



EY2026 Health Professions Application (HPA) FAQs

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General HPA FAQs:

What resources are available for help in putting together the HPA?

Pre-Professional Advising (PPA) will be offering HPA Q&A sessions in March (be on the lookout for emails and/or check the [pre-prof calendar](#)). Applicants may also ask HPA questions during individual advising appointments and drop-in advising. Although we are unable to review full drafts of your HPA, we can discuss one or two of your "Work and Activities" entries and general essay themes. We also will be hosting a personal statement workshop and building a school list workshop in the spring semester as well.

How do I calculate my BCM GPA?

Check out [this page](#) on our website on how to do this.



Candidate Essays

Can I repeat some of my experiences when answering HPA essays?

We know you'll write about certain experiences multiple times, but keep these pointers in mind:

- If you are writing about the same experience(s) multiple times in different essays, do not cut and paste from one section of the HPA to the next; write about different perspectives or find other ways to write about the same experiences.
- You want to present a cohesive application that shares your narrative as an applicant, but you also want to demonstrate that you have diversity among your experiences. You want to find balance in your application; you want to write about themes within your experiences, and yet, you want to demonstrate you are not one-dimensional.

Are the candidate essays the same as my personal statement?

You will likely use some components of your HPA essays to write your personal statement. Hopefully, the HPA will help you get your thoughts organized and serve as a launching point for your personal statement. But we don't want or expect your essays to read in the same manner as your personal statement. Also, these essays are much shorter than your personal statement essay will be.

Should I answer the "optional" essays?

"Optional" essays are truly optional; please do not feel you must complete the essay unless you have compelling information to share.



Letters Of Recommendation

Why is the "Tentative Letters of Recommendation" section; under the HPA greyed out and says, "Cannot be started at this time"? If I want to start inputting my letter writers into the system, how would I do that?

Have you completed the prior sections of the HPA (Intro and applicant info & academic background)? You must complete the prior two sections before the "Tentative Letters of Recommendation" section is unlocked. Also, after you complete the "Tentative Letters of Recommendation" section then the 'Pre-Prof HPA LoR & Materials' section will open where you can request your LORs.

Do I need to have my letters of recommendation submitted by the time I submit my HPA?

No. Your individual letters of evaluation/recommendation DO NOT need to be submitted before your HPA submission. Similarly, your individual letters of evaluation/recommendation DO NOT need to be submitted before submitting your primary application(s).

What are the deadlines for the Letters of Recommendation?

The deadline to submit your Health Professions Advising (HPA) with tentative recommendations is March 30th. The final recommendation letters, however, have a deadline of July 30th to be uploaded to SMA.

We recommend discussing a deadline with your letter writers that suits both your timeline and their availability. It's a good idea to set a date earlier than the official deadline to ensure ample time for submission. Consider factors like your relationship with the letter writer, their schedule, and when you would feel most comfortable having the letters in.

For instance, alumni might prefer an earlier deadline, such as May, while juniors and seniors might aim for the end of June or mid-July. We emphasize respecting your letter



writer's time and suggest giving them at least one month for submission, not less than two weeks. More information about how to ask for a letter can be found in [Guide Two](#).

How do I send letter requests to my identified letter writers?

Please follow the steps in the LoR process document to request individual letters from your identified letter writers. Click [HERE](#).

How do I determine which course/JHU Professor would be considered a science or non-science letter?

To determine which LoR will fulfill the CL letter requirement of science & engineering vs. non-science, please use the academic areas provided with the course on SIS to help you confirm which letter will be considered science or non-science.

The academic areas in the Hopkins curriculum are as follows and information can be found [here](#):

Humanities (H), natural sciences (N), social and behavioral sciences (S), quantitative and mathematical sciences (Q), and engineering (E).

Science LoR– courses designated N, Q, E

Non-Science – courses designated H, S



Work and Activities

How should I name my experiences?

Give each experience a descriptive, detailed, and accurate name. It's always a good idea to provide more information as opposed to less information (i.e. Role(s) held, name of organization/entity, etc.)

How should I classify an experience that crosses multiple categories?

It is up to you to decide what would be the most appropriate way to categorize your activities. One factor to consider is your primary role in that experience. You may also, consider balance among your experience types.

What if I have more than 15 experiences that I would like to include?

In that situation, you will likely have to consolidate your experiences to get to 15 maximum for AMCAS (other health professions differ in their max amounts). There is no right or wrong way to do so - just make sure that the way in which you group or consolidate experiences shows a clear connection. (For example, honors and awards may be consolidated into one entry. Also, multiple shadowing opportunities can be consolidated into one entry)

How can I include multiple short shadowing experiences?

If you choose to consolidate several shadowing experiences into one experience, please keep in mind that you will need one contact person for this entry. Total hours from all experiences to put in the total hours of the experience. This will likely be a physician or dentist you shadowed the most, or is most aware of your other experiences, or a physician or dentist who knows you better than the other health professionals you shadowed. Remember to ask your contact person if you may list his/her information in your application.



How should I include publications or presentations/posters in my application?

You can choose to include them under a "Research" experience if you have the writing space to do so (for example, if the research experience is "most meaningful.") However, many applicants list publications and presentations/posters separately from their research. If needed, you may also consolidate several presentations/posters and publications into one experience.

I have experiences that are significant to me but that are not "medical/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 in your HPA. 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.

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 HPA and your primary application. If a contact is not known, you may enter the name of a person who can verify your participation; in some cases (such as hobbies), you might need to list yourself.



Institutional Action

All applicants to Health Professions School from Johns Hopkins University – whether first-time or reapplicants – must respond fully to all questions regarding institutional action.

Do I have to mention an institutional action that does not appear on my record?

Centralized application services like AMCAS, AADSAS, TMDSAS, AACOMAS, etc., do not limit "institutional action" to only those academic or conduct violations on file with the Johns Hopkins Office of the Dean of Student Life. For example, AMCAS state, *"You must answer 'Yes' even if the action does not appear on or has been deleted from your official transcripts due to institutional policy or personal petition."*

The Office of Pre-Professional Advising advises applicants to disclose any institutional action taken against them, whether or not it is of record with the University. It is important to note that a single, isolated, relatively minor situation will rarely keep an applicant from being considered for admission -- but failure to disclose an incident might negatively impact the application.

How should I write about my institutional action?

If you have an institutional action, you will need to explain the situation in your primary application. The explanation should include:

1. A brief description of the incident
2. The specific charge(s) made
3. The disciplinary or institutional action taken
4. Your reflections on what you learned because of this experience
5. Consider how the experience has impacted your character, your ethical/moral development, and/or your career goals.

Pre-Professional advisors are available to help you draft the explanation of your institutional action. You are advised to consult with an advisor in the Office of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising as you prepare your statement.