

Application Month: Overview



Today We Will Cover...

- Timeline of applying
- Parts of application
- Cost, resources, etc



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The Whole Package

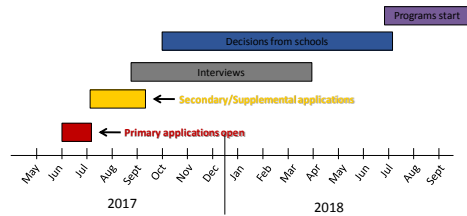
Your Primary application says

- "I'm ready to be a ____"
- "Here is how I've prepared for a career in ____"
- "This is who I am; how I made this decision; why I am committed to ____"



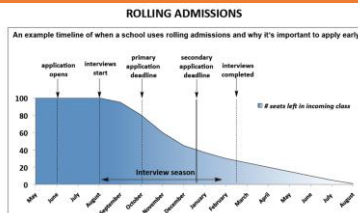
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A Year Long Adventure



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Rolling Admissions



Factors that can affect your timing in the process:

- the verification process (can take 4-6 weeks or longer to verify an application, coursework section of the application)
- letters (a school may not review an application until all required letters of evaluation are received)
- test scores (they be able to submit without test scores, but a school may not review until these scores are received)
- delay in returning secondary application

The Verification Process

Average 4-6 weeks, but can take up to 8 weeks the later you submit your application



- Application may be returned to applicant (errors or omissions in course listings are found)
- Delay in response to questions will result in a delay of the verification process

Am I ready to apply?

The best year to apply is when your application is the strongest!



What Are You Delivering?



Gap Year?

2016 Medicine Admissions Cycle

- Of our 415 applicants, only 138 (33%) applied during the summer before their senior year at Illinois
- The 180 applicants who applied after 1 or 2 gap years, had a 16% higher acceptance rate (51%) than for applicants who did not take a gap year
- IL Medical Schools (MD & DO): 65%–80% of 2017 entering class



Where to Apply?

- Location
- Institution/class size
- Focus of the institution
- Cost
- Faculty
- Research interests
- Curriculum design
- Facilities
- Use of technology
- Student and community life
- Do you match the selection criteria used by the school? GPA, Test Scores, Experiences, etc.



Application Service

- Dentistry: AADSAS, opens in June
- Medicine: AMCAS/ AACOMAS, opens in May... submit in June
- Occupational Therapy: OTCAS, opens in July
- Optometry: OptomCAS, opens in July
- Pharmacy: PharmCAS, opens in July
- Physical Therapy: PTCAS, opens in late June
- Physician Assistant: CASPA, opens in April
- Podiatry: AACPMAS, opens in August
- Public Health: SOPHAS, opens in August
- Speech Pathology/ Audiology: CSDCAS, opens in August
- Veterinary Medicine: VMCAS, opens in June



Hot Tip!

Read. The. Manual.



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Letters of Recommendation

- Determine how your profession expects letters of recommendation
 - Through the service electronically
 - Sent to individual schools
- Determine if you will/can use Interfolio
- Start asking NOW!
 - Ask, "Would you be able to submit a positive letter of recommendation to professional school?"
 - Give them a specific date that you would like the letter submitted.
 - Provide additional materials to help your writer with their letter.

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Secondaries/ Supplemental Materials

- Says "here is why I'm interested in THIS school/program."
- 3 options:
 - School sends you supplemental materials directly
 - Automatically
 - Screened
 - \$\$\$
 - Materials available on schools' websites once you have submitted the primary application
 - As part of the primary application
 - Supplemental materials for individual schools may be part of the centralized application service

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Cost to Apply

- Dentistry: AADSAS \$245, \$93 for additional programs
- Medicine:
 - AMCAS \$160, \$38 for additional programs
 - AACOMAS \$195, \$40 for additional programs
- Occupational Therapy: \$140, \$60 for additional programs
- Optometry: OptomCAS, \$165, \$65 for additional programs
- Pharmacy: PharmCAS, \$150, \$55 for additional programs
- Physical Therapy: PTCAS, \$140, \$45 for additional programs
- Physician Assistant: CASPA, \$175, \$50 for additional programs
- Podiatry: AACPMAS, \$180, \$45 for additional programs
- Public Health: SOPHAS, \$135, \$50 for additional programs
- Speech Pathology/ Audiology: \$125, \$50 for additional programs
- Veterinary Medicine: VMCAS \$205, \$100 for additional programs

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Fee Assistance Program

- Many of the centralized application services offer a Fee Assistance Program.
- Research eligibility requirements and benefits of the program.
- In many cases, individual schools may waive individual supplemental fees if you receive fee assistance.
- Apply EARLY!
 - Application process can take a few weeks.
 - Typically you must receive acceptance into the program, before you can submit your applications.
 - In most cases, there is a limit to the amount of assistance provided by the service. Once they hit their limit, they will no longer provide aid.

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Application Month Workshops

- Nuts and Bolts
 - Thursday April 13th, 4-5pm at 616 E. Green Street
 - Completing centralized applications can be complicated. Attend this workshop to understand how to complete the application (this will include screen shots of the applications.)
- Personal Statements
 - Thursday April 20th, 4-5pm at 616 E. Green Street
 - Writing about yourself is difficult. Attend this workshop to receive writing tips and begin a personal statement draft.
- Waiting for Yes
 - Thursday April 27th, 4-5pm at 616 E. Green Street
 - The application process is a full year. Learn how to make the most of your application year. Attend this workshop to learn about completing supplemental materials to individual schools, academic updates to the centralized application service, and letters of intent/update.

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Application Work Days

- If you would like assistance while you are ACTUALLY working on the application, come to The Career Center's application work days:
 - Monday, May 15th 3-5pm
 - Tuesday, May 23rd 2-4pm
 - Wednesday, May 31st 3-5pm
- These will be held at The Career Center's Interview Suite, 616 E. Green Street.
- Bring a copy of your application or your laptop to sign into the application.

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Don't Forget!

The Career Center is open over the summer!

- Individual appointments or drop-ins can occur in person or over the phone.
- Subscribe to the Chronicle for updates throughout the application cycle.
- Personal statements can be submitted online at The Career Center's website to receive feedback over e-mail.
 - <https://www.careercenter.illinois.edu/service/personal-statement-reviews>
 - Will review 1 statement, 1 time, per student per semester
 - Feedback via email; Approx. 3 business days

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Questions?

tcc-healthgrad@illinois.edu

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