The Application opens THIS WEEK!
There is so much that you have put your heart and soul into, to get to this point.
Not it's time to tell that story in the form of you actual application.

Now what?

1. Status of Letters
2. Release to Composite
3. The AMCAS APP OPENS this week: WORKSHOP THIS WEEK!! **IMPORTANT**
4. Essay and Experiences
5. Your TRANSCRIPT, getting it to AMCAS
6. Choosing Med Schools
7. Time line
8. WORKSHOPS Coming Up
9. Working with Lee, Sarah and Annette

**1. STATUS OF LETTERS, check list:**

- If you haven’t submitted a COMPOSITE Worksheet Form to Annette Hamilton, please do so ASAP. This will help HER help YOU. *(document at NSS web site: Navigate from ‘Medical School >>> Med School App 2014-15).*
- Have you given your writers an autobiographical sketch? A resume?
- Make sure to also upload those same documents, plus a transcript, to Interfolio as they will be sent to your Composite writer.
  - Depending on the time frame you gave supporting writers to finish their letter, you can send a thoughtful update/gentle reminder about two weeks before the submission date you have given them.

**2. RELEASE TO COMPOSITE:** It’s your job to know if all your supporting letters are in! When they are you will notify Annette Hamilton. You will submit a “RELEASE TO COMPOSITE” form TO HER. *(document at NSS web site: Navigate from ‘Medical School >>> Med School App 2014-15).*
  - **IMPORTANT INFO** it is ANNETTE HAMILTON and the Health Professions Office that needs to “release” those letters to the Composite. **Do NOT do this yourself.** Our office is set up to ensure the efficacy and integrity of the process, and protect the confidentiality that the med schools so desire. Annette she will convey those letters, plus the transcript, auto sketch and resume you have put on Interfolio, to your composite writer.

**3. THE AMCAS PRIMARY APP IS OPENING THIS WEEK!!!**
**WORKSHOP FRIDAY, MAY 2ND 4:30 CARSON L01.**
THERE ARE ESSENTIAL DETAILS RE: FILLING OUT THE AMCAS APP THAT ARE VERY SPECIFIC TO DARTMOUTH—AND THEREFORE, TO YOU.
Many of you have already gotten started, but here are some things for you to know:

- **Fee Assistance Program (FAP):** If you are hoping for a fee reduction, apply NOW! Once you pay the fee it's not retroactive. You must get apply and qualify first. It can take several weeks to get it processed. If you qualify for an AMCAS fee reduction, many schools will lower or waive their secondary application fees. THIS is worth the effort if you qualify! [https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/fap/](https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/fap/)

- **We have an FAQs document** to help answer questions that come up as you fill out the AMCAS app. ([document at NSS web site: Navigate from ‘Medical School >>> Med School App 2014-15](http://www.personal.vcu.edu/~prgord/fapfaq.htm)). Please make sure to USE IT, it has important details especially pertaining to being a DARTMOUTH student!

- **PODCAST TO BE POSTED AFTER MAY 2 MEETING:** Filling out the AMCAS App. Use it!

SOME OF THE VERY IMPORTANT THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND!!

- **DO check off the box giving your prehealth advisors access to the AMCAS data.** That's how we helped you, and how we'll help future classes. We don't have access to the app itself but the data (ie: who applied to what schools, median gpa's and mcats of acceptance, etc). This helps us, help others!

- **WHAT TYPE OF LETTER??**
  
  You DO check off COMMITTEE LETTER when asked what type of letter. Our composite packet is the equivalent for this purpose, as the Committee Letter!

- **DO put down me, Sarah Berger as the primary contact for the Letters.** Strange? Not really: Most schools the Committee Letter contact IS the Pre-health advisor. This contact gives AMCAS and the med schools a central place to go if there are any questions about the app.

4. **ESSAY AND WORK/EXPERIENCES:** As those who have begun working on this part of the application have already discovered—this takes longer than you think!

  - Please give yourself time to start drafting ideas and heading towards a draft on an essay. To write an excellent essay takes much reflection (which most people wind up appreciating!), patience, and the willingness to revise until you discover what you really mean to say and say it well.
  
  - You can send drafts of your essay to Sarah or Lee (not both, unfortunately we can't both look at everyone's due to hours in the day!) once you have something to respond to! We can discuss it.
  
  - Have a couple of readers along the way who can help you notice if it is coherent, authentic, in your voice, and—if it's answering the question! Also you will want a proofreader because you won't notice all the glitches. If you are on campus, consider using RWit; they can be very helpful, especially with style & grammar issues
HELPFUL HINT!! As you begin to have a real draft, print it, and READ it ALOUD, even to yourself. It helps you to notice if things are flowing together well—or, what’s not.

- Compiling and writing your work/experiences list also takes time—to do it WELL.
- PODCASTS you can listen to re: writing essay: One from Winter and one from Spring (at NSS web site: Navigate from ‘Medical School >>> Med School App 2014-15).
- You have 5300 characters, about 1.5 pages single spaced. To get a great, honed essay of quality writing, of that length, takes time.
- YOUR EXPERIENCES: You’ll have up to 15 boxes to discuss your experiences. 750 characters per experience (a short paragraph). They will ask you to choose three of your experiences and describe how they are especially meaningful. A short essay really. All this will take time to do well.

5. YOUR TRANSCRIPT: HOW TO GET IT TO AMCAS!
Please Use ENCLOSED DOCUMENT. It will give you clear instructions about working with your AMCAS app and the Registrar, to get your transcript sent (thanks Annette!)
Quick bullets:
- You MUST use the AMCAS Transcript Request Form after application opens
- You MUST ask that the transcript wait to be sent, for Spring Grades if you are taking classes
- You Must request PAPER transcript (AMCAS doesn’t accept eTranscripts)

6. CHOOSING MED SCHOOLS TO APPLY TO:
- USE THE PODCAST about Choosing Med Schools. It's only 20 minutes but important!
  http://media.dartmouth.edu/~screencasts/d28282g/Your_Med_School_List!_Flash_(Medium)_-20130510_06.10.22PM.html
- This will give you the general info you need to start the process if you haven't already.
- You can use the documents on the NSS site (NSS web site: Navigate from ‘Medical School >>> Med School App 2014-15).
  Which give great compilations of med school data, such as: how many out of state residents they take; do they take international students; median gpa and mcat scores; etc! There are two sections you can look at—our Med School Fact Summary, and the newest addition, Harvard MSAR compilation.
- Consider getting an MSAR account!
  https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/requirements/msar/
  The cost is 22.00. If the price is too much for your budget, our worksheets give you sufficient data, but the MSAR has other info, and direct links to all the med schools, making your research process very efficient.
- Once you have started gathering a list USE THIS: "Worksheet to Organize Med School List. (document at NSS web site: Navigate from ‘Medical School >>> Med School App 2014-15)." Sarah or Lee can review your list for you, and that worksheet helps us help you! Please use it!
7. REVIEW of Application Timeline:

- The AMCAS APP is your primary App. Once submitted, your primary app is VERIFIED by AMCAS. Depending on when you submit, ie: how busy they are, this can take 3-8 weeks. During verification they are checking what you put on the application with your official transcript. Make sure to check ANY email they send you during this time. If they don’t agree with something you put down, you have a short window to appeal! You don’t want to miss that window. Also, they will pause your verification during that appeal window until they either hear from you or the time has passed so it could hold up the process.

- Once your Primary App is verified (you will be notified—it’s up to you to check and make sure it’s accurate) you will get the bulk of SECONDARY Apps—though you may get a couple of those early on.

- The Letters are, meanwhile, being completed. When your Composite Letter (called “Committee Letter” on AMCAS) is done, Annette compiles it along with your supporting letters into one PDF. She will let you know and then you will submit it. It will now be added to your application—hopefully by early-mid August.

- Secondary APPS should be filled out in as timely a fashion as possible and returned. Aim for early to mid-September to complete these. Remember, there was one AMCAS app but there could be 20 secondary apps! Keep time open in your mid-late summer to complete this! Lots of writing!

  - SO, for instance: If you submit AMCAS by June 30, it could be verified by the end of July. You will start receiving secondaries within a short time of verification (aside from a possible few early ones that arrive as soon as you submit primary). You will spend a lot of time in August filling out secondaries (you may have already researched what questions you’ll be asked and started preparing). In the meantime you will submit your Composite bundle. So, if you submit AMCAS by June 30, you are likely to have a COMPLETED application sometime between the first week and last week of August. It is once you have a completed application that most schools consider your app ready to review. So, an EARLY app is when all the parts are completed by the end of the summer.

8. Workshops coming up! Great opportunities:

- FILLING OUT AMCAS app THIS Fri May 2, Carson L01
- MD/PhD Mon May 5, 200 LLSC
- TDI/Public Health Thurs May 8, Carson L02
- Financing Medical School Mon May 12, Carson L01
- Senior Night Tues May 20, Sarner

9. WE ARE here! If you have questions or concerns, touch base with Sarah Berger or Lee Witters through walk in hours or by appointment. For specific letter questions or AMCAS app questions, please contact Annette Hamilton (Annette.Hamilton@dartmouth.edu or 646-3377). Please use the AMCAS App FAQ’s! Annette is also available in person Mon-Fri in person, if you want to stop by to run something by her, or to schedule an appt with Sarah.