2019-2020 Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC) Evaluation

We offer the opportunity for Davidson College students to be evaluated by our Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC). This evaluation assesses each student’s overall preparedness to apply in the upcoming medical/dental/PA/Vet school application cycle with respect to their academic ability, commitment to medicine, and development of humane instincts. The PAC evaluation is based in part on information provided by the student, their transcripts, and letters of evaluation.

PAC Student Timeline & Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAC Application - Student Profile, Personal Statement, Signed Transcript Request Form (Davidson), Mon-Davidson Transcripts (other) DUE</th>
<th>Target Dates</th>
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<td>Faculty/Other Letters of Evaluation &amp; Student Evaluation Forms DUE</td>
<td>Friday, November 1, 2019</td>
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<td>Premedical Director’s Dinner with PAC Interview Subcommittees, 6:00 pm, Lilly Family Gallery.</td>
<td>Friday, December 20, 2019</td>
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<td>Student PAC Interviews (Students/Committee)</td>
<td>Thursday, January 23, 2020</td>
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<td>PAC Evaluation Meetings (Committee Members Only)</td>
<td>January 24- February 14, 2020</td>
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<td>PAC Student Discussion 1:1 Meeting with Dr. Mamoon</td>
<td>February 17-April 15, 2020</td>
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<td>2021 Medical/Dental/PA/VET School Application Cycles Open</td>
<td>March-May 2020</td>
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<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. Alumni more than five (5) years past graduation are not eligible for PAC, however we offer advising. The application process begins in the fall semester with the Premedical Advisory Committee Forum (Wednesday, September 25, 2019 @ 7:00 pm). During the September information session, students learn more about the process and have the opportunity to ask questions and sign-up to receive the PAC Evaluation Packet. At this time, we do not have plans to offer summer PAC.

Since the PAC bases its assessment on information supplied by the student, it is important that students reflect on their experiences and submit a thorough and complete application. All student applications and supplemental materials are due by 11:59 pm on Friday, November 1, 2019.

All letters of evaluation and student evaluation forms from your reviewers are due 11:59 p.m. on Friday, December 20, 2019.

Premedical Science Courses:

Before entering the PAC evaluation process, you should have completed (or in progress this Fall semester) 75% of your premedical science coursework. Incomplete coursework may affect your ranking; you must include reasoning as an addendum to your Personal Statement. If the course was completed at another institution, you must provide a transcript (an unofficial version is acceptable). Some medical/dental schools require additional course requirements.
Student Application Profile:
Prepare your PAC student application profile listing your experiences, significant courses, and campus activities. This application is for Davidson use only, however, we do include excerpts in our composite medical/dental school letters. Proofread and review your work; be mindful of grammar, spelling and character limits.

IMPORTANT - Save the file separately as a Microsoft Word document, using this file naming format “PAC Application_Last Name, First Name”. Email this completed form to the PAC Program Coordinator, Amber MacIntyre, at ammacintyre@davidson.edu. Be sure to keep a copy for your files to update later.

Student Evaluation Forms & Letters of Evaluation:
The Student Evaluation Forms should be signed and distributed to each of your evaluators. A minimum of three evaluators must be Davidson faculty members with two from the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, neuroscience, physics & math). I encourage you to request your third letter from a faculty member outside a STEM discipline. Your fourth evaluator may be a Davidson faculty/staff member or some other person who has knowledge of you through some special accomplishment (e.g., physician, research mentor, coach) or through employment. It is important that evaluators not only check the boxes on the form, but also provide a written evaluation – letter of evaluation. I recommend that you share the AAMC Guideline for Letter Writers with those who will be writing on your behalf. All letters of evaluation and student evaluation forms from your reviewers are due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, December 20, 2019. Letter writers may email this completed form and signed letter on letterhead to the PAC Program Coordinator, Amber MacIntyre, at ammacintyre@davidson.edu.

Personal Statement:
Prepare an essay (maximum 5300 characters, spaces and returns 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. Do not simply give a factual recitation of your life history or resume - but reflect on your experiences. Make sure to include your first and last name on your document.

Write and rewrite this essay, get critiques, and be mindful of grammar and spelling. This essay is for Davidson PAC use only. You will be required to write a personal statement when you apply to medical school, however, this essay will serve as your draft.

[IMPORTANT - Save the file separately as a Microsoft Word Document, using this file naming format “Personal Statement_Last Name, First Name”. Be sure to keep a copy for your files to update later.

Premedical Director’s Dinner
You are invited to the Premedical Director’s Dinner in January. At dinner, you will meet with a member of your PAC Interview Subcommittee on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:00 pm. This is your opportunity to “break the ice” prior to your PAC interview. Your subcommittee includes a student who has completed the PAC application process, a PAC member and a guest faculty member.
Preparing for PAC Interviews

*Be polite, be punctual and be prepared!* Your interview starts the moment you arrive on the property. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of the on-campus resources available. We offer several interview practice opportunities in various interview as listed below. There are several things you can do to prepare for this interview:

1. Primarily, know why you want to become a physician/dentist/PA/Vet etc.
2. Pay attention to the news, and read about medical issues in the popular press and journals.
3. Consider attending on-campus forums, dean visits, seminars and events.
4. Engage other premedical/predental students in discussions of these issues – practice helps.
5. 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 Premedical Program’s mini-library in Watson.

What Should You Expect at an Interview?

**Professionalism** (dress, demeanor, etc.) is most important during the interview. The Center for Career Development (CCD) has an Interview Tips Sheet (attached) full of resources for interview attire and tips and a Pinterest Board ([https://www.pinterest.com/davidsoncareers/](https://www.pinterest.com/davidsoncareers/)) you can check out. When in doubt, we encourage you to stop by the CCD to work with their fabulous team of advisors for assistance as you prepare for your interviews (even questions about what to wear!) for drop-ins or a scheduled appointments. Please dress appropriately.

Resources and Practice Opportunities

Opportunities include **One-on-One Mock Interviews** with our Physician in Residence, **Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) Simulation and Workshop** (early September); **Traditional Medical School Interviewing Skills Workshop** (see video links); and Alpha Epsilon Delta’s (AED), and the Center for Career Development offers **Individual Mock Interviews** and coaching.

- Columbia University Program in Bioethics MMI Preparation: [http://sps.columbia.edu/bioethics/premed](http://sps.columbia.edu/bioethics/premed)
- Traditional Medical School Interview Skills (Part I): [https://vimeo.com/user37250198/review/161931921/39546856d1](https://vimeo.com/user37250198/review/161931921/39546856d1)
- Traditional Medical School Interview Skills (Part II): [https://vimeo.com/user37250198/review/161940836/59939e22a7](https://vimeo.com/user37250198/review/161940836/59939e22a7)
- Davidson AED’s Medical School Admissions Interview Skills Workshop:
  - Video 1: [https://vimeo.com/118052869](https://vimeo.com/118052869)
  - Video 2: [https://vimeo.com/user37250198/review/161931921/39546856d1](https://vimeo.com/user37250198/review/161931921/39546856d1)
  - Video 3: [https://vimeo.com/user37250198/review/161940836/59939e22a7](https://vimeo.com/user37250198/review/161940836/59939e22a7)

Institutional Support for Travel to Medical School Interviews

Some schools offer housing to interviewees via "Student Hosts". These volunteer medical school students host students who need a place to stay the night before their interview. This program does not help with the cost of a flight or gas, but it does help with hotel costs. In addition, this is a chance to meet students who are currently attending the school where you are interviewing. Here are some examples of student host programs:

- Baylor - [https://www.bcm.edu/education/schools/medical-school/md-program/admissions/interview-invitation/student-host-program](https://www.bcm.edu/education/schools/medical-school/md-program/admissions/interview-invitation/student-host-program)
- University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqUUXWkjQ38khC6JWZSNAVYr0dtC9Bo3dvB8q27VDbiT9w/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqUUXWkjQ38khC6JWZSNAVYr0dtC9Bo3dvB8q27VDbiT9w/viewform?c=0&w=1)
- Vanderbilt - [https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/md-admissions/student-hosting](https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/md-admissions/student-hosting)
PAC Rankings:

A student's assigned ranking denotes the full Committee's assessment of his/her overall readiness for medical/dental/PA/Vet school admission in the upcoming application cycle. You do not compete with other students evaluated in the PAC process, nor is there a limit on the number of students who are ranked in each category. Please know the rankings are a result of thoughtful and detailed discussions by the PAC members.

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 from the Committee. This is also an opportunity to discuss the medical/dental schools to which you would like to apply and receive additional information about the medical/dental school application process.

Preparing for the Medical/Dental/Health Profession School Application & Admissions Process

Key Dates & Websites:

Visit the associated website for details on application open dates, process, requirements, and resources. Most application services open in May allowing application submittals starting in June. Most medical/dental school verified applications are due in September/October. Even though you may submit any time before the deadline, we recommend that you submit your primary application by July 15 if you are certain of your decision to apply in this cycle, even if your MCAT/DAT is pending. Primary applications take a minimum of four (4) to six (6) weeks to be verified by the application service(s).

Please allow sufficient time for this process, refer to the application service guidelines.

- AMCAS: www.aamc.org (MD)
- TMDSAS: www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas (Texas MD Schools, except Baylor)
- AACOMAS: www.aacom.org (DO - Osteopathic Medical Schools)
- AADSAS: www.adea.org (Dental)
- CASPA: http://paeonline.org/caspa/ (Physician Assistant)
- VMCAS: http://www.aavmc.org/Students-Applicants-and-Advisors/Veterinary-Medical-College-Application-Service.aspx (Veterinary)

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 diagnostics 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. Take as many practice tests as possible as you prepare for the MCAT; a minimum of 300 hours of study is needed to prepare for the MCAT. However, we recommend that you take the
MCAT only if you are confident that you will do well. Kaplan offers an on campus MCAT Preparation Course for a fee.

The AAMC also offers free MCAT preparation material through the following websites:
• https://www.mededportal.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. Kaplan offers an online DAT Preparation Course for a fee.

If you have any questions, please contact Amber MacIntyre, Program Coordinator, at ammacintyre@davidson.edu or call 704-894-2658.