2020 Cycle Application Orientation
Health Professional Schools
Agenda

I. Housekeeping
II. Application services
III. Application components
IV. Composite letters & process
V. The portal
VI. Resources

How I think I look explaining the premed process to my bartender at 3:00 am vs how I actually look.
I. Housekeeping

➢ ListServ/Newsletter

premed_predental@uconn.edu

Don’t forget to sign up...!
I. Housekeeping

**Advisors**

- **Pre-Medical**
  - Keat Sanford, PhD
  - Arlene Albert, PhD

- **Pre-Dental**
  - Thomas Abbott, PhD

- **Staff**
  - Krista Rogers, MA
  - Susan Ruggiero, MS
II. Application services

AMCAS vs. Centralized Application Services (CAS) web platforms

- AMCAS: primary app for MD schools
- CAS: primary apps for AACOMAS, AADSAS, CASPA, OPTOMCAS, AACPMAS...
II. Application services

**MD schools (allopathic medicine)**

- **AAMC**: Association of American Medical Colleges (also administers the MCAT)
- **AMCAS**: American Medical College Application Service
II. Application services

**MD schools (allopathic medicine)**

**2019 cycle dates:**

- 5/2/18 primary app opened
- 5/31/18 submission button available
- 6/29/18 first day verified apps sent to individual schools
II. Application services

**MD schools (allopathic medicine)**

**2019 cycle fees:**

- AMCAS application fee (one school included): $170
- Each additional school: $39
II. Application services

**DO schools (osteopathic medicine)**

- [AACOM](#): American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
- [AACOMAS](#): American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service
II. Application services

**DO schools (osteopathic medicine)**

**2019 cycle dates:**

- 5/3/18 primary app opened for submission
- 6/15/18 first day verified apps sent to individual schools
II. Application services

**DO schools (osteopathic medicine)**

**2019 cycle fees:**

- ACOMAS application fee (one school included): $195
- Each additional school: $45
II. Application services

**Dental schools**

- **ADEA**: American Dental Education Association
- **AADSAS**: Associated American Dental Schools Application Service
II. Application services

**Dental schools**

**2019 cycle dates:**

- 5/15/18 primary app opened
- 6/5/18 submission button available
II. Application services

**Dental schools**

**2019 cycle fees:**

- AADSAS application fee (one school included): $245
- Each additional school: $102
II. Application services

**Texas Medical & Dental Schools**

- **TMDSAS**: Texas Medical & Dental Schools Application Service
- **2019 cycle dates**: 5/1/18 primary app opened for submission
- **2019 cycle fees**: $165 TMDSAS application fee (flat fee for all schools)
II. Application services

**PA schools**

- **PAEA**: Physician Assistant Education Association
- **CASPA**: Central Application Service for Physician Assistants
II. Application services

PA schools

2020 cycle dates:

- 4/25/19 primary app opens for submission
II. Application services

PA schools

2019 cycle fees:

- CASPA application fee (one school included): $179
- Each additional school: $52
II. Application services

**Optometry schools**

- **ASCO**: Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
- **OPTOMCAS**: Optometry Centralized Application Service
II. Application services

**Optometry schools**

**2019 cycle dates:**

- 6/28/18 primary app opened for submission
II. Application services

**Optometry schools**

**2019 cycle fees:**

- OPTOMCAS application fee (one school included): $175
- Each additional school: $70
II. Application services

*Podiatry schools*

- **AACPM**: American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
- **AACPMAS**: Optometry Centralized Application Service
II. Application services

Podiatry schools

2019 cycle dates:

- 8/1/18 primary app opened for submission
II. Application services

Podiatry schools

2019 cycle fees:

- OPTOMCAS application fee (one school included): $180
- Each additional school: $45
III. Application components

1. Primary application
2. Secondary application
3. Test scores
4. Composite [committee] letter

*A school does not typically touch your application until all 4 are received.*
III. Application components

➢ A school does not typically touch your application until all 4 components are received.

➢ Our submission of the composite letter is completely independent of your submission of the primary.
III. Application components

*Primary application*

▸ Submit primary →
▸ Verification →
▸ Primary is shipped out to schools →
▸ Receive secondaries →
▸ Submit secondaries
III. Application components

*Primary application*

- Fee assistance programs
  - AMCAS
  - AACOMAS
  - AADSAS
  - CASPA
III. Application components

*Test scores: MCAT*

- 7.5 hours
- *The MCAT Essentials for Testing Year 2019*
- Registration for the July-September testing dates is now open!
III. Application components

*Test scores: MCAT*

- You can take the MCAT...
  - up to 3 times in a single testing year
  - up to 4 times in 2 consecutive years
  - up to 7 times in a lifetime

- You can reschedule 48 hours after testing
III. Application components

2019 Schedule for the Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®)*

*The above dates indicate the U.S. MCAT test dates. For Canadian and international test dates, please visit students-residents.aamc.org/mcat/register.

The MCAT exam is not offered in February or October-December 2019.

All exams start at 8:00 a.m. local time.
### III. Application components

#### Scheduling Fees (in USD)

All deadlines are at 7:59 a.m. local test center time on the day of the deadline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gold Zone Deadline: 29 days prior to exam date*</th>
<th>Silver Zone Deadline: 15 days prior to exam date*</th>
<th>Bronze Zone Deadline: 8 days prior to exam date*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Registration</td>
<td>$315</td>
<td>$315</td>
<td>$370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date and/or Test Center Reschedule Fee**</td>
<td>$95</td>
<td>$155</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation Refund</td>
<td>$155</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Fee**</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. Application components

*Test scores: DAT*

- 5 hours
- [DAT 2019 Candidate Guide](#)
- You can retake the DAT up to 3 times
- You must wait 90 days between sittings
III. Application components

### TESTING FEES

**Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.** All fees are in US dollars. The following indicates DAT 2019 testing fees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEE TYPE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAT Fee</td>
<td>This fee includes administration and official score reporting to all of the dental schools you have selected at the time of application, an unofficial score report issued at the testing center (no other report will be sent to you), and score reporting to your pre-dental advisor (if selected on your application).</td>
<td>$475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score Report Fee</td>
<td>This fee covers score report requests made after the time of application. There is no additional charge for score report requests received at the time of application.</td>
<td>$40 per score report/ school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score Audit Fee</td>
<td>For a period of 30 days after your testing appointment, the DAT Program is willing to audit your DAT results.</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fee to reschedule a testing appointment is determined by the amount of notice provided. Rescheduling fees are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF DAYS PRIOR TO TESTING APPOINTMENT</th>
<th>RESCHEDULE FEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 5 business days* prior to the testing appointment, and at least 24 hours before the appointment is scheduled to begin.</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 30 business days prior to the testing appointment.</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 or more business days prior to the testing appointment</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Saturdays and Sundays are NOT business days.
III. Application components

*Test scores: OAT*

- 4 hours, 50 minutes
- [OAT 2019 Candidate Guide](#)
- You can retake the OAT up to 3 times
- You must wait 90 days between sittings
### III. Application components

#### TESTING FEES

**Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.** All fees are in US Dollars. The following indicates OAT 2019 testing fees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEE TYPE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FEE AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OAT Fee</td>
<td>This fee includes administration and official score reporting to all of the optometry schools you have selected at the time of application, an unofficial score report issued at the testing center (no other copy will be sent to you), and score reporting to your pre-optometry advisor (if selected on your application).</td>
<td>$465*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score Report Fee</td>
<td>This fee covers score report requests for optometry schools or other recipients made after the time of application. There is no additional charge for score report requests received at the time of application.</td>
<td>$40 per score report per school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score Audit Fee</td>
<td>For a period of 30 days after your testing appointment, the OAT Program is willing to audit you OAT results.</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fee in effect from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018*

The fee to reschedule a testing appointment is determined by the amount of notice provided. Rescheduling fees are as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF DAYS PRIOR TO TESTING APPOINTMENT</th>
<th>RESCHEDULE FEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 5 business days* prior to the testing appointment, and at least 24 hours before the appointment is scheduled to begin.</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 30 business days prior to the testing appointment.</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 or more business days prior to the testing appointment.</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Saturdays and Sundays are NOT business days*
ONE HOUR LATER
IV. Composite letters & process

What is a composite [committee] letter?

“A letter authored by a pre-health committee or pre-health advisor and intended to represent your institution’s evaluation of you. A Committee Letter may or may not include additional letters written in support of your application. This is sometimes called a Composite Letter.” (AAMC)
IV. Composite letters & process

➢ During the 2019 cycle, our office submitted composite letters for...
  ○ 251 medical school applicants
  ○ 50 dental school applicants
  ○ 5 PA school applicants
  ○ 3 optometry school applicants
  ○ 0 podiatry school applicants
IV. Composite letters & process

➢ If at any point in the application cycle you decide to defer your application until the 2021 cycle, please contact our office as soon as you arrive at that decision.
IV. Composite letters & process
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 1

What’s the difference between a composite letter, a letter packet, and individual letters of recommendation?
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 2

Who writes my composite letter?
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 3

Who submits my composite letter?
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 4

From whom should I request my individual letters of recommendation?
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 5

I’m applying to some master’s programs and/or international schools that don’t use the above “common” application services. Can you send them my composite letter?
IV. Composite letters & process

➢ Pre-Medical timeline

2020 Application Cycle Composite Letter Timeline

All applicants must complete the following by 3/1/19 in this order. We strongly encourage you to complete these early as interviews will be assigned as requests are received.

1. Register for the portal here.

2. Complete the Student Registration, Competency-Based Admissions, HPED, Questions, and Resume pages of your portal.

3. Once you have completed those five sections, check the “I am ready to submit my application” box. The system will prompt you to enter your availability for an initial composite interview. Once we have received the request, a member of our staff will contact you shortly with a date and time.

4. Send out requests for individual letters of recommendation through your References page (can be completed following your composite interview).
IV. Composite letters & process

Cycle #1 – Composite letter will be submitted by 7/30/19 (provided all deadlines below are followed). Early submissions will be submitted as they are completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composite letter submitted by 7/30/19:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirm your MCAT will be taken by 6/1/19 (list of 2019 MCAT dates <a href="#">here</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirm all letters of recommendation have been fully uploaded to your References page. Check the box that reads “Please check this box when ALL of your individual letters of recommendation have been uploaded to your References page.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete the Course Grades and IDs pages of your portal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete the Exams page of your portal when your scores become available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cycle #2 – Composite letter will be submitted by 8/30/19 (provided all deadlines below are followed). Early submissions will be submitted as they are completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composite letter submitted by 8/30/19:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirm your MCAT will be taken by 7/20/19 (list of 2019 MCAT dates <a href="#">here</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirm all letters of recommendation have been fully uploaded to your References page. Check the box that reads “Please check this box when ALL of your individual letters of recommendation have been uploaded to your References page.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete the Course Grades and and IDs pages of your portal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete the Exams page of your portal when your scores become available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If any of the above materials are NOT submitted by the deadlines above, your composite letter will be submitted during the next composite letter cycle.
IV. Composite letters & process

➢ Pre-Dental timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Application Cycle Composite Letter Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Register for the portal <a href="#">here</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Complete the Student Registration, Competency-Based Admissions, HPED, Questions, and Resume pages of your portal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Once you have submitted those five sections, check the “I am ready to submit my application” box. The system will prompt you to enter your availability for a composite interview, but as a pre-dental student, please enter “N/A.” Dr. Abbott has traditionally not required a composite interview because he feels that he has gotten to know you throughout your four years at UConn well enough. However, if you are a transfer student or have never met him before, you may want to consider scheduling a regular appointment with him at <a href="https://nexus.uconn.edu">nexus.uconn.edu</a> and indicate “composite interview” in the notes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Send out requests for individual letters of recommendation through your References page.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1. Confirm all letters of recommendation have been fully uploaded to your References page. Check the box that reads “Please check this box when ALL of your individual letters of recommendation have been uploaded to your References page.” |
| 2. Complete the Course Grades and IDs pages of your portal. |
| 3. Confirm with the Pre-Medical/Dental Center when you have taken or are planning to take the DAT by emailing [premed.predental@uconn.edu](mailto:premed.predental@uconn.edu). When scores are available, add them to the Exams page of your portal. |

Composite letter will be submitted by 7/31/19 (provided all deadlines above are followed). Early submissions will be submitted as they are completed.
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 6

What does a composite interview entail?
IV. Composite letters & process

➢ Composite interviews (apply to all but pre-dentals)
  ○ **Part I:** with Krista (logistics, personal timeline)
  ○ **Part II:** with Dr. Albert OR Dr. Sanford (more interview-y feel)
➢ Each part is 20 minutes long
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 7

What are the two IDs you need to submit my composite letter to AMCAS?
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 7

- **AAMC ID**: 8-digit number unique to each applicant (yours for life)
- **AMCAS Letter ID**: 7-digit number unique to each letter you request in the system
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 8

Whose contact information should I use when I’m filling out my composite letter request in the (non-AMCAS) application services?
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 9

Do I have to dress up for my composite interview?
IV. Composite letters & process

FAQ 10

Can you forward my official transcript to my relevant application services?
IV. Composite letters & process

A message from Dr. Abbott regarding:

➢ Composite interviews
➢ 4 letters of recommendation minimum

I need ALL individual letters of recommendation before I can draft your composite letter!
IV. Composite letters & process

➢ Reapplicants & Previous Cycle
  Deferrals

➢ 2018 cycle and before applicants:
  ○ You no longer have access to the old portal (but our staff does)
  ○ We still have your individual letters of recommendation!
V. The portal

1. What is the portal?
2. Old portal vs. new portal
3. Navigating the portal

ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY
REQUEST A COMPOSITE LETTER
WITHOUT REGISTERING ON THE PORTAL
V. The portal

Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental Center

- Please complete the Student Registration, Competency-Based Admissions, HPED, Questions, and Resume pages below in order to submit a request for a composite interview with the Pre-Medical/Dental Center. The other pages can be completed after your interview as the information becomes available.
- You can click the “Save Draft” button on each individual page and modify items at a later time before clicking the “Finish Page” button when it is ready for final submission.
- References section is only available after finishing the Student Registration section.

Krista Rogers

**Application Status - Submitted**

**Complete Checklist**

- Student Registration ✔
- Competency-Based Admissions ✔
- HPED ✔
- Questions ✔
- Exams ✔
- Resume ✔
- Course Grades
- IDs
- Draft
- References

- I am ready to schedule Pt I of my composite interview (20 minutes)
  Please select this button once you have completed the Student Registration, Competency-Based Admissions, HPED, Questions, and Resume pages.

* Please list your availability for Pt I of your composite interview and whether you prefer it to be in person or via phone (e.g., Mondays 2-5 pm in person)

Note that composite interviews are conducted in two parts of 20 minutes each. Both parts, especially Pt II, can be conducted over the phone if that is most convenient for you, though we recommend that you complete Pt II in person if at all possible.

A date and time for Pt II will be scheduled with you at the conclusion of Pt I. PRE-DENTAL APPLICANTS: please enter “N/A” when the system prompts you for a composite interview time.

Test
V. The portal

**IMPORTANT: References page**

- Please check this box when ALL of your individual letters of recommendation have been uploaded to your References page. Doing so will enter your file into a queue for our staff to proceed with the final drafting, editing, and submission of your composite letter.
V. The portal

**FAQ 1**

What should I do if one of my letter writers contacts me to say that they’re having trouble submitting their letter through the portal?
V. The portal

FAQ 2

How do I know if my individual letters of recommendation have correct formatting?
VI. Resources

➢ UConn Pre-Med/Dent workshops:
  - 2020 Cycle Application Orientation: Thursday, February 7 / 6 pm-7:30 pm / ITE C80
  - Selecting Schools to Apply to Workshop: Monday, March 4 / 3 pm-4 pm / ARJ 143
  - Personal Statements Workshop: Tuesday, March 12 / 3 pm-4 pm / ARJ 143
  - Secondary Applications Workshop: Wednesday, March 27 / 3 pm-4 pm / ARJ 143

➢ UConn Center for Career Development:
https://career.uconn.edu/
VI. Resources

➢ AMCAS: 202-828-0600 / amcas@aamc.org
➢ AACOMAS: 617-612-2889 / aacomasin@liaisoncas.com
➢ AADSAS: 617-612-2045 / aadsasin@aadsasweb.org
➢ TMDSAS: 512-499-4785 / info@tmdsas.com
➢ CASPA: 617-612-2080 / caspain@caspaonline.org
➢ OPTOMCAS: 617-612-2888 / optomcasin@optomcas.org
➢ AACPMAS: 617-612-2900 / aacpmasinfo@aacpmas.org
Applicants at the end of this presentation:

Any last questions?
Thank you!

Let’s go, Huskies (to professional school)!!