

CLAS Academic Advising Center

Academic advising for students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Call Us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us On-line: www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising

Pre-Professional E-Bulletin

Special Edition: Application Process

Week of May 25, 2009

This special edition of the Pre-Professional E-Bulletin features upcoming application information.

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A Note from Amanda & Joanie to 2010 Applicants:

Congratulations on embarking upon the professional school application process! We know that this can be an exciting and sometimes overwhelming journey. Please remember to take it one step at a time; it will all get done. Remember, too, that you are responsible for this process, but we are here to help support you through it. You will want to check the application systems and your status with the schools throughout the application cycle to make sure that all parties have received the appropriate information from you.

Once your application file is complete in the CLAS Academic Advising Center including having received your student information sheet and all of your letters of recommendation, Amanda will write the advisor cover letter for your letter packet. Please remember that letters are part of your secondary application process, not your primary application process, so it is not necessary for your letters to be submitted at the time that you submit your primary application. We strongly encourage you to check with the schools to which you plan to attend to make sure that the letters they require from you are represented in your letter packet. Also, please remember to submit a copy of your primary application(s) once you have submitted it to us, along with your application ID number(s) (i.e. AMCAS ID#, AACOMAS ID #, AADSAS ID #, etc.). We will also need the list of schools to which you plan to apply so that we can send your letters to the appropriate programs. If during the application cycle, you change your mind about schools, either choosing to apply to more or apply to less, please notify us right away.

We look forward to staying in close communication with you throughout this application cycle and wish you much success! If you have any questions or concerns along the way, please let us know.

1. Application Service Updates

Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirements (VMSAR) Book—Now Available

The 2009/2010 edition of the Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements (VMSAR) is now available. The publication contains admission requirements and contact information for all 33 U.S. and Canadian veterinary medical colleges, as well as listing veterinary institutions in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Mexico and the Caribbean. VMSAR provides an overview of the application and enrollment processes along with specific information on each of AAVMC's member and affiliate colleges. This year's edition, highlights the roll of accreditation and licensure in the decision making process. For more information and purchasing instructions on the VMSAR please visit: http://www.aavmc.org/vmcas/VMSAR_publications.htm.

VMCAS will launch in June 2009 for Entering Class of 2010, visit <http://www.aavmc.org/vmcas/vmcas.htm>.

PharmCAS Pharmacy School Admissions Requirements Book

<http://www.aacp.org/news/shopaacp/Pages/publications.aspx>

<http://www.aacp.org/resources/students/pharmacyforyou/admissions/Pages/PSAR.aspx>

PharmCAS will open in June 2009 for Entering Class of 2010 applicants, visit <http://www.pharmcas.org/>.

OptomCAS Optometry Centralized Application Service

OptomCAS launches July 15, 2009!

Please note that applicants who are submitting letters through college and university letter services cannot submit letters that are dated more than two years (24 months) prior to the opening of the current OptomCAS session. Therefore, for the 2009-2010 application cycle, only letters filed through a college and university letter service from July 15, 2007 and onward will be considered.

If you are submitting LORs through a letter service, you are strongly encouraged to have the original author(s) of the LORs complete the rating of attributes, which is Part I of the Recommendation Request Form. Please note that while OptomCAS will accept the rating of attributes, which is Part I of the Recommendation Request Form, from a college official who is a designee for the college or university's letter service office, applicants should also check with the individual programs for which they plan to apply to confirm that Recommendation Request Forms completed by a third-party will be accepted.

For more information, visit <http://www.opted.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3499>

AMCAS

See <http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/start.htm>

Detailed Instructions on how to complete the AMCAS can be found online at <http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/amcas2010instructions041509.pdf>

2010 AACOMAS Application—Opened May 1st

Applicants will be able to begin their application to the nations' 25 Osteopathic Medical Colleges and branch campuses, and submit as soon as they have completed it. The URL link is: <https://aacomas.aacom.org/>.

Detailed application instructions can be found on-line at:
<http://www.aacom.org/InfoFor/applicants/Pages/Instructions.aspx>

2010 AACOMAS Enhancements:

- * For applicants the most significant change is the opportunity for re-applicants to "roll forward" their 2009 application - this means that they will not have to enter all of their coursework again. This process does still require the applicant rolling forward data to review and affirm the data that are on each page of the application before submitting.
- * In the past, applicants who did not read the instructions for the application may have experienced a delay in processing when we opened their application for verification and discover that they did not enter any coursework. We have added a required checkbox for them to indicate that they have entered all coursework.
- * Applicants will now provide their 8-digit MCAT/AAMC number that was assigned to them when they registered for their MCAT exam. AACOMAS must have this number in order to accurately match their MCAT scores to their AACOMAS application.
- * Applicants will be asked the following on the 2010 AACOMAS: "I authorize AACOMAS to release information about my application to pre-professional health advisors at the colleges and universities that I attended to assist in the counseling of future applicants": Yes No
- * Please encourage your applicants to check off "YES" in order to allow their data to flow into the Advisor Information Center (AIC) portal and for you to have a complete applicant data set. They may update their decision.

AADSAS 2010 Application Cycle Information

- * The AADSAS 2010 cycle will launch on June 1, 2009. Traditionally, AADSAS has launched on May 15, but we are delaying our opening this year as we move AADSAS to a new technology platform.
- * Applicants to AADSAS 2009 who plan to re-apply in 2010 are reminded to print a copy of their 2009 applications. After May 29, 2009 the 2009 AADSAS application will no longer be accessible to applicants. At present, re-applicants must create a new 2010 AADSAS application and re-enter coursework information, etc. (We hope to be able to "move forward" applicant data for re-applicants in future years, but do not have this option at present.)
- * The process for submitting Letters of Evaluation to AADSAS remains unchanged from last year. Applicants continue to have the option to submit four individual Letters of Evaluation OR one Committee Report plus one individual Letter of Evaluation.

AADSAS considers a Committee Report to be:

- * A Committee Letter with supporting letters attached OR
- * A Committee Letter that is composed and uses quotes from various evaluators but does not have supporting letters attached OR

* A Composite letter which usually consists of a cover letter from an advising office and a collection of individual evaluation letters that are attached; with composite letters, the advising office serves as a central collection service for the applicant but does not make additional assessments of the candidate

* The fee for AADSAS 2010 will be \$217 for the initial designation and \$68 for each additional designation. We recognize that many students suffer financial hardship and have increased our Fee Reduction Program for 2010. Information about the program can be found inside the AADSAS application.

2. Open Houses

Des Moines University Podiatry Preview July 22-25, 2009

For more information visit, <http://www.dmu.edu/rsvp/podiatrypreview/>

The Illinois College of Optometry Admissions Open House Saturday, June 6th

The Illinois College of Optometry cordially invites you to attend our annual Admissions Open House on Saturday, June 6th, 2009 from 8:15 AM to 1:30 PM. Advisors, prospective students and their families are welcome to join us to learn tips on preparing for optometry school, discover new technologies and advances in the profession of Optometry, take a guided tour of the campus and clinical facilities and more! There will also be an opportunity to meet with admissions representatives, student financial service representatives and ICO faculty. Refreshments will be served. Please share the attached flyer with your students.

If you or your students would like to attend, please RSVP at www.ico.edu (<http://www.ico.edu/>). For directions to ICO, visit www.ico.edu (<http://www.ico.edu/>) and click on Visitors. We hope to see you there!

Illinois College of Optometry
3241 South Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60616-3878
Telephone: 312-949-7407
www.ico.edu

LECOM Summer On-Campus Day—June 19, 2009

We here at LECOM would like to cordially invite you and your students to our summer On-Campus Day to be held here in Erie, PA on June 19, 2009 from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m.

This will be an opportunity for those attending to take a tour of the campus, hear presentations about our medical and/or pharmacy school, see a demonstration of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, and have your questions answered. You may RSVP by contacting Tom Ross at tross@lecom.edu or at 814-860-5172.

The Slice of Logan Open House—June 27, 2009

7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. William D. Purser, DC Center, Logan College of Chiropractic Campus

To register, call the admissions office at 1-800-533-9210 or visit <http://www.logan.edu/SubPages.aspx?pID=397&mhID=148&shID=0&splpID=20> by Friday, June 19, 2009.

3. Exam Prep Information

Kaplan Live Online Classes for DAT Students

As of May 1, Kaplan began offering Live Online classes for DAT students who cannot attend live DAT sessions in center. The new program was carefully designed to maintain our classroom course's teaching efficacy while enabling broader reach to those who have not traditionally had many options in their area. All of the great features of the Kaplan Classroom course are included in the DAT Live Online course, including:

- * DAT strategies perfected over 25 years of helping students prepare for this rigorous exam
- * Instructors who have scored in the 90th percentile on the DAT
- * Exclusive Smart Reports technology that monitors student performance and provides individual score analysis and prescriptive feedback
- * The most comprehensive training library available anywhere - over 3,500 questions, all in a computer interface just like the real DAT
- * The largest available PAT question pool - over 1,000 PAT questions and 3D animated solutions
- * The only program to offer a full Higher Score Guarantee- if you're not ready to take the exam or are looking to retake the exam, you can study with us again for free. If you took the DAT and your score did not improve you can get a full refund of your tuition.

Students can now enjoy our 14 session program with an instructor from the convenience of their home via video and audio link. You can ask questions, participate in polls and chat, and stay after to get additional help.

The fee for our DAT Live-Online course is the same as our live course- \$1,399. Students can get more information about our new program from our website at www.kaptest.com/dat or by calling 800-KAP-TEST.

(Note: GVSU does not endorse any exam preparation organization. We simply provide this announcement as a service to students.)

4. Post-Bac Programs and 2009 Application Cycle

For those of you looking to explore your options for this coming academic year, you might want to look into post-baccalaureate programs. A good starting place is <http://services.aamc.org/postbac/> or <http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/index.aspx> search under enrichment programs. Many deadlines are quickly approaching!

Also, some Podiatry, Chiropractic and Caribbean Medical Schools are still accepting applications for the Entering Class of 2009. Deadlines are quickly approaching.

5. Interesting Reading

U.S. News and World Report Puts Osteopathic Medical Colleges at Top of List of Primary Care Resident Producers

U.S. News and World Report has released this year's best medical school rankings, and the nation's 25 colleges of osteopathic medicine are well-represented among the 146 schools responding to the magazine's survey. Eight out of the top ten (including all of the top five) medical schools listed in answer to the question "Which schools turn out the most primary care residents?" are osteopathic medical schools. The five schools topping the list include Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, University of North Texas Health Science Center/Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The magazine ranks colleges in research and in primary care. Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine ranked 7th in the Primary Care category; the University of North Texas Health Science Center/Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine ranked 29th in this category.

The nation's more than 55,000 practicing osteopathic physicians (DOs) are licensed to practice the full scope of medicine in all 50 states. They practice in all types of health care settings, including the military, and in all specialties, from pediatrics to geriatrics, and from sports medicine to trauma surgery.

The osteopathic medical profession has a proud heritage of producing primary care practitioners. Today, when there is declining interest among health care practitioners in entering primary care, the majority of osteopathic medical school graduates continue to choose careers in primary care. Osteopathic medicine also has a special focus on providing care in rural and urban underserved areas, allowing DOs to have a greater impact on the U.S. population's health and well-being than their numbers would suggest.

Nearly one in five U.S. medical students (nearly 17,000) is training to be an osteopathic physician, a ratio that is expected to grow to one in four by 2019.

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) was founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation's osteopathic medical schools, and to serve as a unifying voice for osteopathic medical education. AACOM's mission is to promote excellence in osteopathic medical education, in research and in service, and to foster innovation and quality among osteopathic colleges to improve the health of the American public.

D.O.s Could Play Key Role in Bolstering Primary Care Workforce, Say Academy Leaders

Read the story on-line at: <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/publications/news/news-now/professional-issues/20090519dos-prim-care.html>

Fighting for Life Documentary

On PBS over Memorial Day weekend and on sale beginning next Monday, May 25, the 2007 documentary "Fighting for Life" will be broadcast on many PBS stations. The film trailer can be accessed on YouTube or the official documentary website <http://www.fightingforlifethemovie.com/>. Much of the story focuses on USUHS in Bethesda.

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Fighting for Life is a powerful, sobering and emotional feature documentary portrait of American military medicine interweaving three stories:

* Military doctors, nurses and medics, working with skill, compassion and dedication amidst the vortex of the Iraq War.

* Wounded soldiers and marines reacting with courage, dignity and determination to survive and to heal.

* Students at USU, the "West Point" of military medicine, on their journey toward becoming career military physicians.

The film follows 21 year-old Army Specialist Crystal Davis, from Iraq to Germany to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington DC, as she fights to recover and "bounce back" from the loss of a leg.

The filmmakers had extraordinary access to combat support hospitals in Iraq, medevac flights with wounded soldiers, and military hospitals in Germany and the United States.

6. FAQs and Next Steps

1. What is the best way for the people who are writing me letters of recommendation to get them to you? Should they fax it, mail it or email?

You should complete and give your letter of recommendation writers the waiver form found on-line at http://www.gvsu.edu/cms3/assets/18FB597A-9B8F-F6ACC940CACB896B0C17/LOR%20Request%20Form_updated.pdf

If your recommenders are GVSU faculty, they may e-mail a pdf version of your letter to me at cuevasam@gvsu.edu. Please make sure that the letter is on GVSU letterhead and is signed. The letter should be address to "Dear Admissions Committee." All instructions for your faculty member can be found on the letter of recommendation waiver form. For all other recommenders, I would encourage them to mail the letter to the CLAS Academic Advising Center. Our full address can be found on the letter of recommendation waiver form. If needed, letters can be faxed to us if the originals follow in the mail.

2. How do you decide which letters are used?

As is our policy, we upload all of your letters received as a letter packet, unless otherwise specified. I will write an advisor cover letter and then attach all letters that we have on file for you. I will read through all of your letters and place them in order of strength. Then, the professional programs to which you apply can determine how many of the letters they will review.

If you have questions or concerns about specific requirements for a school to which you plan to apply, please e-mail Amanda Cuevas at cuevasam@gvsu.edu.

3. I noticed there is a ten dollar fee to set up my letter of recommendation file. How do I go about paying?

For those of you applying to AMCAS and AACOMAS application services, we use VirtualEvals to upload your letters. There is a ten dollar fee per application service which is how much we are charged to upload your letter. Please make a check payable to: Grand Valley State University and write VirtualEvals fee in the Memo line. You can either drop the check off or mail it in to Joanie Hodson, CLAS Academic Advising Center, C-1-140 MAK, 1 Campus Dr., Allendale, MI 49401-9403. Questions? Call the Center at 616-331-8585.

4. What information do I need to complete my application file in the CLAS Academic Advising Center?

We need the following:

Your file waiver form

<http://www.gvsu.edu/cms3/assets/18FB597A-9B8F-F6AC-C940CACB896B0C17/File%20Waiver%20Form.pdf>

Your Student Information Sheet

<http://www.gvsu.edu/cms3/assets/18FB597A-9B8FF6ACC940CACB896B0C17/Medical%20Student%20Information%20Sheet.pdf>

If you are applying to a professional program other than medical school, please select the student information sheet appropriate to your chosen profession at <http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/index.cfm?id=9A1C5168-E7D7-3E01-2BBBFED0F00EB091>

All of your letters of recommendation

A copy of your application(s) including a list of schools to which you plan to apply and your application service ID number(s) (i.e. AACOMAS ID#, AAMCAS ID#, AADSAS ID#, etc.)

A copy of your AMCAS Letter Request Form (if applicable)

VirtualEvals Payment Fee (if applicable)

Reminder: Please notify us when you have submitted your application and need us to upload your letters of recommendation!

5. What kind of letter should I select?

Generally, you should select a Letter Packet and list Amanda Cuevas as the contact person for your letters of recommendation. If you have specific questions, please e-mail Amanda Cuevas at cuevasam@gvsu.edu.

Note: If you are applying to AMCAS, when you designate the Letter Packet a Letter Request Form should be generated and you will need to e-mail it to Amanda Cuevas or Joanie Hodson so that we can upload your letters.

7. If a professional school requires 6 hours of English, will WRT 150, WRT 305 or other SWS's count? How do I report WRT 305 Credit if I took the Placement Exam?

Yes, they will. You will not list WRT 305 credit. Instead, you will want to list WRT 150 and your other SWS classes. If needed, Amanda can provide a letter to your professional school(s) explaining our GVSU requirements.

8. Can you review my personal statement?

Yes, I will be glad to review your personal statement. Please send your draft to cuevasam@gvsu.edu and make sure to write your name on the attached document. I will try to turn them around in a timely fashion. Please be mindful that this is an extremely busy time of year. My calendar is booked out for about two weeks at a time and I am also out for freshman and transfer orientations, so it may take me several days to a week before I can provide feedback to you.

**Reminder: Have you signed up for either the
premed**

<http://www.gvsu.edu/cms3/assets/18FB597A-9B8F-F6AC-C940CACB896B0C17/Premed%20Listerv%20Info%20-%20Web%20site.pdf>

or

predental

<http://www.gvsu.edu/cms3/assets/18FB597A-9B8F-F6AC-C940CACB896B0C17/Predental%20Listerv%20Info%20-%20Web%20site.pdf>

listservs?

Best Wishes for a Successful Application Process!