters of evaluation!).
- **Establish good verbal and non-verbal communication.** Make sure you establish eye contact, shake hands, verbally express your gratitude, and send thank you notes when appropriate.

**What Can I Expect of My Pre-Professional Advisors?**

First and foremost, the role of a pre-professional advisor is to advise and support you through the application process. Part of this responsibility, however, is to provide a realistic assessment of your readiness as an applicant. 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, though we advise and support you as an applicant, the final decision of when you apply is all yours. We do not block any applications to medical or dental schools, even if the applicant has chosen to apply against our advisement.
We will assist you in the application process by providing up-to-date and relevant information, assisting you with presenting the strongest application possible, and helping you make good decisions throughout the process.

**What are Medical/Dental Schools Looking for in Applicants?**

It is essential that you realistically assess your grades and test scores, the depth and relevance of your experiences, and evidence of the competencies deemed necessary in the medical profession. At a core level you must be able to articulate why you want to be a doctor.

As you review the components of an effective application, it is important that you critically assess your strengths and weaknesses and that you are applying from a position of relative strength. What makes you a compelling applicant? As a reminder, medical schools are considering several factors, including:

- Academic Achievement
- Performance on Standardized Entrance Exams (MCAT or DAT)
- Research and/or Scholarly Inquiry
- Medically-Related Clinical Experience
- Community and Public Service
- Additional Activities
- Letters of Evaluation
- Evidence of Competencies (see below)

| Competencies | 
|----------------|------------------|
| Competencies are the skills, knowledge, and abilities medical schools seek in applicants. The competencies outlined by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) are as follows: | 
| Pre-Professional Competencies | 
| - Service Orientation | 
| - Social Skills | 
| - Cultural Competence | 
| - Teamwork | 
| - Oral Communication | 
| - Ethical Responsibility to Self and Others | 
| - Reliability and Dependability | 
| - Resilience and Adaptability | 
| - Capacity for Improvement | 
| Thinking and Reasoning Competencies | 
| - Critical Thinking | 
| - Quantitative Reasoning | 
| - Scientific Inquiry | 
| - Written Communication | 
| Science Competencies | 
| - Living Systems | 
| - Human Behavior |
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 the time of your application.

The three main timeframes are:

- Applying junior year and entering medical school the fall after graduating from JHU
- Applying senior year, taking a bridge year, and entering medical school the following fall
- Applying after several years of work/other experience

Regardless of when you apply to medical or dental school, consider these factors:

The fall before you apply:
- Create a veCollect account and begin asking for letters of evaluation.
- View the recording of the Applicant Information Session (available in late November.)

The winter/spring of the year you apply:
- Request your Blackboard account, submit materials, and read all announcements from the Pre-Professional Office.
- Prepare the Health Professions Committee Application (HPCA).
- Submit the HPCA by the 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) become available online. These are your primary centralized applications to medical school.

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

Mid-summer through December:
- You will begin to receive 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 of the following year:
- Interviews end.

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

What are the Implications of a Gap/Bridge Year?

There are several reasons to delay your application until senior year or beyond. We have had many Hopkins alumni choose to pursue research or a master’s degree during their bridge year(s), or engage in opportunities such as AmeriCorps, Teach for America, City Year, a Fulbright, etc. **Medical schools value the maturity and life experience gained after graduation**, and choosing a bridge year may ultimately make you a more competitive applicant. In fact, the most recent data for JHU shows more than 80% of our applicants have taken at least one gap year.

For more information about how to approach a gap year, visit: http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/pre-medhealth/after-graduation/.

When Should You Apply?

You should apply to medical or dental 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 apply at your strongest. Here are some good reasons to delay applying:

- **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 at least 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.

- **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 so that your senior year grades can be included in your application. If you are a senior, you may want to consider academic record enhancer postbac programs or to complete additional science coursework to enhance your GPA before applying.

- **Your letters of evaluation (LOEs) will not be sufficiently strong.** It is absolutely critical that you feel that your LOEs 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 difficult to get to know your professors. If you do not have solid relationships with at least a few faculty members going into your 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 evaluations.

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

- **You are attempting to balance competing priorities.** You have essays to write, letters of evaluations to gather, standardized tests to study for, schools to research, as well as the rest of the challenges of real life, and figuring out what to do this summer. If you can’t sufficient time 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 actually applying next year.

- **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

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clinical and/or volunteer experiences, it is important that you speak with an advisor in the Pre-Professional Office.

**Are you READY to apply?**

It is important to assess your profile as a future applicant. Consider these questions:

- Have you met with a Pre-Professional advisor?
- Are your metrics (undergrad GPA, BCPM GPA, test scores) sufficiently strong?
- Have you engaged in compelling medically-related clinical experiences?
- Will you be able to share “clinical” interactions and express your ability and passion for clinical care?
- Do you have experience relating to others from significantly different backgrounds and life circumstances?
- Are you on track to assemble a sufficient number of quality evaluations by June?

**The bottom line:** Are you applying at your strongest?

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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.

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**Fee waivers** are available for both the MCAT and DAT and each of the centralized application services. Any applicant who qualifies for the Fee Assistance Program (FAP) automatically qualifies for an HPCA fee waiver through the Pre-Professional 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 application processing fee, please make an appointment to speak to Ms. Johnson, our director.
When should I take the MCAT or the DAT?
Optimally, you will take an entrance exam prior to completing your HPCA and beginning the application process. If you are taking a gap/bridge year, optimal timing can be late in the summer between the junior and senior year. Some applicants choose to take the January test prior to submitting a primary application that summer. Ideally, you should have your entrance exam score prior to applying to medical or dental school.

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 provides you with copious review materials and practice exams, as well as a structured classroom and study schedule. However, the monetary price can be quite 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 a tremendous amount of self-discipline. If you opt for self-study, consider forming a study group, making sure your study partners are self-motivated, reliable, and dedicated. The AAMC has prepared some worthwhile self-study resources.

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?
Keep in mind that your ultimate goal should be to take the test a single time. These tests are not 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 average for medical or dental schools of interest to you, then you should consider re-taking the test. Only re-take the test when you have done additional preparation and you have proven to yourself in practice tests that you can earn a higher score. Schools vary in how they consider multiple test scores; regardless, you can assume they will see every score from all tests you have taken.

We advise you to consult with a Pre-Professional advisor about your decision to re-take your MCAT or DAT, and the appropriate timeline to retake if you find yourself in that situation.

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.
Should I re-take the MCAT or DAT if I have a solid overall score but a low score in one section?
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. If one section is significantly lower than the others, speak with a Pre-Professional advisor about whether it makes sense to re-take the exam 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 or poor grades. Standardized test scores are only one metric that health professions schools evaluate. Remember that your academic record and MCAT or DAT score are just one part of many components necessary for 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 primary 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 test 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 again in the summer, you will need to indicate the date of your future MCAT/DAT in your primary application. When the schools review your application, they will see a future test date and will delay the review of 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 evaluation are received.

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 JHU Committee Process

The Committee Process refers to the procedures required by Johns Hopkins University and the Office of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising in order to obtain a Committee Letter. 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
- Letters of Evaluation and evCollect
- How and When Committee Letters are Transmitted to Medical/Dental Schools

Overview of Health Professions Committee Process

OVERVIEW: The Health Professions Committee Process refers to the steps required for obtaining a Committee Letter of Evaluation from Johns Hopkins University. Applicants to medical school must complete the Health Professions Committee Application (HPCA), providing information that is vital to the writing of the Committee Letter of Evaluation. Each applicant is then discussed and evaluated by a committee and the strengths and attributes of each applicant are summarized in the Committee Letter. The individual letters of recommendation collected from faculty, supervisors, research PIs, etc., are then attached to the Committee Letter and that packet is forwarded to medical and dental schools.

The Health Professions Committee Application (HPCA)

The first step in the committee process is the completion of the Health Professions Committee Application (HPCA). The HPCA is the online application to obtain a Johns Hopkins Committee Letter of Evaluation. It collects demographic information, academic record, and co-curricular experiences (research, medically-related clinical experience, community service, employment, etc.). The HPCA mirrors the AMCAS application in that much of the information that you are asked to provide is the same (or very similar) to the information you will enter into the AMCAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS applications.

The Committee Letter

The information collected in the HPCA is referenced in the writing of your Johns Hopkins Committee Letter, which is a two to three single-spaced narrative evaluation of your medical (or dental) school candidacy.
The Committee Letter is divided into the following sections:

- Candidate Overview
- Academics
- Research and Inquiry
- Clinically-Related Experience
- Community and Public Service
- Dentistry-Related Experience & Evidence of Manual Dexterity (dental applicants only)
- Additional Experience
- Competencies.

Letters of Evaluation and veCollect

Letters of evaluation 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 evaluations through our online letter of evaluation system called veCollect. An overview of how to obtain letters of evaluation and a description of the veCollect letter system are covered in Guide Two: Letters of Evaluation and the veCollect Letter System.

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” in veCollect, one for MD schools and the other for DO schools. (NOTE: Quivers are described in Guide Two.)

How/When Committee Letters Are Transmitted to Medical/Dental Schools

Applicants often wonder when the Committee Packet (Committee Letter and individual letters of evaluation) will be uploaded to medical/dental schools. 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 submission of your AMCAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS application, early submission of the Committee Packet by the Pre-Professional Office is not necessary. The Pre-Professional Office begins uploading Committee Packets to medical and dental schools in mid-July, and the process continues into August (and even into the fall for some applicants).
The Medical/Dental School Application Process

The process of applying to medical and dental school involves the submission of primary (AMCAS, AACOMAS, AADSAS) and secondary (school-specific) applications. 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
- 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) – MD programs; MD/PhD programs
2) American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS) – DO programs
3) Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS) – dental programs
4) Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Services (TMDSAS)

You can—and should—submit your primary applications to these application services even if your Committee Letter, MCAT score, or letters of evaluation are not yet complete.

It’s advantageous to submit your primary applications early, even if other materials are not yet ready.
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.

To how many schools should I apply?
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 accept less than 15% of their class 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 as your choice of residence.
- 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.

**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-Professional website, [http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/pre-medhealth/applicants/special-applicant-groups/texas-applicants/](http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/pre-medhealth/applicants/special-applicant-groups/texas-applicants/).
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 should 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 in knowing which medical schools have combined degree programs (e.g., MD/PhD; MD/MPH), consult the MSAR.

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 to 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 in 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. Will 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.

**What if I choose to apply to additional medical/dental schools after submitting my primary application?**
Please review the AMCAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS applicant guides and instruction manuals for details on applying to additional schools after submitting your initial application. In addition, you must send an email to your administrative coordinator in the Pre-Professional Office, indicating the schools you added, so that they can upload your Committee Letter and letters of evaluation 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. 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 simply indicate the program type (MD or MD/PhD) in the AMCAS application. If you apply to a combination of MD and MD/PhD programs, you create only one quiver in veCollect. 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 in the secondary application. However, sometimes you will apply for these combined degree programs as a first year medical student. Research each school for specific information regarding their application process for combined degree programs.

**FAQs: Transcripts**

**How should I request a transcript from the Registrar?**
When requesting transcripts, please follow the instructions noted in the AMCAS Applicant Guide, the ADEA website, and through the JHU Registrar’s Office.

**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 centralized application service (AMCAS, AACOMAS, AADSAS) and your primary application will list all of your college coursework, not just courses you completed at JHU.

**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 created my quiver in veCollect?**
Yes. Your AMCAS application is completely separate from veCollect.

**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 applicant guides and instruction manuals. 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.)

**Do I list AP coursework from high school on my application?**
According to the AMCAS Applicant Guide, “To claim AP credit, the credit hours must be listed on your transcript. AP courses should be entered under the term in which the college credit was initially granted. If no term is designated, include these credits with freshman coursework (FR).”

In addition, if your transcript gives credit for the class but says labs are waived, ie: BIOL Biology (Labs I and II waived), your AMCAS application should indicated this as “lecture only” because you’re only getting credit for the courses, not the labs. Please review the AMCAS, AACOMAS or AADSAS applicant guides and instruction manuals for more information.
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 Applicant Guide 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 Applicant Guide 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 Applicant Guide has a list of suggested courses for each category, which is also 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 Applicant Guide 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.

**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 received a master’s degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Since they use the quarter system, how do the AMCAS quarters match up with the Bloomberg quarters?**
Summer quarter = summer
First quarter = fall
Second quarter = winter
Third quarter = spring

**I repeated a course while at Johns Hopkins, what do I do?**
On your application, you must enter the original grade and the repeated grade. Here are some guidelines:
- 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

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 for 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 Applicant Guide 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/AACOMAS/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 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 subject to discussion 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.
- Proofread, and have someone else proofread as well. 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 thoroughly explain 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.

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**

**IMPORTANT for AMCAS:** If utilizing the Committee Process at Johns Hopkins University with a Committee Letter written by the Pre-Professional Office, list “Ms. Kelli Johnson” as your only letter of evaluation when you complete the Letters of Evaluation section of the AMCAS application. By entering Ms. Johnson’s name, a single **AMCAS Letter Request Form** will be generated that will provide your AMCAS letter ID. You will submit this form to the Pre-Professional Office and it will be the cover sheet for your Committee Letter and your individual letters of evaluation (your “Committee packet”), which will then be uploaded to medical schools.

Enter this information 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:**

- **Letter Title:** JHU Committee Letter
- **Primary Contact’s Prefix:** Ms.
- **Primary Contact’s First Name:** Kelli
- **Primary Contact’s Last Name:** Johnson
- **Primary Contact’s Title:** Director, Pre-Professional Programs and Advising
- **Primary Contact’s Email:** preprofessional@jhu.edu
- **Primary Contact’s Phone:** 410-516-4140
- **Organization Name:** Johns Hopkins University
- **Address:** 3400 N. Charles Street
- **Country:** United States
- **State:** Maryland
- **City:** Baltimore
- **Postal Code:** 21218
When you submit your AMCAS application, you will receive an email similar to this:

-----Original Message-----
From: amcas@aamc.org [mailto:amcas@aamc.org]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2018 5:01 PM
To: FIRST.LAST@gmail.com
Subject: AMCAS Letter Status Notification

Name: FIRST.LAST
AAMC ID#: ########
AMCAS Application Year: 2019

According to our records, you have applied to at least one school participating in the AMCAS Letters Service. These schools receive letters of evaluation 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: Ms. Kelli Johnson
   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 in a timely manner.

**For Dental Applicants:**
**IMPORTANT:** If you are utilizing the Committee Process 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 Pre-Dental Advisor’s contact information:
The earliest date that medical schools actually begin receiving AMCAS/AADSAS applications is late June. The earliest date that the Pre-Professional Office begins uploading Committee Packets is mid-July.

PLEASE NOTE: the submission of your primary application is not associated or connected with the uploading of your Committee Packet by the Pre-Professional 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?
Following the initial upload of your Committee packet, the Pre-Professional Office does not continue to upload individual letters of evaluation. 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 Applicant Guide. 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-Professional Office will send your Committee Letter directly to the individual dental school, as requested in writing to the Pre-Professional Office (preprofessional@jhu.edu).

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 AMCAS. The Pre-Professional Office will still take care of transmitting your letter to these non-participating schools. However, in such cases, your Committee Packet is sent directly to the school and not through AMCAS. For questions about this situation, please contact Mrs. Krause (ckrause@jhu.edu) or Mrs. Sanders (ladytee@jhu.edu).
Personal Statement

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/

The Pre-Professional Office can provide general feedback on your personal statement—specifically on the suitability of the theme. You may schedule an appointment with any of the pre-professional advisors to discuss your personal statement. Due to the high volume of writing Committee Letters, we can only read personal statements until June 1.

Please refer to the Pre-Professional website for additional information and tips for writing an effective personal statement. http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/pre-medhealth/applicants/personal-statement/

Miscellaneous Questions

Does it really matter when I submit my primary application?
Yes. The Pre-Professional advisors often talk about the benefit of applying early in the application 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://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/faq/amcas-faq/#

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 transcript with your application. This is especially important for students who are submitting transcripts from more than one school to AMCAS—each with different student ID #s.

How do medical schools know that a student is a re-applicant? Is my reapplicant status indicated in AMCAS?
When making medical school designations in AMCAS, applicants are asked whether they’ve applied to each school or program in a previous application year, which is how medical schools are notified that a person is reapplying to their program. AMCAS considers someone a reapplicant if they have a verified AMCAS application from a previous year that was sent to medical schools. If a student withdraws their application through AMCAS before it is sent to medical schools, they will not be considered a reapplicant. Reapplicant status does not depend on secondary application submission in previous years.
Do schools know where a student originally applied?
Medical schools cannot see the names or number of other schools that an applicant applied to during either the current application year or in previous application years. Schools can see where applicants have previously been offered acceptance via the National Acceptance Report, which is published by AMCAS, but they can never see information about schools applicants where the applicant applied.

Resources

- The *MSAR* is the primary resource 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/news-and-events/publications/2018-cib](http://www.aacom.org/news-and-events/publications/2018-cib).

- 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 will learn 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 completing 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

Kelli Johnson, J.D., Director, kelli.johnson@jhu.edu
Ana Droscoski, J.D., Associate Director, adrosco1@jhu.edu
Shannon Jensen, M.A., Assistant Director, sjense14@jhu.edu
Ellen Snydman, M.S., Assistant Director, esnydma1@jhu.edu

Support Staff
Angie Decker, Office Manager, decker@jhu.edu
Carolyn Mae Krause, A.A., Administrative Coordinator, ckrause@jhu.edu (Alpha A-L)
LaTonia Sanders, Administrative Coordinator, ladytee@jhu.edu (Alpha M-Z)