**Preview of the Online Application Form for the University Recommendation from the Drexel University Health Professions Committee**

* **You must email Mary Beth Davis, the pre-health advisor, no later than Tuesday January 28, 2020 to receive a personalized link to the University Recommendation Application.**
* **Online Application and Individualized Links will be available at the end of the fall quarter, approximately December 11, 2019.**
* **DO NOT share the link as the link is for your specific application only.**

**The deadline for submitting the Online Application Form is 9:00 PM Eastern Time**

 **on Monday February 3, 2020.**

*Note that this application is only reviewed by members of the Drexel University Health Professions Committee. It is not sent to medical or dental schools or shared with other individuals within or outside of Drexel University.*

 The Drexel University Health Professions Committee consists of several faculty members and deans from multiple academic departments and fields of study across Drexel University and the Prehealth Advisor.

**Questions about the University Recommendation should be directed to Mary Beth Davis.**

**A. Eligibility for the University Recommendation**

* Currently enrolled as an undergraduate student seeking a bachelor's degree and who completed prerequisite sciences at Drexel. Transfer students who completed the core premedical/predental science courses at another college will be assessed on a case by case basis. Transfer students should email the Prehealth advisor to assess their individual situations.
* Alumni who completed a bachelor's degree at Drexel University and who completed prerequisite science courses at Drexel
* Students and alumni who applied in past application cycles for a University Recommendation and were not selected are welcome to re-apply.
* The University Recommendation is only valid for the application cycle in which it was granted. If you applied for and were selected to receive the University Recommendation in past medical/dental school application cycles, you will need to re-apply for the University Recommendation for the 2021 application cycle. A separate re-application form will be available in the late winter for past selected recipients of the University Recommendation.

**Notes:**

1. If you are currently enrolled in a postbaccalaureate premedical/prehealth program or a graduate program in science or public health, you must first check with your program’s advisors to see if the program provides a Premedical/Predental Committee Letter for its students. If your program does provide a committee letter, you should work with your program’s advisors to adhere to their Committee Letter process.

2. Alumni who received a University Recommendation letter from the previous Prehealth Advisor, Thomas Coyne, should contact Mary Beth Davis regarding the process to send that letter to medical or dental schools.

**B. Requirements and Application Process**

Submit the Online Application by the deadline of **9:00 PM Eastern Time on Monday February 3, 2020**. Read over the application carefully and follow the instructions. Decisions about applications will be made after the deadline as opposed to a rolling review process, and the Drexel University Health Professions Committee’s decisions will be sent to applicants by email approximately 3 weeks after the deadline has passed.

**For Applicants Who Are Selected to Receive a University Recommendation**

Following notification of the University Health Professions Committee’s decision, applicants who are selected to receive the University Recommendation will be provided with more detailed information on the subsequent steps of the process. Applicants selected to receive the University Recommendation will be assigned to do two individual interviews with members of the University Health Professions Committee. Applicants selected to receive the University Recommendation will need to complete their two individual interviews by May 15, 2020. The purpose of these interviews is to assess the applicant’s readiness for a career in the health professions (maturity, intellectual ability, communication skills, etc.) and to help prepare applicants for interviews at medical or dental schools.

**C. Levels of Recommendation**

The University Health Professions Committee will assign a level of recommendation for each applicant. There are four levels: highest, highly, recommend and present for consideration. The level of recommendation is confidential, and the level of recommendation will only be included in University Recommendation Letters for which the applicant has waived their right to review the recommendation, i.e. a confidential letter.

**One *example* profile of an ideal candidate for a University Recommendation at the highest level**

* Science GPA (BCPM) (composed of all biology, chemistry, physics and math courses taken at Drexel and any other college/university) of 3.5 or higher
* Minimum of one year of volunteer service in a healthcare environment with direct patient contact
* Significant commitment to community service (several months to one year of service)
* Participation in the co-op program
* Research experience
* Demonstrated leadership ability from on-campus or off-campus activities
* Strong interpersonal and communication skills

Note that participation in the co-op program is not a requirement for receiving a University Recommendation or for any level of recommendation.

**D. FAQ**

**What if I do not have a BCPM GPA of 3.5?**

You are still encouraged to complete the application if your science GPA is close to 3.5 or if there are special circumstances affecting your academic performance. The BCPM Index of 3.5 is not an absolute requirement. Take time to reflect on your academic record and information provided by medical and dental schools about their accepted applicants.

**What are the average science GPAs for applicants accepted to medical and dental schools?**

In recent years the national average science GPA of applicants accepted to allopathic (MD) medical schools has been 3.64. (<https://www.aamc.org/data/facts/>) The science GPA for allopathic medical schools includes courses classified by the applicant on the AMCAS application as biology, chemistry, physics, and math courses.

Osteopathic (DO) medical schools calculate a science GPA that does not include math courses but does include a wide range of science courses in addition to biology, chemistry, and physics. In recent years the national average science GPA of applicants accepted to osteopathic (DO) medical schools has been 3.45.

<https://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/applying/general-admission-requirements>

Dental schools calculate a science GPA includes a wide range of science courses in addition to biology, chemistry, physics and math courses. In recent years the national average science GPA of applicants accepted to dental school has been 3.45.

<http://www.adea.org/publications-and-data/data-analysis-and-research/applicants-enrollees-and-graduates.aspx>

**Is there a minimum number of hours of required health care experience?**

While there is no formal “cutoff” in terms of hours, the University Health Professions Committee and medical schools are looking for a sustained commitment over a period of time. We believe that one year is a minimum because of the need to have a realistic picture of a career in a health profession.  Note that for medical school applicants, shadowing physicians does not substitute for volunteer experience with direct patient engagement.

Volunteer experience in a healthcare setting with patient contact is a requirement for applying to medical school. In addition, the University Health Professions Committee will not recommend any student who has little or no experience in this area.

Dental schools generally require applicants to complete 50-100 hours of shadowing dentists prior to applying to dental school.

**Is there a minimum number of hours required for community service?**

No, however similar to health care experience, the University Health Professions Committee and medical/dental schools are looking for a sustained commitment over a period of time. Medical and dental schools are looking to develop community-oriented health care providers; therefore, admission committees are interested in applicants with a broad exposure to people and communities as well as a demonstrated commitment to service.

**If I have already graduated from Drexel and live far away or if I am a current student who will be far away for co-op during the winter or spring quarter and I am selected to receive the University Recommendation Letter, will I need to travel to Philadelphia for my University Health Professions Committee interviews?**

For alumni and students who are far away, the University Health Professions Committee will do its best to accommodate Skype interviews; note that applicants will need to accommodate the professional work schedules and availability of faculty and deans, which commonly is during the “business day.” Please contact Mary Beth Davis if you have questions about this issue.

**Do I need to submit recommendation letters with the application for the University Recommendation?**

No, do not send any recommendations with the application for the University Recommendation. The application asks you to list names of potential recommenders in order to for you to start thinking seriously about this issue.

Note that applicants selected to receive a University Recommendation will be required to obtain one letter of recommendation from a science professor who has taught them in a lecture or lab class. This letter from the science professor will be due by June 30, 2020, and this letter will be included with the University Recommendation that will be transmitted to the medical and dental school application services. Medical and dental school admissions committees frequently require a recommendation from a faculty member who has taught the applicant in a formal science class; for this reason, the University Health Professions Committee has this requirement.

**E. Topics for consideration in responding to questions in this application and in preparing for the medical and dental school application process**

This section is to provide you with some insight into the academic, personal, and professional competencies that admissions committees are assessing. The AAMC has outlined these competencies well for medical school applicants:

**AAMC Core Competencies**

 The AAMC has defined 15 “core competencies” that entering medical school students need to demonstrate. (<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/core-competencies/> ) As you do a self-assessment of your “readiness” to apply to medical school, think about how your application will convey that you have developed these competencies. For predental students, this exercise can also be useful as you prepare to apply to dental school.

**Thinking and Reasoning Competencies Science Competencies**

 Critical Thinking Living Systems

 Quantitative Reasoning Human Behavior

 Scientific Inquiry

 Written Communication

**Interpersonal Competencies Intrapersonal Competencies**

 Service Orientation Ethical Responsibility to Self and Others

 Social Skills Reliability and Dependability

 Cultural Competence Resilience and Adaptability

 Teamwork Capacity for Improvement

 Oral Communication

**Diversity questions on secondary applications**

 Many of the secondary applications will have a question asking applicants how they will contribute to the diversity of the medical/dental school class and community. Think broadly about the concept of diversity; diverse perspectives can be cultural, socioeconomic, intellectual, professional experience, special talents, etc. Spend some time thinking about what you could bring to a medical/dental school community.

**Application for the University Recommendation from the Drexel University Health Professions Committee**

**You will need to upload a current resume to your application.**

**The application deadline is 9:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on Monday February 3, 2020.**

*Note that this application is only reviewed by members of the Drexel University Health Professions Committee. It is not sent to medical or dental schools or shared with other individuals within or outside of Drexel University.*

**AMCAS refers to the centralized allopathic (MD) school application.**

**AACOMAS refers to the centralized osteopathic (DO) school application.**

**AADSAS refers to the centralized dental school application.**

**TMDSAS refers to the centralized medical and dental school application service for Texas state medical schools.**

**SECTION I PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name:

University ID: Graduation Year:

Email address: Cell Phone:

Country of Citizenship:

If you are a US citizen or a permanent resident, what is the “State of Legal Residence” that you will enter on the medical or dental school application?

**Adopted from the 2020 AMCAS medical school application**

**Please select the set of pronouns you want people to use to refer to you. Select one option or add in your own in the space provided. If selected to receive the University Recommendation, these pronouns will be used to refer to you in the text of the letter that will be sent to AMCAS.**

 [ ] She/Her/Hers

 [ ] He/Him/His

 [ ] They/Them/Theirs

 [ ] Ze/Hir/Hirs

 [ ] Different set (please specify):

**Note that for the 2020 application cycle AACOMAS, AADSAS, and TMDSAS did not have prompts regarding preferred pronoun usage. When these applications open in May/June 2020 for the 2021 application process, the University Health Professions Committee will review them to see if there are prompts for individual applicant’s pronoun preferences. If you are selected to receive the University Recommendation, you can discuss pronoun usage with the Prehealth Advisor if you are applying to AACOMAS, AADSAS, or TMDSAS.**

**SECTION II ACADEMIC RECORD**

You need to report **ALL** colleges and universities where you have **ever** enrolled for a course(s). This includes:

* Any colleges where you took courses during high school or before enrolling at Drexel
* Any colleges where you took summer courses
* Any colleges where you took postbac courses or graduate/professional courses after graduating from Drexel

It does not matter if you transferred the credits to Drexel or not; you will be required to report these courses to the medical/dental school application services.

Attach an unofficial transcript for any college except for Drexel.

**Note for military veterans:** AMCAS requires the submission of the Joint Services Transcript; however, you do not need to submit it with this application in order to apply for the University Recommendation.

**List all of the colleges that you have ever attended below.**

**Enter your undergraduate science GPA (BCPM):**

(The science GPA is the average of all courses taken in the biology, chemistry, physics, and math departments.)

**Enter your cumulative undergraduate GPA:**

**Major:**

**Minor (if applicable):**

**Program (5yr/3co-ops, 4yr/1co-op, 4yr, BS/MS):**

Note that MCAT and DAT scores are not required in order to apply for the University Recommendation and submitted scores are not included in the evaluation process. The request to report these scores is for advising purposes only.

**MCAT Scores (if taken) Please enter the scaled score and the percentile rank.**

Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems:

Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills:

Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems:

Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior:

Total MCAT Score:

Date taken:

Enter date(s) that you plan to take the MCAT:

**DAT Scores (if taken)**

AC AVG: PAT: QRT: RCT:

Gen Biology: Gen. Chemistry: Organic Chemistry:

Total Science:

Date taken:

Enter date(s) that you plan to take the DAT.

**In completing the following sections only use plain text – no bold, italics or special characters. The AMCAS, AACOMAS, AADSAS, and TMDSAS applications only accept plain text, and on those applications special formatting may lead to formatting problems following submission. Start using the plain text format now to draft your essays and question responses.**

**SECTION III COLLEGE ACTIVITIES**

**Introductory academic questions**

* **Why did you choose your college major and if applicable, your minor?**

* **Are you planning to do / have you done a senior thesis or capstone project?**

**Instructions for Sections A – G.**

 1. Please list and briefly describe your involvement in the following types of co-curricular activities. For each of the individual sections (A-G) below, one or two paragraphs should be sufficient to describe specific activities. Obviously, some sections may have more entries (i.e. one co-op versus 3 co-ops, multiple community service placements, etc.) that require additional paragraphs, but be concise in your responses.

 2. For **each** experience and/or activity, **provide inclusive dates of your participation**, i.e. month and year, not just years.

 3. Where requested, provide the name and contact information of your direct supervisor.

 4. Note that some activities may fit into more than one category. For such activities please do not repeat the experience description; list the activity under each entry and refer to the initial description of the activity indicating in which section it can be found.

This section is designed to help you organize content and collect information (i.e. supervisor’s contact information) needed for your medical and dental school applications. On the AMCAS, AACOMAS, AADSAS, and TMDSAS applications, however, you will only have 600-750 total characters (letters, spaces and punctuation) to describe your activities.

**A. Co-op program**

**If you participated in the co-op program: give some specific details of your employment (projects, assignments). List the location, employer (company, research facility, etc.), and name/contact information of your direct supervisor. Include comments on how these experiences had an impact on your personal or career development.**

**B. Extracurricular activities: defined as activities outside the usual duties of a full-time job and/or class. Leadership: defined as a position of responsibility, with a purpose to guide or direct others. Briefly describe the extent of your participation in extracurricular activities and leadership activities.**

**C. Volunteer experience in a clinical setting (e.g., hospital):**

**Describe your Patient Engagement Experience: defined as direct interaction with patients and involvement in the care of people in a health care related environment, attending to their health maintenance/progression or end of life needs. Include comments on how these experiences have had an impact on your personal or career development. Provide contact information for your supervisor or the volunteer coordinator.**

**D. Physician/Dentist shadowing:**

**Provide contact information for the physician/dentist. Include comments on how the experience(s) has had an impact on your personal or career development. Predental students – list the approximate number of shadowing hours you have accumulated to date.**

 **Note that while you may list shadowing of family members on this application for the University Recommendation, be aware that medical and dental schools prefer that applicants shadow professionals who are not immediate family members.**

**E. Community/volunteer service in the general community: defined as involvement in a service activity (e.g., shelters for homeless, soup kitchens, tutoring, etc.) without constraint or guarantee of reward or compensation. Provide contact information for your supervisor or volunteer coordinator. Include comments on how the experience(s) has had an impact on your personal or career development.**

**F. List all research experiences. Research experience:** **defined as involvement in a scholarly or scientific investigation of a hypothesis that is supervised by an individual with verifiable research credentials. List any conferences attended or publications.** **Provide contact information for your research supervisor(s).**

**For each research experiences please address the following:**

**What did you do? How has this experience influenced your career goals?**

**Provide a 1-2 sentence description of the objective/goal/question explored in the project.**

**Note that research experience may include participation in the STAR or other summer research program, volunteering as a research assistant in a lab, clinical research, co-op positions, etc.**

**G. Paid employment**

**What paid jobs, excluding co-op, have you held since starting college (including summers)? Provide a brief description of your responsibilities.**

**List approximate hours per week, and contact information for your supervisor.**

**SECTION IV ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

**Please limit your comments to 1-2 paragraphs for each question.**

**a. *Briefly*, what are the primary reasons that you want to become a physician or dentist? Note that you will need to be able to state this concisely in an interview.**

**b. For predental students - list your hobbies that involve manual dexterity and note a recent project that you have undertaken. Note that this is a common question at dental school interviews and there is a similar question on the AADSAS application.**

**c. How do you assess your preparation and chances of admission to professional school at this time and why? What, if any, do you see as weaknesses or obstacles to being admitted to professional school this year?**

**d. To what extent do you feel that your academic record properly represents your candidacy to this profession? If your science and math GPA is below 3.3, please explain why you feel that you are ready to apply to medical or dental school at this time.**

**e. If you have already taken the MCAT or DAT, do you feel that your scores accurately reflect your skills in standardized testing? If not, do you plan to retake the test?**

**f. Describe your strengths and weaknesses. What have you done to address your weaknesses?**

**g. What plans do you have if you are not admitted to professional school this cycle? Have you considered alternative careers? If not, why not?**

**h. If you are a senior, please describe your work or academic plans for the upcoming medical/dental school application year. (if known)**

**SECTION V FOR ALUMNI**

**If you have already graduated from Drexel University, briefly describe your work/activities since you graduated.**

**Are you enrolled in a postbaccalaureate or graduate school program?**

**If yes, have you discussed your plans to apply to medical/dental school with your postbac/graduate program advisor?**

**If you are enrolled in a postbac/graduate program, does your postbac/graduate program provide a premedical/predental committee letter for its students?**

 **If your postbac/graduate program provides a committee letter you should seek a letter from your advisors; medical/dental schools do not want multiple committee letters. Email Mary Beth Davis if you have questions about this issue.**

**SECTION VI INSTITUTIONAL ACTION AND CRIMINAL MISCONDUCT QUESTIONS**

Most professional school applications include questions about whether or not the applicant has been the subject of any institutional action from their college/university and questions about whether or not the applicant has a criminal record. These questions are usually followed by a limited sized text box (1325 characters and spaces on the AMCAS application) to explain the circumstances.

Please read and respond to the institutional action and criminal misconduct questions below.  **If you answer YES to any questions, provide a brief description of the circumstances. If you prefer not to write about the situation you can schedule a meeting with Mary Beth Davis and discuss the issue with her.** Note that the questions are from the AMCAS medical school application; they are good representatives of these types of questions.

**1. Institutional action:**

Were you ever the recipient of any institutional action by any college or medical school for unacceptable academic performance or conduct violation, even though such action may not have interrupted your enrollment or required you to withdraw? You must answer "Yes" even if the action does not appear on or has been deleted or expunged from your official transcripts due to institutional policy or personal petition.

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

**2. Misdemeanor:**

Have you ever been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no contest to, a Misdemeanor crime, excluding 1) any offense for which you were adjudicated as a juvenile, 2) any convictions which have been expunged or sealed by a court, or 3) any misdemeanor convictions for which any probation has been completed and the case dismissed by the court (in states where applicable)?

You need NOT disclose any instance where you:

•were arrested, but not charged;

•were arrested and charged, but the charges were dropped;

•were arrested and charged, but found not guilty by a judge or jury;

•were arrested and found guilty by a judge or jury, but the conviction was overturned on appeal; or

•received an executive pardon.

[ ] Yes

[x] No

**3. Felony:**

Have you ever been convicted of, or pleaded guilty or no contest to, a Felony crime, excluding 1) any offense for which you were adjudicated as a juvenile, or 2) convictions which have been expunged or sealed by a court (in states where applicable)?

You need NOT disclose any instance where you:

•were arrested but not charged;

•were arrested and charged, but the charges were dropped;

•were arrested and charged, but found not guilty by a judge or jury;

•were arrested and found guilty by a judge or jury, but the conviction was overturned on appeal; or

•received an executive pardon.

[ ] Yes

[ ] No

**SECTION VII TENTATIVE LISTS OF EVALUATORS AND SCHOOLS**

***Do not submit letters of recommendation with your application for the University Recommendation.***

**List the individuals you are *planning* to ask for letters of evaluation. Include full name and department. One letter must be from a professor who taught you in a science course. If you are applying to osteopathic medical schools, one of your evaluators should be from an osteopathic physician. Identify each recommender by one of the following categories: science faculty, non-science faculty, and non-faculty.**

 **The purpose of this question is for you to start thinking seriously about who might be able to provide a recommendation for you and to share that information with the University Health Professions Committee.**

**Please provide a tentative list of medical/dental schools you are considering. Identify your top three choices.**

**Are you applying to any dual degree programs? (I.e. MD/MPH, MD/PhD etc.) If so, where?**

**Are you considering applying Early Decision? If so, where?**

**If you are considering applying to osteopathic medical schools, briefly describe what you have done to learn about the osteopathic philosophy and its influence on the physician’s practice of medicine.**

**SECTION VIII DRAFT PERSONAL STATEMENT**

**Although this personal statement is a draft, the Health Professions Committee expects applicants to take this section seriously and to write a thoughtful essay, not a last minute essay to meet the deadline.**

**The draft essay is limited to 5300 characters and spaces (this means letters, spaces, punctuation, and line breaks). This text limit is derived from the limits of the AMCAS/AACOMAS personal statement.**

**This is your opportunity to tell your own story of motivation and preparation for medicine/dentistry in a compelling way that will strongly encourage an admissions committee to invite you for an interview. Remember that the medical and dental school applications will have a section to describe work and activities, so you should not rewrite your resume in the statement. It is not possible to cover “everything” in the essay. Write what you want admissions committees to learn about you, not what you think that they want to read.**

**Some questions to consider:**

**Why have you selected this career? What motivates you to learn more about medicine or dentistry?**

**How have you demonstrated this interest?**

**What key experience(s) have you had that affirms your career goal? What did you do and what did you learn from it?**

**Have you encountered special hardships along the pathway to this career? If so, describe.**

**You will be able to upload the essay as a separate Word or PDF file on the online application.**

**SECTION IX APPLICANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

 The prior sections asked about your collegiate/post-collegiate academic, research, clinical exposure, community service, etc. experiences. This section is your opportunity to share with the University Health Professions Committee information that is not covered in other parts of the application and that you feel has helped shape your professional development and motivation for a career in medicine/dentistry. Please respond individually to each question below, with the total response limited to one page in length.

* In what area have you spent the majority of your life and what was its influence on you? Was this location a medically underserved area?
* Were languages other than English spoken at home?
* Are you a first-generation college student?
* Did you serve in the military?

* Identify an experience in which you overcame a significant challenge and how you overcame it.
* Has anyone in your family worked in the health care field?
* Please tell the University Health Professions Committee something else about you that “does not fit” into any of the other sections. For example, you could describe your pets, hobbies, talents, a travel experience, etc.