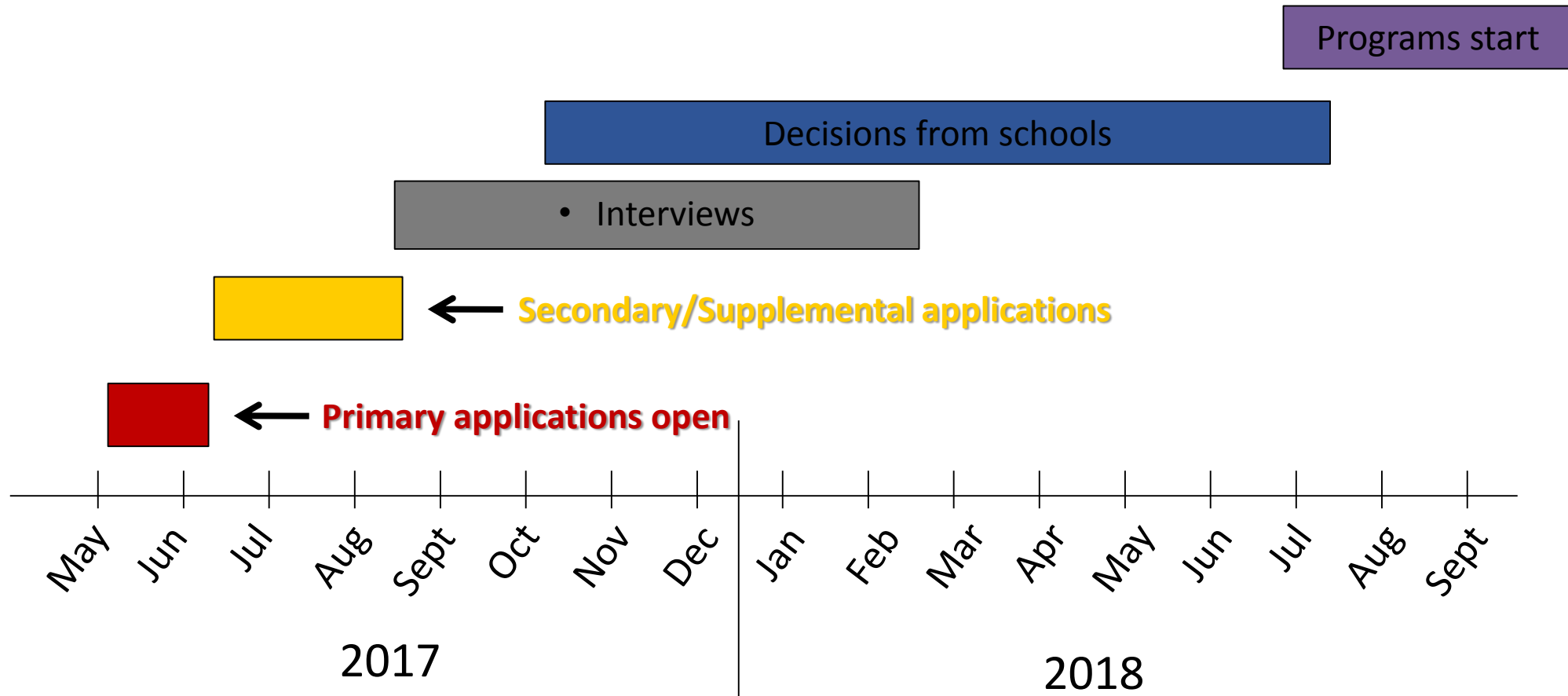


Health Professions at Illinois: Waiting for Yes



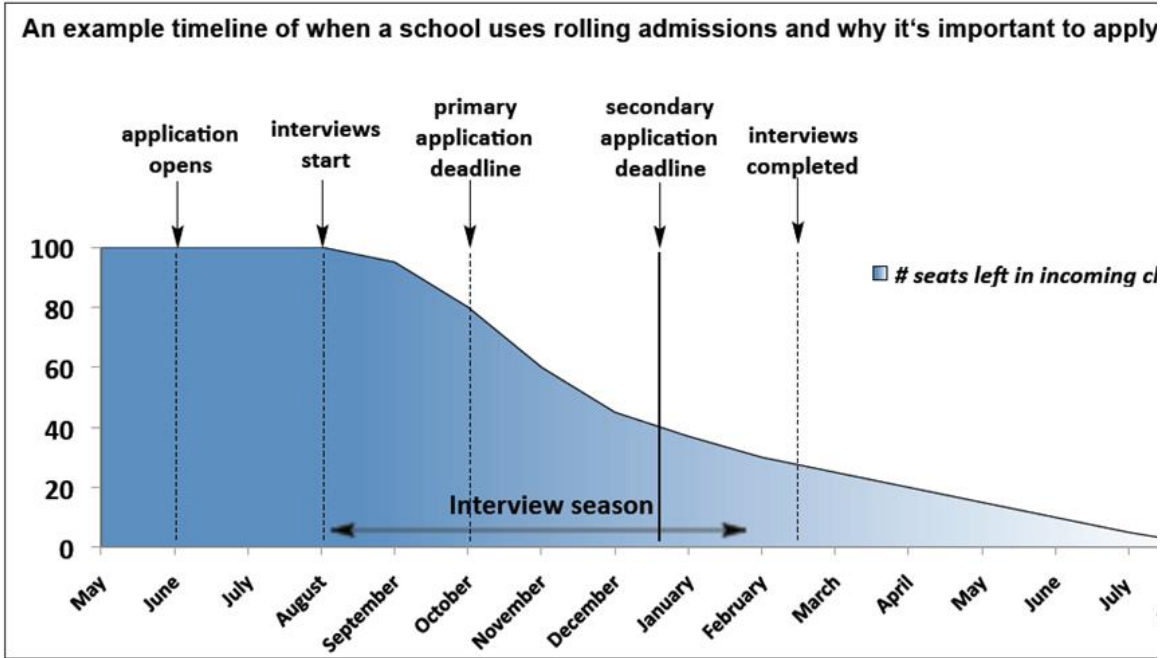
A Year Long Adventure



Overview Review

ROLLING ADMISSIONS

An example timeline of when a school uses rolling admissions and why it's important to apply

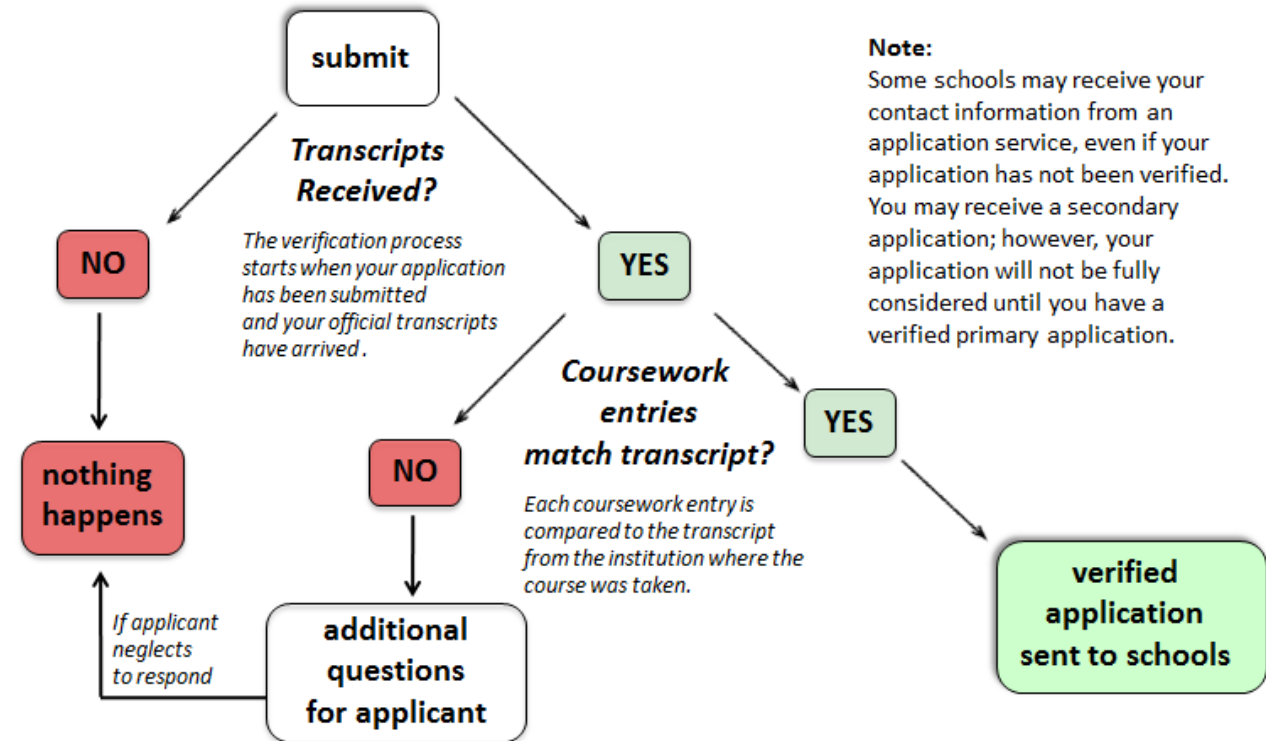


Factors that can affect your timing in the process:

- 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 (may be able to submit without test scores, but a school may wait to review until those 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



Note:

Some schools may receive your contact information from an application service, even if your application has not been verified. You may receive a secondary application; however, your application will not be fully considered until you have a verified primary application.

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

After You Submit...

- After you submit your application to the centralized application service, check the system regularly to:
 - See that your transcripts have arrived
 - See that letters of recommendation have arrived
 - See that you have a verified application

- *It is your responsibility to check the status of your application, not the application service!*

Secondaries/Supplemental Materials

- 3 options:
 - School sends you supplemental materials directly
 - Automatically
 - Screened (looking for specific GPAs and test scores)
 - Materials available on individual schools' websites for you to submit after completing the primary application
 - Supplemental materials for individual schools may be part of the centralized application service
 - *Recommendation:* Start the verification by submitting the application with one school complete. You can go back into the system to add additional programs without delaying the verification process.

Secondaries/Supplemental Materials

Tips:

- Research individual programs before writing your essays
- Write unique essays for each individual program (Do not copy and paste)
- Make sure that you answer the question prompt
- Have essays reviewed by a peer, family member, mentor, faculty member, etc.

Complete
secondaries/supplemental
materials **thoroughly and
quickly!!**

Academic Updates

- These professions include an academic update:
 - *Dentistry*: AADSAS
 - *Occupational Therapy*: OTCAS
 - *Optometry*: OptomCAS
 - *Osteopathic Medicine*: AACOMAS
 - *Pharmacy*: PharmCAS (actually includes 2 academic update periods)
 - *Physical Therapy*: PTCAS
 - *Physician Assistant*: CASPA
 - *Podiatry*: AACPMAS
 - *Speech Pathology/ Audiology*: CSDCAS

Academic Updates

- Typically held between *mid November–February*
- Applicants **can and should:**
 - Submit updated OFFICIAL transcripts
 - Edit new, in-progress, or planned courses
- Typically applicants can only update ONCE
- GPA may be recalculated depending upon the health profession

Academic Updates

Please read the **instruction manual** for more detailed information if your profession includes an academic update!!

Interviews

- Interviews are **not** an automatic part of the admissions process.
- Each school will have a different interview process.
- There are several types of interviews
 - Individual
 - Group
 - MMI
 - Open or Closed File

Interview Preparation

- Understand the purpose of interviews for admissions
- Here are some steps that you can follow to prepare for the interview:
 - Find out what to expect about your interview day
 - Research the institution
 - Prepare answers to common interview questions
 - Schedule a mock interview at The Career Center

Letters of Update/Intent

- Letter of Update

- If it has been several months since you have heard from a school, you may consider writing a letter of update. A letter of update includes your application ID number(s), and provides significant information that was not previously shared with the school. Often, it is good to send this type of letter at the end of a semester so you can include an unofficial transcript (if your profession does not include an academic update).

- Letter of Intent

- This letter is used to notify a school—where you may have been wait listed or on hold that they are your first choice. While it may be tempting to send out a letter to every school, this type of letter should ONLY be sent to your **TOP** choice.

Do not send them if the schools explicitly state that they will not accept additional materials. Always follow the instructions of the individual schools/programs.

Throughout the application process...

- Continue your preparation
 - Finish Pre-reqs or additional coursework
 - Experiences (volunteering, healthcare exposure, research, etc.)
- Demonstrate professionalism at **ALL** times
- Learn about financing your education

Financing Your Education

- Minimize undergraduate debt
 - Get a copy of your credit report and work towards resolving any issues.
 - Reduce the number of credit cards that you have and pay off balances.
 - Plan for the expense of the application process to professional school.
 - It can cost upwards of **\$2,000** including the application, standardized examinations, supplemental materials, and interview travel.
 - Try to avoid using credit cards unless absolutely necessary.

Financing Your Education

- Most students receive some financial support when attending professional school. Speak with financial aid officers *at the institutions you hope to attend*.
 - First type: loan programs
 - Example: Federal Stafford loans
 - Example: Private loans for health profession students
 - Second type: institutional or need-based financial aid
 - Come from a variety of sources
 - Can be loans and scholarships
 - Most schools use an analysis of parental financial resources to determine eligibility

After you complete a FAFSA form, the school will create a financial assistance plan. This cannot exceed the Cost of Attendance figure created by the Financial Aid Office. Only costs associated with your education and living expenses can be included in this amount. Things like car payments, credit card debt, and moving expenses cannot be included.

Financing Your Education

- Research funding options and know your expectations.
 - Loan consolidation programs
 - Repayment options
 - This can result in cancellation of part of student loan debt when a person is working in an appropriate public service job.
 - Service Obligations
 - Example: US Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program
 - Example: National Health Service Corps
 - State programs
 - Scholarship Programs
 - Offered by federal and national government, private companies, organizations, hospitals, etc.
 - Most have eligibility requirements
- Check professional associations for funding information.

Financing Your Education

- **Resources:**

- Medicine– <https://students-residents.aamc.org/financial-aid/>
- Dentistry– http://www.adea.org/GoDental/Money_Matters.aspx
- Pharmacy–
<http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/financialaid/Pages/default.aspx>
- Physical Therapy–
<http://www.apta.org/CurrentStudents/ScholarshipsAwards/>
- Occupational Therapy– <http://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Find-School/Aid.aspx>

Outcomes

- **3 Possible Options:**

- Acceptance
- Denial
- Wait List/ On Hold

The first two are obvious, but the third is probably the most frustrating for students. When you are on a school's waitlist it means that you have met their qualifications for acceptance. They just do not have a space for you at the moment. Keep in mind that a space might open for you in March, June, or even August.

Outcomes

- If you are waitlisted or receive no interviews:
 - Give yourself some time to process, and then make an appointment with a Health Professions Advisor for support.
- A Health Professions Advisor can work with you to either:
 - Improve your application to reapply the following cycle
 - Create an action plan to build up your competitiveness and reapply in 1–3 years
 - Brainstorm alternative career paths

Traffic Rules

- If admitted to a program, health professions typically have “traffic rules” for applicants to accept or decline an offer.
- Use resources to learn more about these guidelines.
 - *MD*: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/application-and-acceptance-protocols-admission-off/>
 - *DO*: <https://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/applying/traffic-guidelines>
 - *Dentistry*:
http://www.adea.org/dental_education_pathways/aadsas/Pages/AdmissionsOfficers.aspx
 - *Pharmacy*:
<http://www.aacp.org/resources/studentaffairs/personnel/admissionsguidelines/Pages/default.aspx>
 - *Physical Therapy*: <http://www.ptcas.org/ApplicationInstructions/ACAPTTrafficRules/>
 - *Podiatry*: <https://aacpmas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/api/resource/aacpmas-traffic-rules.pdf>

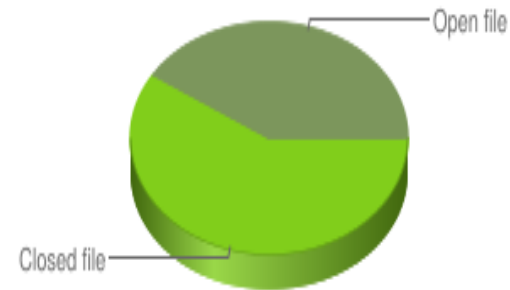
Word of Caution!!!

- Student Doctor Network (www.studentdoctor.net)
 - Remember that the info is provided by other students. It could be misleading, incorrect, etc.
 - Please use the **official sources** when preparing for the application process.
 - Don't be afraid to contact the application service or individual program!
 - Ask the health profession advisors

- Example:

▼ What type of interview was it?

Response	# Responders
Open file	69
Closed file	174



Questions?

What questions do you still have about the application process?

Application Work Groups

- Want additional assistance when you're working on your application? Attend an Application Work Day!
 - *Monday, May 15, 3:00–5:00 pm*
 - *Tuesday, May 23, 2:00–4:00 pm*
 - *Wednesday, May 31, 3:00–5:00 pm*

Held at The Career Center's Interview Suite, 616 E. Green Street

Bring your laptop or a hard copy of your application.

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>