

Helping You Create YOUR Giant Leap

Pre-Professional Advisors help you

- Make informed choices about your career in law, human health care fields, and animal health care.
- Evaluate your strengths.
- Identify gaps in your preparation.
- Gain access to more information.
- Connect with resources.
- Strategize your application.
- Prepare for interviews.

Remember: While we encourage you to speak to us early and often (every semester), it's never too late to talk with a Pre-Professional Advisor!

What are the common questions students ask?

Questions about Careers

- Is the career I'm considering the best choice for me? Do I have the intellectual capacity to be successful in professional school and the career that follows?
- Have I narrowed my career choices too soon?
- I want to be sure I know what it's really like to be in this field. What are its stresses and joys?
- How do professionals in this field handle the responsibilities and the "malpractice threat?" How they find the right measure of involvement with patients?
- What are the various opportunities within the career? Can one combine practice, research and teaching into one career?
- Can I actually build a career that has balance—family and practice? Will there be time for other interests?
- How do I make time for family? How do I have a personal life outside of my career?
- Is this career really worth all the time and sacrifice?
- What other fields might be a good fit for me?

Questions about Preparation

- What do I need to focus on as I prepare for a career in this area?
- What major should I pick?
- What are some volunteer opportunities?
- What are the best ways to use my summers?

Questions about the Professional School Admissions Process

- How do professional schools select candidates for admissions?
- How can I make myself as strong a candidate as possible?
- What are my chances of getting in?
- How important is my GPA? How important is my aptitude test? Will my C in this class really hurt my application?
- I'm having difficulty writing a personal statement for the application. Can you help?
- How do I prepare myself for interviews?
- How many schools should I apply to?
- How do I go about deciding which schools to apply to?
- How am I going to pay for my education?

Preparing for your Giant Leap

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Questions about Professional School

- What's professional school and post graduate training really like?
- Can I have a personal life as a student in professional school?
- When is the best time to think about starting a family?

Questions about Not Being Accepted to Professional School

- *Why wasn't I accepted? Was it my grades? My scores? Something else?*
- *What can (should) I do next year?*
- *How can I add to my preparation, improve the quality of my application, and enhance my future chances of acceptance?*
- *Should I re-evaluate whether I have made the right career choice?*

We can help with all of these questions and more!

We train at conferences and through webinars with people who serve on admissions committees. We interact regularly with the staff in admissions offices and with the people who run the aptitude tests and the application services. That's how we develop our expertise on the application process.

And yet, some students don't ever consult with us? Why not?

- Some students don't know what questions to ask.
 - Well, we just provided quite a few questions as a starting place.
- Some students trust their peers for more accurate information.
 - We learn our jobs directly from professional school admissions professionals. So you can trust your friends if you want...
- Some students think the web has better information.
 - See above.
- Some students think someone in the profession can provide them with enough advice.
 - Many of the people in these fields applied a number of years ago. Application processes are constantly changing. These are great mentors to have, but please allow us to help you learn the current logistics of the application process.
- Some think applying is no big deal.
 - From the time you take your aptitude test, it is typically about a 15 month application process before you would start your program. Does that sound like no big deal?
- Some students are just motivated and self-reliant.
 - Well, yeah. You are. Use some of that motivation to come talk to us! What harm does it do to double-check and make sure you have everything right?
- Some students don't want to announce they are interested because of a fear of failure.
 - We are your advocate in this process. We are not gatekeepers in the application process.
- Some students are concerned they are not competitive enough and that we will judge them.
 - We are here to help you figure out how to get from point A to point B. We may know of resources to help you develop a more competitive application. We can help you come up with a plan of action. We will give you our best advice based on our experience, but it is not a judgment. You might need to take extra steps to get there, but we believe in you.
- Some students have decided late in their academic studies to apply or even after graduation.
 - We can help with that. Whenever you consider this decision, we can help. Even if you have already graduated, we are happy to help you.

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So what does it take?

- Experience—get to know the field you want to enter—learn all you can about it.
- Ideally, spend time observing/shadowing someone in the field.
- Reflect on what you learned from the experience and what it meant to you.
- It does not require a genius to work in these professional fields. It requires hard work, an open mind, and the ability to look at complex/difficult problems in new and creative ways.
- You need to be committed to life-long learning—from teachers, colleagues; texts, journals and continuing education courses; and from patients/clients.
- The best time to apply is when your application is the strongest. If you have major gaps in your preparation, consider applying when those gaps are filled.
- It's not all about grades and test scores. Professional school admissions committees look beyond grades. They could fill their class with applicants who have perfect grades.
- Professional schools look for people with human qualities. Working in healthcare or law requires building relationships: between providers and clients and within and across professions.
- Professional schools also want applicants who can provide services to individuals and to the community. They look for those who have been in leadership roles. A good predictor of future altruism is past altruism.
- They look for excellence in your major—whatever that major is.
- They like to see scholarship beyond the classroom—research, for example.
- Professional schools look for evidence of depth and reflection. One of the best ways to demonstrate those qualities is to reflect on what you have learned from each of your important experiences. Beyond your grades, scores, and activities, what sort of a person are you?

Remember, Pre-Professional Advising is here for you! We are your advocates in the application process.

All you need to do is take the first step and make an appointment through BoilerConnect.