

From Drs. Bass and Moss, as of 3/06:

ATTENTION PREMEDICAL/PREDENTAL STUDENTS:

If you are interested in attending medical or dental school, please consider the following:

1. Keep your GPA up. Most medical and dental schools consider GPA and entrance examination scores before all else. It is good to do volunteer work and to be active on campus, but don't over do it. If your GPA suffers too much, so will your application to medical or dental school. We consider 3.2 a **minimal** acceptable GPA to apply to the SC medical schools, but obviously the higher you go, the better your chances.

2. You'll need some sort of clinical experience. Interim is a good time to get this, but many people choose to work in the medical field over the summer instead. When you do your clinical work, make sure you have your supervisor fill out a "clinical evaluation form" when you're done. You can download the form at: <http://webs.wofford.edu/mossre/health.htm>. MAKE SURE YOU FILL OUT THE TOP OF THE FORM, AND SIGN THE WAIVER, BEFORE GIVING THESE FORMS OUT. Unsigned forms do not carry as much weight with admissions committees.

3. You should consider taking the MCAT exam (med school) in April of your junior year, or the DAT (dental school) as early as possible after completing your junior year. This will give you time to take the exam a second time before applying if need be. We consider a 24 a **minimal** acceptable MCAT to apply to the SC medical schools. Admissions directors tell us you should continue re-taking the MCAT until you reach the *average* MCAT at the school you hope to attend. For the SC medical schools, that would be a 28. For Emory, we suggest 29.

These exams are critical. We strongly suggest that as of December 15 for the April MCAT exam, or May 15 for the August MCAT exam, studying for the exam should become your top priority.

Be aware of the following:

a. The MCAT exam is a full-day examination and is quite rigorous. You should spend lots of time that junior year preparing for the exam. That includes taking practice examinations. Full-length practice exams may be purchased from the American Association of Medical Colleges, or from the biology department [we get them at a discount, so it's considerably cheaper to order them through the biology department]. The average score of students getting in to SC med schools ranges from 27-28.

b. The DAT exam is given by computer only. You must register far in advance and take the test at a Sylvan Learning Center. There is a rather bizarre section on perceptual ability. You must prepare for this portion of the test. It is

possible to purchase a full set of full-length computerized sample tests ... these are NOT prepared, however, by the people who write the actual DAT. They are available from Scholar Ware. (<http://www.scholarware.com/>).

There is a 90-day wait between the taking of DATs. MUSC's average DAT scores for admission are 19 on the perceptual ability and 19 on the academic portion as well

c. **NEITHER EXAMINATION ALLOWS THE USE OF A CALCULATOR!** In order to work general chemistry problems involving pH you will have to become familiar with logs and how to take the log of a number in scientific notation and how to reverse that process. Also, get yourself to the point that you can round off numbers and estimate your answer ... time is important on these exams.

d. Physics is on the MCAT ... but not on the DAT ... dental school does require Physics, however.

e. **Before** you take either examination you should have taken [or be finishing up] a year of General Chemistry, a year of Organic Chemistry, Zoology [bio111] OR anatomy [many chemistry majors may be unable to fit this in; see Dr. Bass], Genetics [bio212], Cell Biology [bio214], and *preferably* Physiology [bio342]. For the MCAT you should add a year of physics [121 and 122].

f. Both USC medical school and MUSC dental school require *two* college level math courses. We recommend one semester of calculus, plus a semester of statistics.

4. YOU SHOULD BEGIN TO ROUND UP RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARDS THE END OF YOUR JUNIOR YEAR!

Both committee and individual evaluations are accepted at nearly all medical schools. Some schools view the committee evaluations with less suspicion since the student has less control over the process. The SC schools have stated a preference for the committee evaluations. If, however, you feel that for some reason a particular professor may not give a good evaluation (due to grades or personality conflicts) you should go with the individual ones. Be certain that the professors you select are ones that you have performed well under and who see you as a bright student who is highly motivated. (All of us take evaluations seriously and are likely to be very candid regarding those evaluations.) Some professors are not on campus in the summer, so it's best you get the process started before you leave campus in May.

If you choose to do a committee evaluation for medical school, you can download the form at:

<http://webs.wofford.edu/mossre/health.htm>. Fill it out according to the instructions, and return it to Ms. Thomas in the biology office. Dr. Bass has the form for dental school.

We suggest you submit the form late in your junior year, but it **MUST** be in no later than October 1 of your senior year.

5. BEGIN THE APPLICATION TO MEDICAL SCHOOL OR DENTAL SCHOOL EARLY!!!! THIS IS CRITICAL! !! YOU MUST BEGIN FILLING OUT THE ONLINE APPLICATION DURING THE SUMMER AFTER YOUR JUNIOR YEAR. You

can find the application, as well as lots of info on applying to medical school, at www.aamc.org . The AADSAS application will be available on May 17th and a link may be found at the following site: (<http://www.adea.org/>).

DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE FALL SEMESTER BEGINS. MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 15 IF AT ALL POSSIBLE IF SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS ARISE AS A RESULT OF YOUR APPLICATION YOU NEED TO TURN THOSE APPLICATIONS IN AS SOON AS YOU CAN! “Rolling admissions” means the longer you wait, the lower your chances. And some medical schools and dental schools will view late applications as a sign of a lack of commitment to attending professional school.

6. When interviewing you need to present yourself in the best light possible. You want to be perceived as knowledgeable about the medical field and to be certain that this is what you want to do with your life. You also need to show that you are a well-rounded individual so that you can communicate with all sorts of patients. Although you don't want to over-sell yourself, you do want to be open and talkative. Do not give the impression that you are an introvert. Work any internships that you may have done into the conversation ... also you may find the opportunity to mention any travel interims or service work that you have done. Read stories in a national magazine or newspaper relating to medicine to “keep up” with topics you might be questioned on. And by all means, *do get a mock interview* from a member of the science faculty before the real thing!

Remember that this is a long process and that there are many more people wanting to get into medical school than there are slots available in medical school. You need to do all that you can to ensure that your application is viewed in the best-possible light.

* IF YOU PLAN ON STUDYING ABROAD the fall of your senior year, you must make arrangements for interviews, and for completing your application, before leaving. PLEASE SEE DR. MOSS, DR. SHIFLET OR DR. BASS BEFORE THE END OF THE SEMESTER PRIOR TO YOUR TRAVEL.

Should you have any questions about this or other advising matters, please feel free to contact one of the Health Careers Advisors. For medical school these are Drs. Moss, Bass and Shiflet; for dental school, Dr. Bass.

Further information on dental school can be found on Dr. Bass' web site, at <http://webs.wofford.edu/basscg/предent.htm>

MEDICAL/DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICATION CHECKLIST: SENIOR YEAR

Please see Dr. Moss, Dr. Bass, or Dr. Shiflet if you have questions about any of these items!

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CHECK OFF AS COMPLETED
Summer after your Jr year [med school]	Prepare for your AMCAS or AADSAS application: - View or download the application at: http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/start.htm for medical school; http://www.adea.org/ for dental school.	
	- Write your personal essay.	
	- Submit your personal essay to a science professor, and an English/humanities professor for comments.	
September	Submit your AMCAS application [by 9/15] or AADSAS application [by 9/1]	
Soon after submitting your application	- Initiate your committee evaluation, OR choose 3 professors to write letters [evaluation is preferred, unless you have any grades in science courses below a B-, or have a reason to believe one of the science faculty would give you a poor evaluation]. IF you choose 3 letters, make sure you still submit a request to have any “clinical evaluation forms” on file to be sent. They are sent automatically with the committee evaluation. You can download the form at: http://webs.wofford.edu/mossre/health.htm	
11/1	-If you haven't received notification that your committee evaluations have been mailed, please check with your premedical/pre dental advisor.	
12/1	- If you haven't received secondary applications from each medical school you listed on your AMCAS application, call the medical school admissions offices.	
Upon receipt of secondary applications	- Complete them and submit them ASAP! The longer you wait, the lower your chances become.	
2 weeks before your first interview	- Schedule a “mock interview” with one of the science faculty.	
Upon receipt of acceptance letters!	CONGRATULATIONS! Please let your advisor know, as well as Dr. Moss.	
Any time you'd like, during the process	- Schedule a meeting with your premed advisor!	