HPU Student Timeline--Preparing for Medical School

This timeline is for students wanting to begin medical school immediately after college graduation. If you take a “gap year” before beginning med school, the dates below would be pushed back a year. Talk to Dr. Hutchins if you want to discuss the advantages of this alternative or if you have any other questions or concerns.

Freshman year-junior year:
- Work towards your degree requirements, medical school pre-requisites, and recommended courses for med school and the MCAT (see Dr. Hutchins if you have questions about degrees or courses).
- Maintain a good GPA! Get to know your professors. They will remember your behaviors as a student...whether or not you were on time to class, worked well with your lab partner, demonstrated good communication skills/scientific reasoning skills/etc.. When it’s time to write an evaluation of you, they will be asked to report on their impression of you. Make a good impression!
- Gain experience in the field (shadow a physician, participate in medical missions, etc.); there is generally no required number of observation hours, but aim for around 100; it is best if this is not compressed into a short amount of time (for example, all in one summer); keep a journal of each individual experience so that you’ll remember everything when it’s time to write your application essays.

Spring of Junior year:
- Plan on taking the MCAT sometime during late Spring or early Summer (early June is a good option and gives you time to complete Spring courses before taking the MCAT). It takes about 30 days to get your MCAT results in, so plan ahead in terms of when you want to submit your application (online TMDSAS application is open from May-October; the earlier the better). Regardless of when you take the MCAT, complete as much of your application as you can as soon as possible. Don’t wait on your test scores to begin!
- Submit your HPU Committee Evaluation Request Form to Dr. Hutchins (due by Spring Break).
- In April, the Health Professions Advisory Committee will conduct an interview with you in order to learn more about your past experiences and future plans. This will also give you experience in participating in a formal interview. The committee members will then write feedback based on their knowledge/impression of you as a student and submit that to Dr. Hutchins to be used as part of a committee letter. Dr. Hutchins will submit this committee letter directly to TMDSAS.
• Beginning May 1st, you may begin working on your online TMDSAS application. Time-sensitive things that need to be done first:
  o Complete at least the following two sections immediately: “Colleges Attended Questions” and “Letters of Evaluation.” You will need to select the option of giving HPU access to your account. Once these sections are done, notify Dr. Hutchins. She is the HPU representative that will then be able to access your account in order to upload your committee evaluation letter. Your letter will be uploaded by the end of May (at the latest).

Summer after Junior year:
• Complete and submit your TMDSAS application online along with any supplemental application materials that may be required. If you’re applying to Baylor (the only private Texas med school that doesn’t use TMDSAS) or any out-of-state medical schools, complete the AMCAS application. Other schools may have different procedures for evaluation letters. Be sure you give your evaluators plenty of time to complete their letters on your behalf.

Senior year:
• Invitations for interviews are usually given between August and January. Offers for admission can be given as early as November, but most often this occurs in early February.