2016-2017 Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC) Evaluation

We offer the unique opportunity for Davidson College students to be evaluated by our Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC). This evaluation assesses each student with respect to their academic ability, commitment to medicine, and development of humane instincts and is based on information provided by the student, their transcripts, and letters of evaluation. The PAC uses a five-category ranking system and accordingly, each student is assigned one of the following rankings: outstanding, highly recommended, recommended with confidence, recommended, and not recommended. A student's PAC ranking denotes the Committee's appraisal of his/her overall preparedness to apply in the upcoming application cycle.

PAC Timeline & Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Target Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC) Forum</strong>, 8:00 pm,</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 21, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom 1062, Chambers Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAC Application - Student Profile, Personal Statement,</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday, November 1, 2016</strong></td>
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<td>Signed Transcript Request Form (Davidson), Transcript (other) DUE</td>
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<td>PAC Subcommittee Assignments</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 15, 2016</td>
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<td>Faculty/Other Letters of Recommendation &amp; Student Evaluation Forms</td>
<td>Friday, December 2, 2016</td>
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<td><strong>DUE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Premedical Director’s Dinner</strong> w/PAC Subcommittees, 5:30 pm,</td>
<td>Thursday, January 19, 2017</td>
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<td>Dupont Room, Vail Commons</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 24, 2017</td>
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<td><strong>See Upcoming Events Section For More Events</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, January 26, 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Workshops</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Personal Statement Writing Workshop – Session I</strong>, Paul Miller, Ph.D., Writing Center Director and Associate Professor of English, and N. Mamoon, Ph.D., Director, Pre-Medicine and Allied Health Professions Program, Davidson College, Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m., CHAMBERS - Classroom-1062. Hosted by Pre-Medicine and Allied Health Professions and the Prehealth Honor Society.</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 21, 2016 (Session I)</td>
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<td><strong>Personal Statement Writing Workshop – Session II</strong>, Draft reviews with Writing Center Tutors, Wednesday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m., CHAMBERS - Classroom-1003. Hosted by Pre-Medicine and Allied Health Professions and the Prehealth Honor Society.</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 5, 2016 (Session II)</td>
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<td>PAC Subcommittee Interviews</td>
<td>January-March</td>
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<td>PAC Evaluation Meetings</td>
<td>March - April</td>
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<td>PAC Student Evaluation Report</td>
<td>April – May</td>
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<td>2018 Cycle Application Opens</td>
<td>See Key Dates Section</td>
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Application Process:
Students should participate in the PAC process during their junior or senior year. The application process begins in the Fall semester with the **Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC) Forum**. During this information session, students learn more about the process and have the opportunity to ask questions about the application and PAC evaluation process.

**Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC) Forum**
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
8:00 pm, Classroom-1062, Chambers Building

Since the PAC bases its assessment on information supplied by the student, it is important that students submit a thorough and complete application. All student applications and supplemental materials are due by the end of business (5:00 pm) on **Tuesday, November 1, 2016**.

Student Evaluation Forms & Recommendation Letters:
A Student Evaluation Form should be distributed to each of your four (4) evaluators. A minimum of three evaluators must be Davidson faculty members with two from the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, neuroscience, physics & math). Your fourth evaluator may be a Davidson faculty/staff member or some other person who has knowledge of you through shadowing, volunteering or some special accomplishment (e.g., faculty research mentor, physician, dentist, research scientist, employer, coach). At least one letter should be from a mentor in your profession of interest. It is recommended that you request a minimum of four and a maximum of six letters of evaluation. All recommendation letters are seen not only by the Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC) but also by admissions committees of your selected medical/dental schools. The evaluators/letter writers are your emissaries. It is important that evaluators not only check the boxes on the form, but also provide a written evaluation. I encourage you to share the AAMC Guideline for letter writers (attached) with those who will be writing on your behalf.

Personal Statement:
Prepare an essay (**maximum 5300 characters, spaces are counted as characters**) expressing your interest in a career in medicine/dentistry. Build your essay around pivotal events which led to your decision to become a physician. Don’t simply give a factual recitation of your life history but reflect on your experiences. Write and rewrite this essay, get critiques and be mindful of grammar and spelling. This essay is for Davidson use only. You will be required to write a personal statement when you apply to medical school. **Do not forget to include an addendum to your personal statement if you have not completed 75% of the premedical courses at Davidson.** Save the file separately as a Microsoft Word Document, using this file naming format “Personal Statement_Last Name, First Name”. Make sure to include your first and last name on the first page of your document.

Premedical Director’s Dinner:
This is a seated dinner in the DuPont Room, Vail Commons with your PAC subcommittee member and other students in your review group. This is an opportunity to ask questions about the evaluation process and your subcommittee chair will discuss a time for your interview. A student who has gone through PAC evaluation in the previous cycle will also be present at dinner to answer additional questions.
PAC Interviews:
There are several things you can do to prepare for this interview. First and foremost, know why you want to become a physician/dentist. Read about medical issues in the popular press and journals. Engage other premedical/dental students in discussions of these issues – practice helps. Hopefully, you have taken a course in medical ethics. If you have not, I encourage you to borrow a book on medical ethics from the Pre-med Program mini-library in Preyer. Participate in the AED practice interviews. It is a critical mistake to interview cold. Also, consider attending forums, seminars and events hosted by Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED), Vann Center for Ethics and the Health and Human Values Program. The Premedical Program hosts an Interview Skills Workshop in the spring, in partnership with the Center for Career Development, to help you prepare for medical/dental school admissions interviews. Review your student profile and personal statement before your PAC interview, dress professionally, and follow-up with a hand-written/mailed Thank You letter/card.

A video recording of last two years’ Interview Skills Workshop may be accessed at:
- Video 1: https://vimeo.com/118052869
- Video 2: https://vimeo.com/user37250198/review/161931921/39546856d1
- Video 3: https://vimeo.com/user37250198/review/161940836/59939e22a7

PAC Rankings:
The PAC uses a five-category ranking system in their evaluation. A student's assigned ranking denotes the Committee's assessment of his/her overall readiness for medical/dental school admission in the upcoming application cycle. Once your PAC Evaluation is complete you will receive an email asking you to schedule a meeting with the Premedical Program Director, Dr. Naila Mamoon. At this meeting you will receive your ranking as well as feedback on as identified by the Committee. This is also the opportunity to discuss to which medical/dental schools you would like to apply and receive information about the medical/dental school application process.

Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT):
This computerized test is offered many times during the calendar year by the Association of American Medical Colleges at various testing sites throughout the United States. For a listing of the dates, times, and locations of the exams, see www.aamc.org. Early registration is important.

You should have completed all basic science requirements before taking the MCAT (2 biology, 4 chemistry, and 2 physics courses). If you have not completed these requirements but are in the last semester of doing so, you probably have all the information needed for the test. Give the same time to this effort as you would to a Davidson course. Begin your study by examining the MCAT Student Manual and MCAT practice tests which are published by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). These documents can be purchased from the AAMC – www.aamc.org. As you continue your study for the MCAT, use old classroom notes or a commercially prepared self-study guide or a formal course like Kaplan or the Princeton Review. No matter what strategy you use, begin now by taking an hour or so out of most days to prepare for the MCAT. Take as many practice tests as possible.

The AAMC also offers free MCAT preparation material through the following websites:
- https://www.medeporal.org/icollaborative/about/initiatives/prehealth/
- https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat
Dental Admission Test (DAT):
The computerized DAT may be scheduled by contacting the American Dental Association. Though this test has a different format from the MCAT, you should prepare using comparable strategies. For a listing of the dates, times, and locations of the exams, see www.ada.org.

Key Dates:
- AMCAS: www.aamc.org (MD): Opens June 1st and Closes May 31st
- TMDSAS: www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas (Texas MD Schools, except Baylor): Opens May 1st
- AACOMAS: www.aacom.org (DO - Osteopathic Medical Schools): Opens June 1st
- Primary Application to Dental School: AADSAS: www.adea.org: Opens June 3rd
- Secondary Applications: Most medical schools send secondary applications to everyone, while a few send them only after a screening process.

If you have any questions, please contact Amber MacIntyre, Program Coordinator, at ammacintyre@davidson.edu or call 704-894-2865.
2016-2017 Upcoming Events:

⭐ Featured Event ⭐
- **Pre-Medicine and Allied Health Professions Director’s Meeting**, Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 p.m., Sprinkle Room, Alvarez College Union. Hosted by the Pre-Medicine/Allied Health Professions Program. *(First Year and Sophomores)*

Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC)
- **Pre-medical Advisory Committee (PAC) Forum**, Wednesday, September 21, 8:00 pm, CHAMBERS - Classroom-1062. Hosted by Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED), the Prehealth Honor Society *(Juniors and Seniors)*
- Davidson Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC) application due **November 1, 2016**
- **AMCAS Forum**, Spring 2017 - TBD, Hosted by Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED)

Career Explorations in Health Care
- **Mayo Clinic Summer Ethics Internships** by Maggie Stalker ’17 and David Robinson ’17. Tuesday, September 13, 11:05 a.m.-12:05 p.m. (Common Hour), Arthur Vining Davis Room #313, Alvarez College Union. Hosted by the Vann Center for Ethics. Cosponsored by the Center for Career Development. *(First Year, Sophomores, Juniors)* ⭐ **Spotlight on Bioethics**
- “Microsurgery of the Cerebellopontine Angle: Acoustic Tumor Management,” John T. McElveen, Jr. ‘79, M.D., Carolina Ear & Hearing Clinic, October 25, 7:00 p.m., Chambers 1062. Hosted by the Health and Human Values Department. ⭐ **Spotlight on Otolaryngology**
- Benjamin Gilmer, ’92, M.D., UNC School of Medicine – Asheville, Bill Hitch, Pharm D., UNC School of Pharmacy- Asheville, Natalie Spach ‘16, Davidson Impact Fellow, Mountain Area Health Education Center ⭐ **Spotlight on Rural Medicine**

Medical School Dean/Director of Admissions Visits
- **Duke University School of Medicine** - Brenda Armstrong, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Dean, Medical Education and Director of Admissions, Duke University School of Medicine, Wednesday, September 28, 7:00 p.m., Chambers 1062. Hosted by the Pre-Medicine/Allied Health Professions Program.
- **UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill** - Robert Bashford, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Associate Dean for Admissions, UNC School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, Friday, September 30, 4:30 p.m., Chambers 3155. Hosted by the Pre-Medicine/Allied Health Professions Program.
- **Wake Forest School of Medicine** - David Grier, M.D., Associate Professor of Pathology, Associate Dean of Admissions, Wake Forest School of Medicine, Thursday, November 17, 7:00 p.m., Chambers 1003. Hosted by the Pre-Medicine/Allied Health Professions Program.
- **Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences** - Aaron Saguil, M.D., LTC(P), MC, Associate Dean, Recruitment and Admissions, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University, Tuesday, January 31, Common Hour 11:05 a.m., Chambers 1062. Hosted by the Pre-Medicine/Allied Health Professions Program.
Skills Building Workshops & Lectures

- **Senior “Kick-Off” Event**, Wednesday, August 24, 7:30 p.m., Duke Family Performance Hall, Alvarez College Union. Hosted by the Center for Career Development. *(Seniors)*
- **Senior “Bootcamp,”** Saturday, September 3, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., C. Shaw Smith 900 Room, Alvarez College Union. Hosted by the Center for Career Development. *(Seniors)*
- **Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) Practice Session**, Sunday, September 11, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Preyer. Hosted by the Pre-Medicine/Allied Health Professions Program. *(By Invitation ONLY)*
- **Personal Statement Writing Workshop – Session I**, Paul Miller, Ph.D., Writing Center Director and Associate Professor of English, and Naira Mamoon, Ph.D., Director, Pre-Medicine and Allied Health Professions Program, Davidson College, Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m., CHAMBERS - Classroom-1062. Hosted by Pre-Medicine and Allied Health Professions and the Prehealth Honor Society.
- **Access to Research, Sci-Hub, and the Honor Code: Ethical Dilemmas** - A panel moderated by Information Literacy Librarian Sarah Crissinger, featuring Dave Martin, Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies, Rae Clemmons, Chief Information Officer, and Andrew Rikard ’17, English & Computer Science major. Thursday, September 22, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Lilly Family Gallery, Chambers Building. Hosted by the Vann Center for Ethics.
- **“Procrastination: Triggers and Combatting Strategies,”** Lauren Stutts, 05’, Visiting Assistant Professor of Health and Human Values and Nance Longworth, Director of Academic Access and Disability Resources, Tuesday, September 27, 11:05 a.m. (Common Hour), Chambers 3155.
- **Personal Statement Writing Workshop – Session II**, Draft reviews with Writing Center Tutors, Wednesday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m., CHAMBERS - Classroom-1003. Hosted by Pre-Medicine and Allied Health Professions and the Prehealth Honor Society.

Regional Pre-Health Conferences

- **American Mock World Health Organization (AMWHO) 2016 Regional Conference**, September 9–11, Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC-Chapel Hill
- **Undergraduate Public Health Conference**, Friday, September 23, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Elon University
- **Story, Health and Healing: A Symposium on Narrative Medicine**, Wake Forest University, October 1, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Southeastern Medical Scientist Symposium (SEMSS)**, November 5-6, University of Alabama, Birmingham

Health, Society and Medicine Discussions & Lectures

- **“Black Plague Epidemics,”** Sharon DeWitte, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology and Biological Sciences, University of South Carolina, Thursday, September 22, 7:00 p.m., Chambers 1062. Hosted by the Health and Human Values Department.
- **“Realizing the Promise of Advance Directives”** by John Moskop, Wallace and Mona Wu Chair in Biomedical Ethics, Wake Forest School of Medicine. Thursday, March 23, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Hance Auditorium, Chambers Building. Hosted by the Vann Center for Ethics and the Health and Human Values Department. Cosponsored by Pre-Medicine and Allied Health Professions Program.