Pre-Application To-Do List

Pre-Professional Advising in the Center for Career Opportunities can help with your professional school application! Schedule an appointment through BoilerConnect (purdue.campus.eab.com and look for CCO/Pre-Professional) or send questions to preprofessional@purdue.edu.

As you begin to think about applying, you will find advance preparation will make the process much less stressful. This to-do list will help you prepare for your application.

Applying

• **Explore**—Visit the application service you will be using and read over the website, FAQ, and instructions. This will educate you on what information you will need for your application.

• **Get Advice**—Make an appointment with Pre-Professional Advising to discuss your application.

• **Letters**—Figure out who will write your letters. If you are applying to medical, dental, or podiatry programs, ask Pre-Professional Advising about their Letter Service. For other programs, letters are submitted by letter writers directly online.

• **Brainstorm**—Start thinking about your application essay. Gather some thoughts to help you write your personal statement.

• **Writing the Personal Statement**—This essay is an important element of your application and needs to be taken seriously. It expresses why you want to enter the field and allows schools to get to know you a bit better. Some schools may ask for a second round of essays with a very quick turnaround timeframe.
  • Pay close attention to any required prompt
  • Focus on 2-3 main points
  • Write clearly and concisely
  • Be mindful of character and/or space counts depending on the site
  • Be descriptive and provide concrete examples
  • Think about your reader
    ➢ *If you want the Pre-Professional Advisors to read your draft, please email as a Word attachment to preprofessional@purdue.edu*
  • Some schools may ask for a second round of essays with a very quick turnaround timeframe.

• **Schools**—Research the schools to which you will apply. Make a chart with items such as contact information, any additional requirements you need, extra application requirements, and the types letters of recommendation they prefer.

• **Organize**—You will need to list your activities, awards, research, and shadowing/observation experiences. Start gathering all this information early. Better yet, as an undergrad, keep a log as you go.

• **Clean House**—Be sure all of your social media is professional and your email address and phone messages are appropriate for communication with professional programs.

• **APPLY EARLY!!!**

Additional Preparation

• **Interview Preparation**—Watch for news in your professional area and start preparing for interviews.

• **Parallel Planning**—Develop your back-up plan during your application year and fill any gaps in your application in case you need to apply again.

• **Financial Planning**—File your FAFSA even if you have not yet been admitted.
Letter Tips

- **DO** ask people who know more about you than your grades.
- **DO** ask faculty who had you in class.
- **DO** ask well in advance.
- **DO** give your letter writer additional information to assist with writing the letter.
- **DO** follow up to make sure the letter was completed/submitted.
- **DO** talk to the Pre-Professional Advisor if you have questions about letters.
- **DO** research the schools you are applying to and make sure you are getting appropriate letters.
- **DO** send your letter writer a thank you note.
- **DON’T** ask fellow students to write letters.
- **DON’T** ask family members to write letters.
- **DON’T** ask high school teachers, clergy or academic advisors to write letters unless you have interacted with them as your supervisor on a project.

Application Services & Approximate Opening Dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Service</th>
<th>Type of Program</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>VMCAS</td>
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<td>TMDSAS</td>
<td>MD, DO &amp; Vet Programs in Texas</td>
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