ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS APPLYING TO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS FOR 2023-2024 Admissions Cycle

**APPLY EARLY AND INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF ACCEPTANCE**

The following information applies to **Allopathic (MD),** **Osteopathic (DO),Optometry (OD) & Podiatry (DOP); Dental Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, and various other areas of Allied Health, including Physician Assistant and Physical Therapy.**

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

You'll want to make sure to give your evaluators plenty of time to write and turn-in your letters. Many students have already started files in my office. These letters take time to write and please make sure to ask each individual if they feel comfortable writing a letter for you. They may feel they don’t know you well enough or they may be over-committed and just not have the time. You want these letters to come from individuals who can write about you from a place of knowing you on more than on a casual level. It might help at the time of your request, to provide them with an unofficial copy of your transcripts, a copy of a prepared resume, and/or a copy of your Personal Statement. Since my last day will be June 1st if you want a letter packet submitted for you please ask your letter writers to please have their letters in by May 15th. You can also have your letters submitted directly to AMCAS through the AMCAS Letter Writer at no additional cost. The required information can be found at AAMC.ORG.

For most of the other disciplines, the recommendations are submitted online as part of the primary application process. You will still want to ask your evaluators as stated above, but the professional schools will send each of them an online link for the evaluation form which they will complete and submit directly to either the central application service or the individual programs.

***Thank you notes to your evaluators are always appropriate and appreciated***.

**MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR 2024**

The 2024 AMCAS application will open on May 2 and is available online at [www.amcas.org.The](http://www.amcas.org.The) cost of the AMCAS application is $170 for one school and $43 for each additional school. (A separate application system is available for applicants who will be applying to medical schools in Texas. Applicants applying to medical schools in Texas (with the exception of Baylor Medical School) must apply through [www.tmdsas.org](http://www.tmdsas.org) which opens on May 1, 2023 and will close on Oct. 1, 2023). TMDSAS is the application service specifically for the Texas medical & dental schools.

AMCAS will begin accepting completed applications on May 31.. No matter what you read on Student Doctor Network, I called AMCAS to ask what the earliest date for submitting applications and transcripts and they said “Not before May 31” If you haven't started working on your Personal Statement you must complete it before you submit your AMCAS application. Remember, it must be well-written, grammatically correct, and free of punctuation or spelling errors. Make sure to have someone proof it for you and if you want feedback on the content, I will be happy to read it over for you, just send me an electronic copy via email.

Other than your GPA, MCAT scores, and clinical exposure, the timing for submitting

applications, forms, and letters can GREATLY enhance your chances for an interview.

If there’s anything in the application that confuses you, you can refer to www.aamc.org/students. You will find a list of FAQ’s and a Handbook for the 2024 application. There’s a video available on the AAMC website that will walk you through the entire process. AMCAS offers some amazing resources to help you properly fill out your application, please use them. Please read carefully because most of the application is self-explanatory.

If you are submitting letters of recommendation through my office, it is referred to as a Letter Packet. I will be listed as your Primary Contact and I will need your AMCAS Letter ID# in order to submit your letters to AMCAS. Your AMCAS Letter ID# is also required to submit letters through the AMCAS Letter Writer system.

**Remember it’s up to you to make sure all of your letters have been received** so make sure to keep checking the updates on AMCAS to let you know if anything is missing.. Please do NOT delay submitting your AMCAS application because your letters have not all been received. The submission of letters is important, but it will NOT delay processing of your application.

**Osteopathic Medical School (DO)**

The 2024 AACOMAS application for Schools of Osteopathy (DO) will open in early May and will be available online at [www.aacomas.org](http://www.aacomas.org) . Applicants must submit their most current spring coursework transcript with posted grades. Everything is self-explanatory, but this application must be submitted before applying to the individual osteopathic medical schools. Once the AACOMAS application is complete it will be forwarded to the individual schools to which you are applying. The individual school applications are called secondary applications and when you complete your secondary applications, you will want to have your letters of recommendation completed and turned in **(Please refer to the Letters of Recommendation instructions listed above). AACOMAS will send a link for your letter writers to submit their letters through their system.** You'll want to make sure to give your evaluators plenty of time to write and turn-in your letters. These letters take time to write and please make sure to ask each individual if they feel comfortable writing a letter for you. They may not feel they know you well enough or they may be over-committed and just not have the time. You want these letters to come from individuals who can write about you from a place of knowing you on more than a casual level. It might help at the time of your request, to provide them with an unofficial copy of your transcripts, a copy of a prepared resume, and/or a copy of your Personal Statement from your AACOMAS application. **Almost all DO Schools require a letter from a DO, so you’ll need to make sure that you’ve made those arrangements ahead of time. It’s not likely that you’ll get a very meaningful letter from someone who has just met you.**

Three new Osteopathic Medical Colleges are Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine

(Dothan AL); Campbell University School of Osteopathic medicine (Buies Creek, NC); Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis IN). VCOM is the only DO school in South Carolina and is located in Spartanburg SC. Their home campus is in Virginia with additional campuses in Alabama and Louisiana.

**Optometry and Podiatry**

For Schools of Optometry the entire application process is explained at [www.opted.org](http://www.opted.org) and a list of the 17 Optometry Schools in the US are listed along with their prerequisites and admission information. For Schools of Podiatry a list of podiatry programs and the corresponding admission requirements can be found at [www.apma.org](http://www.apma.org).

**Pre-Dental Students**

AADSAS The primary application for applying to US Dental Schools for 2024 will be available online May 9th at [www.adea.org](http://www.adea.org) The cost of the AADSAS application is $264 and $115 for each additional school. I suggest you make every effort to get it submitted as early as possible beginning June 2nd. Please do not delay the submission of your AADSAS application and transcripts while waiting for letters of recommendation to arrive. AADSAS will begin validating your application as soon as they receive your completed application, your transcripts and your application fee. Your letters can follow.

A separate application process is available for applicants applying to Texas Dental Schools and can be found at [www.TMDSAS.org](http://www.TMDSAS.org) which opens on May 1 and will close on Oct. 1, 2023 The application is self-explanatory, but this application must be submitted before applying to the individual dental schools.

**Pre-Vet Students (Please note significant changes to VMCAS for 2024)**

The central application for applying to Schools of Veterinary Medicine (VMCAS) opened in Jan.2023 at [www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org) and the first date to select programs is 5/15/2023 and application closes Sept. 15th. Everything is self-explanatory, but this application must be submitted before applying to the individual veterinary school. The deadline for submitting a VMCAS application is September 15, 2023 to be considered for the 2023-2024 admissions cycle. A list of VMCAS schools is available on this website along with their admission requirements. I suggest you make every effort to get it submitted as early as possible beginning 5/15.. Once the VMCAS application is complete it will be forwarded to the individual schools to which you are applying. All VMCAS letters are submitted electronically so make sure that you have contact information for each of your evaluators. You'll want to make sure to give your evaluators plenty of time to write and turn-in your letters. These letters take time to write and please make sure to ask each individual if they feel comfortable writing a letter for you. They may not feel they know you well enough or they may be over-committed and just not have the time. You want these letters to come from individuals who can write about you from a place of knowing you on more than a casual level. It might help at the time of your request, to provide them with an unofficial copy of your transcripts, a copy of a prepared resume, and/or a copy of your Personal Statement from your VMCAS application. Go to <http://www.aavmc.org> for a checklist of all

VMCAS application materials and deadlines.

**Pre-Pharmacy Students**

The central application for applying to Pharmacy Schools for 2024 will open in July 2023 at [www.PHARMCAS.org](http://www.PHARMCAS.org). Not all pharmacy schools subscribe to Pharmcas, but there is a Directory available at this site to tell you which pharmacy programs participate The process is similar to the instructions for Dental Schools (Please see above) concerning timing etc. Early, complete, and make sure your personal statements are well-written (grammar, punctuation, and clear cohesive thoughts). The SC School of Pharmacy does subscribe to Pharmcas. The secondary application for MUSC’s School of Pharmacy will be available the first week in July 2023 at [www.musc.edu/pharmacy](http://www.musc.edu/pharmacy) .

**Physician Assistant**

The central application for applying to Physician Assistant Programs opens late April 2023 and is available online at [www.portal.caspaonline.org](http://www.portal.caspaonline.org). Not all Physician Assistant Programs subscribe to CASPA and there is a directory available at this site to tell you which programs participate, The process is similar to the instructions for other programs concerning timing etc. The application for the PA program at MUSC opens on July 1st and ideally you should try to have everything submitted by no later than August 15th. You will want to have any required clinical observation hours completed by the time that you submit your application. Get your application in early, make sure it's complete, and make sure your personal statements are well-written (grammar, punctuation, and clear cohesive thoughts).

**Nursing (Accelerated BSN)**

The central application for applying to College of Nursing and BSN Programs is NursingCas and can be found online at <https://nursingcas.org>. The cost of application is $55 and it includes one school and $40 for every additional program. If you are applying for a Jan. 2024 start date the NursingCas application opens early in July along with the secondary application for MUSC which must be submitted by Sept. 15th. For a Fall 2024 start date the NursingCas application opens up in August and the secondary application must be submitted by Feb 2024 You want your applications submitted as early as possible within the deadlines to be competitive.

**Physical Therapy Programs (DPT)**

PTCAS is a centralized application service for some, but not all, DPT programs so make sure to check at [www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org). The cost of the application is $155 and $60 for each additional school. The DPT Program at MUSC subscribes to PTCAS which means that application must be completed prior to filling out your supplemental application. PTCAS opens early in July each year and the supplemental application for the DPT Program at MUSC opens the first week of July 2023. Apply EARLY!

**Occupational Therapy (OT) & Speech Language Pathology (CSD)**

OTCAS is the centralized application service for some Occupational Therapy Programs.It opens in July 2023 and the cost of application is $150 and $65 for each additional school.The application can be found at <https://otcas.liaisoncas.com> The supplemental application for the OT Program at MUSC opens the first week in July 2023 and classes begin in summer 2024. There is also a new OT program at Presbyterian College.

CSDCAS is the centralized application service for Speech Language Pathology Programs and can be accessed at <https://csdcas.liaisoncas.org> .The application opens on July 2023.

You may need to go to the individual school website to find out specific admission requirements and deadlines. MUSC’s supplemental application opens up July 1, 2023.

**Cardiovascular Perfusion**

The Cardiovascular Perfusion Program at MUSC does not subscribe to a centralized application service. The application for their Master of Science In Extracorporeal Science opens on Sept 15, 2023 and the deadline for submission is March 31, 2024.

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**:

**PLEASE READ APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS VERY CAREFULLY**

Transcripts must be submitted before anything will happen with your application. Formal transcripts must be submitted for every college course you have taken. AP courses are listed on your CofC transcripts so you **do not** have to submit high school transcripts. You can submit your application prior to completing your standardized test, but until your scores are received your applications will not be sent out to the individual schools. Make sure you get registered in plenty of time so your application is not delayed. Don’t delay submitting your AMCAS application and transcripts because of letters; AMCAS WILL begin validating your application without your letters of recommendation, but the letters must be submitted for your application to be considered complete.

\* Give your evaluators plenty of time to write and submit your letters.

***I hope you have a great summer!***

Karen Eippert

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