

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

### Committee Process

*Is this my actual application for medical/dental/optometry/podiatry school?*

No, this is only an application to participate in the Loyola Pre-Health Professions Committee process. It provides preparation for the actual application (*i.e.*, AMCAS, AADSAS, AACOMAS) you'll complete next spring and summer.

*Who are the Committee Members?*

The Committee is composed of the Pre-Health Professions Advising Staff, Loyola staff and Loyola faculty members.

*Can I choose my Committee Advisor? How are Committee Advisors assigned?*

Advisors and students are randomly matched. However, it is possible that you will be paired with someone you already know.

*What if I miss one of the Committee workshops?*

We offer a number of workshops throughout the Committee process. You are responsible for all the information provided at the workshops. It will be important to follow-up with a classmate to find out what information was covered. Typically, there will also be handouts available in the Pre-Health Professions Office.

*Can I withdraw from the Committee process?*

Yes. You may withdraw from the Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee process anytime before the Committee meets in May 2011. If you meet this deadline, you will remain eligible to participate in subsequent Committee cycles. Keep in mind that you will have to fill out a new Committee registration packet and meet the deadlines the following year if you want to go through the Committee process.

*If I withdraw from the Committee, can I still apply to health professional school?*

Yes, but you must do so independently. Due to confidentiality issues, we cannot release letters of evaluation to students who have waived their right of access to their letters. We do keep your file for five (5) years. It is your responsibility to ask your requestors to send letters directly to the schools. You may also utilize a credential file service such as Interfolio.

During the application process, some schools require letters from the Pre-Health Advisor at your school. In most cases, a letter from an academic advisor has been acceptable as one who does not participate in the Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee is not eligible for a letter from a health professions advisor.

*What if I don't get into health professional school after applying through the Committee process?*

- A. You may apply to a health professional school through the Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee only once. You may reapply to health professional school with the help of the Pre-Health Professions Office, but you cannot participate in another Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee process. You will go through an abbreviated process called the Re-applicant process.

To become a Re-applicant, you must make an appointment to meet with a Pre-Health advisor before June 11, 2012. You must have at least one (1) new letter of recommendation, an updated

autobiography, updated personal essay and list of activities. This allows the Pre-Health Advisor to gain a better understanding of what the student has been doing since applying to a health professional school. We will write an addendum to your initial Committee letter, explaining how you have improved your candidacy since your initial application. Although we want to assist all students who are pursuing a career in the health professions, it is important to keep in mind that first time Committee applicants are our top priority. Also, those who contact our office after June 11<sup>th</sup> are only eligible for coordination of letters of evaluation, but not a Re-applicant addendum to the Committee letter written on their behalf.

- B. If you reapply within two (2) years of your initial application, you are required to provide one (1) to two (2) new letters of evaluation. (Note that some health professional schools will not accept letters of evaluation that are even one (1) year old. It is the applicant's responsibility to find out how the health professional school to which he or she is applying treats old letters and act accordingly.)
- C. If you reapply more than two years after your initial application, you must provide **all new letters of evaluation**.

#### *How do I release my letters to health professional schools?*

If the Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee decides to write a cover letter on your behalf, you need to complete the "Release of Letters to Schools" form. If you are applying through AMCAS, you will complete the "Letter of Recommendation" form, using Dr. James Johnson as the author of your Committee letter.

We use a secure web-based system, Virtual Evals, to distribute Committee letters to participating medical and optometry schools. AMCAS is using a letter service which works with Virtual Evals in the letters distribution.

The first step in the release of your letters is submitting a "Release of Letters to Schools" form. This form is available at the end of the academic year 2010-11. We cannot release letters without this form. You also must provide your health professions submitted application.

#### *Confidential or Non-confidential Committee letter?*

You may elect to retain your right of access to the Committee letter or you may elect to keep it confidential and to waive your right of access to it. Please note, however, that you must elect to keep all evaluation letters (including the Committee letter) all confidential or all non-confidential; there can be no combination. For example, you may not designate your individual letters of evaluation as confidential and also retain your right of access to the Committee letter.

## Committee Packet Submission

*What items do I need to initiate the Committee Process?*

**TWO (2) COPIES** of the following:

- Personal Essay
- Autobiography
- History Form
- Academic Notation Sheet (optional)
- Personal Information Sheet
- Science GPA Calculation Sheet
- Recent photo
- Health Professions Related Experiences Sheet

*Why do I need to submit two (2) copies of the packet?*

One copy is for your Pre-Health Professions file; the other is for your Committee Advisor.

*What happens if I don't submit two (2) copies?*

Your packet will be returned because it is incomplete. Once you submit two (2) copies of the appropriate items, you will have completed the packet. In addition to the two (2) copies for Pre-Health, we **strongly** encourage you to keep a copy(ies) of your completed packet for yourself. This will be helpful when you are completing your health professional school applications.

*Why do I need to submit a photo?*

The photo will simply help us identify you.

*I turned in all my materials last year. Why can't you guys just use my old file?*

Although you may have attempted past Committee applications, we do not reactivate that material. Until you have actually applied to medical/dental/optometry school through the Committee, you are considered a first-time applicant and therefore need to submit ALL new materials.

Past letters of evaluation will be kept on file. If the letters on file are more than one (1) year old, we strongly recommend submitting all new or updated letters.

*What is the deadline for submitting the Committee packet?*

**Deadline: 5:00 pm, Friday, November 19, 2010**

*Can I submit the packet earlier than the stated deadline?*

Absolutely!

*Does the completed packet need to be in a binder or folder?*

No.

*Can I snail mail the packet to the Pre-Health Office?*

Yes, but it must be **received** in our Office by the deadline, Friday, November 19, 2010. Our mailing address is: Loyola University Chicago, Pre-Health Advising, 1032 W. Sheridan Road, Sullivan Center 262, Chicago, IL 60660.

*Can I e-mail the completed packet to the Pre-Health Professions Advising Office?*

Although this is not recommended, we understand this may be necessary for some students.  
Contact Pam Deters at 773-508-3636 to discuss your special circumstance.

## Eligibility for Committee Process

### *Who is eligible to participate in the Committee process?*

- A. Most current Loyola undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni are eligible to participate in the Pre-Health Advisory Committee process. Degree seeking undergraduate students with exceptional amounts of advanced placement or transfer credits and transfer students are **strongly encouraged** to be on course to complete at least 16 credit hours in the sciences at Loyola by the end of the 2011 spring term.
- B. Post-Baccalaureate students who have been officially admitted to the Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical/Pre-Health Program are eligible to participate in the Pre-Health Advisory Committee process. However, these students **must** be on course to complete at least 16 credit hours in the sciences at Loyola by the end of the 2011 spring term. ***Post-Baccalaureate students are strongly encouraged to have been at Loyola for at least three (3) terms (e.g., summer, fall, and spring).*** All Post-Baccalaureate students who plan to be at Loyola less than two (2) years must make the effort to ensure that the Pre-Health Advising staff and faculty are acquainted with them.
- C. MAMS students who have been officially admitted to the Master of Arts in Medical Sciences program are eligible to participate in the Pre-Health Advisory Committee process. Because MAMS students are only here for one (1) year, it is important for the MAMS student to know their MAMS advisor, faculty, and Director of the MAMS Program very well.
- D. **Grade Point Average Requirement:** Only applicants with a **Loyola cumulative grade point average** of at least **3.10** at the end of the fall semester 2010 are eligible to enter the Committee process. Similarly, Committee applicants who meet this eligibility requirement at the end of fall semester 2010 but fall below a 3.10 Loyola cumulative GPA at the end of spring term 2011 **will be discontinued** from the Committee process at that time. Loyola alumni who had below a 3.10 GPA at Loyola University Chicago upon graduation, but have completed a formal graduate degree program and achieved at least a 3.10 cumulative GPA, are eligible to enter the Committee process.
- E. The Pre-Health Professions Office reserves the right to discontinue an applicant from the Committee process.

### *Are there examples of who is not eligible to participate in the Committee process?*

- A. Post-Baccalaureate students who have not been officially admitted to the Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical/Pre-Health program are **not** eligible to participate in the Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee process.
- B. Non-Degree seeking students (other than those admitted to the Post-Baccalaureate certificate program and Loyola Alumni).
- C. Individuals applying to more than one health profession simultaneously (e.g., Medicine and Dentistry). Note: The Committee considers individuals who are applying to allopathic and osteopathic medical school simultaneously to be applying to a **single** health profession,
- D. Loyola students (undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or MAMS) with less than a 3.10 Loyola cumulative GPA (rounding to the second decimal) at the end of the fall 2010 or spring 2011 semester at Loyola University Chicago.

*Is my current GPA and BCPM competitive?*

See Red Light – Green Light general guidelines on what typically constitutes a competitive GPA and BCPM for a given type of health professional school.

**Red Light – Green Light**

The following provides general guidance on competitive grade point averages for allopathic medical, osteopathic medical, dental, optometry, and podiatry schools. Falling into one of these categories does not guarantee acceptance to health professional school, nor does it destine one for rejection.

**Allopathic Medical and Dental School**

**Green Light:** Cumulative GPA and BCPM greater than or equal to 3.60

**Yellow Light:** Cumulative GPA and/or BCPM less than 3.60 but equal to or greater than 3.30

**Red Light:** Cumulative GPA and/or BCPM less than 3.30

**Osteopathic Medical School**

**Green Light:** Cumulative GPA and BCPM greater than or equal to 3.40

**Yellow Light:** Cumulative GPA and/or BCPM less than 3.40 but equal to or greater than 3.20

**Red Light:** Cumulative GPA and/or BCPM less than 3.2

**Optometry School and Podiatry School**

**Green Light:** Cumulative GPA and BCPM greater than or equal to 3.1

**Red Light:** Cumulative GPA and/or BCPM less than 3.1

Please note that, based on the Red Light - Green Light box above, you can be Committee eligible even while it may not be advisable to apply to a health professional school. **Please consult closely an advisor in the Pre-Health Professions Program if your cumulative grade point average is below a 3.3.**

*Is my MCAT competitive?*

See Red Light – Green Light general guidelines on what typically constitutes a competitive MCAT for a given medical school.

**Red Light – Green Light**

The following provides general guidance on MCAT scores for allopathic medical and osteopathic medical schools. Falling into one of these categories does not guarantee acceptance to health professional school, nor does it destine one for rejection.

**Allopathic Medical School**

**Green Light:** MCAT is 30 or higher

**Yellow Light:** MCAT is 29, 28 or 27

**Red Light:** MCAT is 26 or lower

**Osteopathic Medical School**

**Green Light:** MCAT is 26 or higher

**Yellow Light:** MCAT is 25, 24, or 23

**Red Light:** MCAT is 22 or lower

**Please consult closely an advisor in the Pre-Health Professions Program  
if your MCAT is below a 28.**