

Professional School Timeline for Juniors & Seniors

Junior Year

Fall of Junior Year

- Start studying for professional tests like MCAT, DAT or PCAT. This is a high stakes exam that you must really prepare for to do well.
- Timing is an important factor with these professional tests. The field of applicants grows more crowded as the admissions season advances. Therefore, the earlier you sit for the test, the better off you'll be. Even if you complete the remainder of your application early, the vast majority of medical schools will not closely consider your candidacy until they have a copy of your test scores.
- Guess what? Testing Services, the other half of the Tutoring and Testing Center, has a Lending Library available to all students who are preparing for their graduate school examinations....and it's all FREE
- Create a schedule and game plan for yourself including setting time aside to study for test, taking practice exams and how you will fit this into your current schedule.
- Meet with your Career Adviser to discuss the application process including developing a strategic timeline to finish all the components of the application process
- Meet with your Academic Adviser to ensure you are on track for graduation and have taken or are in good standing to complete all necessary courses for professional school.
- Become familiar with the entire application process.
 - *Medical:* <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/>
 - *Dental:* <https://portal.aadsasweb.org/>
 - *Pharmacy:* <http://www.pharmacas.org/>
 - *Optometry:* <http://www.optomcas.org/>
 - *Physical Therapy:* <http://www.ptcas.org/home.aspx>
 - *Occupational Therapy:* <https://portal.otcas.org/>

Late Winter/Early Spring of Junior Year

- Register for the MCAT at aamc.org or other application centralized systems shown above. Be prepared to pay a hefty fee.

Spring of Junior Year

- Take the necessary professional test. If you are dissatisfied with your score, register for the next exam (while there is still time) and create a plan to get the score you need. Additionally, you should start doing research to find schools that are a good fit for you. Visit potential schools and be sure to talk to students.
- Begin meeting with your Career Adviser to work on your personal statement and other aspects of the application including requesting letters of recommendation.
 - Your personal statement provides an avenue to discuss your passion for the field, future goals, stories that showcase your fit for the program and experiences that have prepared you for the rigors of the program.

Late Spring of Junior Year

- You'll need recommendations for your application. Identify and contact potential recommenders. It's not a bad idea to write a brief profile or bio about yourself to help them.
- Make sure your recommenders know the deadlines. (plug in link to request LOR) (link)
- Be prepared to provide your resume, personal statement or any other professional document that can help your recommender write a strong letter on your behalf.

Senior Year

Summer

- Retake professional entrance exams such as the MCAT and DAT, if necessary.
- You should also decide which are your chosen schools and complete the online application for your program through websites like AMCAS .
- If you apply through the early decision program (EDP), the deadline is August 1. Regular deadlines stretch between now and December—stay on top of them!
- Medical school interviews may begin as early as August but are usually in the Fall and continue into early Spring. Prepare for interviews by considering what you may be asked and determining your own questions.
- Meet with your career adviser to set up a mock interview to help prepare for specific questions and also try and visit studentdoctor.net which provides feedback from students who have gone through the interview process.

Fall of Senior Year

- If a professional school thinks you may be a viable candidate, they will at times send you their own secondary application. You'll have some essays to write. Give yourself enough time to revise and to allow someone else (a good writer) to read them.
 - Meet with your career adviser to work on these supplemental essays.
- Send thank you notes to your recommenders—it's the perfect way to gently remind them of upcoming deadlines.
- Prepare for interviews.

Winter/Spring of Senior Year

- Acceptances (and rejections) arrive. If you don't get in, reconsider your career options or prepare to apply again next year.
- Classes begin in August
- If you are not accepted to med school or your desired professional school, learn from your experience and consider your options and whether to apply again next year.
 - If planning to apply next year, make yourself a stronger candidate by engaging in health related opportunities such as an EMT or engage in high level research with faculty or other programs.