

Application Resources

Public Health

- Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health:** www.aspph.org/
- Instructions & FAQs:** www.portal.sophas.org/sophasHelpPages/frequently-asked-questions/index.html
- SOPHAS Application:** The application for SOPHAS opens in August. The cost for a SOPHAS application is \$135 for the first program you apply to. Any additional programs you choose to apply to will cost \$50 per designation, even if you submit those programs later in the application cycle.
- Program Directory:** Research specific schools to select ones that are a good match for you. sophas.org/program-finder/
- Fee Assistance:** A limited number of fee waivers are available through SOPHAS' Fee Assistance Program. They are given out to qualified applicants until no more remain for the cycle. There are two types of fee waivers available which applicants may apply for: Financial-based and Service Organization Participation Waivers.
- Social Media:** Follow SOPHAS for updates and application tips. twitter.com/SOPHASapp and www.facebook.com/SOPHASapp
- Graduate Records Exam:** <https://www.ets.org/gre/> The GRE is offered as a computer-delivered test year round at ETS testing centers around the world. You must register at least 2 business days before your preferred test date. Appointments/seats granted on a first-registered, first served basis. The fee is \$205. Scores are available and reported to designated recipients 10-15 days after testing.
- Transcripts:** Order your transcripts in person or online through the Office of the Registrar (<http://registrar.illinois.edu/transcripts>). Submit your transcript request form(s) the same day that you place your order. Make sure that you hold the order until spring grades are available. Generally, transcripts must be ordered from the institution where the course was taken, whether or not the courses transferred to your Illinois transcript.
- Speak to potential letter writers.** Schedule a meeting with them or provide them with information about you (resume, personal statement, etc.). Make sure to tell them they will receive an e-mail from the application service to complete their evaluation. You may also want to provide your letter writers with resources on what to include in their letter. Letters are sent through SOPHAS. All evaluations are submitted electronically. Applicants must enter at least 3 and a maximum of 5 references.



Application Tips

- Verification:** Before your application goes in line to be verified by our staff, it must have a status of “Materials Received > Verifying.” It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all materials are received by SOPHAS and follow up with any materials which are missing. SOPHAS will NOT notify you that your application remains incomplete or that items are missing. Applications are verified in chronological order by Complete Date, and verification takes up to four weeks from your complete date and can occur at any time within that period. You will receive an email notification when your application has been verified.
- Additional/Supplemental Materials:** This is a new section of the SOPHAS application which is filled out by the schools and programs of public health themselves. They have provided information regarding their programs, including links to their websites and some of their individual requirements. This section also allows you to upload certain materials directly to the SOPHAS programs or answer program-specific questions. The program should specify what they would like to be uploaded in the “instructions” section of this tab. If you have any questions regarding what the program is looking for, please contact the program directly.
- Coursework:** Use your academic history or unofficial transcript. Do not use DARS. Classify courses based on the content of the course.
- Proofread your entire application.** Print out a hard copy and review it for any errors or omissions.
- Demonstrate professionalism:** Your qualifications as an applicant are not solely based on official application materials—communication via email, over the phone, on interview day (even during informal interactions) can be a part of your evaluation as an applicant.
- Continue your preparation:** Keep your motivation going by continuing to be involved inside and outside of the classroom. This will allow you to have more to share in secondary essays, interviews, letters of update, or possibly in a reapplication. Keep in contact with your letter writers—they’ll want to know how you’re doing, and this will help them if you need updated letters for any reason.

Health Professions Advising & Services

- April is Application Month:** Attend these workshops to learn more about the application process. We even help you write a personal statement. Visit www.careercenter.illinois.edu for calendar of events.
- Personal Statement Reviews:** Submit your personal statement online to be reviewed. www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/personal-statement-reviews
- Health Professions Advisors:** HP Advisors are available, even over summer, to assist you throughout the application process. Schedule a 30 minute appointment or visit us during Health Professions Advising Drop In Hours. www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/health-professions-advising
- Mock Interviews:** Schedule a mock interview (not available over summer.) www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/mock-interviews