

**Health Professions Handbook
PSU Department of Biology
Spring 2007**

A Letter to Prospective Students:

Having career aspirations for one of the four-year professions is an exhilarating and challenging choice. Your undergraduate pre-professional preparation will be a key element in a comprehensive master plan for success (acceptance).

This handbook has been prepared as a guide to offer you a general overview of important factors involved in this rather complex career planning process. In addition to this HEALTH PROFESSIONS HANDBOOK, you need to obtain a curriculum guide pertaining to your specific health career choice. An overview of your selected career choice should be discussed with your advisor.

A Pre-professional orientation course for freshmen, sophomores, and junior pre-health students is presently being offered by the Biology Department in the Fall (I) and Spring (II, III) semesters. These pass/fail courses are designed to specifically deal with pre-professional student interests and issues.

We look forward to working with you as you embark on a career pathway that will make heavy demands on your mental, physical, and emotional well-being. It is essential that you maximize your awareness, make informed judgments, pay attention to details, and minimize errors.

Advising of pre-health students is taken seriously by the pre-health advisors; they are interested in your welfare and will help you enjoy a positive undergraduate preparation experience. Your advisor, along with the professors you have in classes, may be asked to contribute to your application packet by submitting an evaluation or recommendation to the admissions committees of the professional schools to which you apply.

The Handbook information that follows is provided as a general overview of what to expect as you embark on your specific career pathway.

Introduction
The Application Process
A Preprofessional Overview
Health Career Links

Sincerely,

Your pre-health profession advisors

I. INTRODUCTION

The decision to pursue a career in the Health Professions must be made with careful consideration given to your interests and ability (especially in the sciences). This is not meant to imply that you will only take courses in the sciences. You will be expected to take a full complement of humanities and may well choose to major outside the sciences.

Your ultimate goal of being accepted into a professional school is not dependent upon your major. An example of the above statement may be seen by looking at successful applicants to medical school. Approximately fifty to fifty five percent major in some science area while the remaining represents majors from a broad spectrum of academic disciplines. Your responsibility is to work closely with your advisor and to make yourself as informed about your health career as possible. A list of health career links can be found in this handbook and are a good place to start when considering a health professions career.

This handbook is designed to address the specifics of preparation for and application to a health professions school. Much of the information will apply to medical school applicants, but will also apply to dental, optometry, podiatry, and veterinary medicine. Other allied health professions such as chiropractic medicine, physical therapy, and occupational therapy will have similar requirements to those which this handbook addresses. Your advisor will be an invaluable resource to help you learn about these allied health careers.

Health Profession Advisors

Advisors appointed to assist students in their educational plans are aware of the requirements that are specific to the health career the student has chosen. Personnel in the admissions office at Pittsburg State University are familiar with the faculty who are presently responsible for advisement in the various health professions.

Here are some examples to better represent the scenarios that any individual student may encounter at Pittsburg State University:

- You have indicated to the Office of Admissions that you are interested in majoring in biology and that you are interested in pre-dental. The Department of Biology will be contacted and an

appointment with the pre-dental advisor will be made for you. You will meet with the advisor and they will help you enroll in your first semester of course work. Your advisor will continue to assist you and provide information concerning your career choice until the time of your graduation.

- A student is interested in majoring in foreign language with an interest in pre-med and possibly applying to medical school. This student would meet with an advisor in the Department of Foreign Languages and would also meet with a pre-med advisor. Each advisor would provide information relevant to their respective area and guide the student through their program of study.
- A final scenario is provided as another example of how professional health advising may be used to guide a student through their undergraduate program of study. You have decided to double major in chemistry and biology. An advisor in chemistry and an advisor in biology who also advises pre-veterinary majors (you have chosen to apply to veterinary school) are assigned to you. You may meet with both advisors to plan your course of study and to assure that you satisfy all the necessary requirements to apply to your chosen health profession.

These examples are given to show you that any number of options are available to you and that every effort is made to assist you in being successful in gaining admission to the health professional school of your choice.

Organizational Skills

Experience demonstrates that a great deal of time and resources are wasted because of a lack of organization. Losing opportunities because of a missed deadline, incomplete application, or failure to follow instructions may be devastating. Keep all information relating to your professional school preparation and application in one folder. Begin keeping a calendar during your first semester of college and check it daily. This skill will prove invaluable to you as you proceed through college and into your professional career. Time

management skills, if not learned in high school, will be essential to your success.

Student Organizations

An example of student organizations that you will want to become involved in early on if you are pre-med are the Pre-Med Club, the Biology Club, and Tri-Beta. The Pre-Med Club is run by students and is designed to give support and help provide resources and connections for those interested in medicine as a career. You may contact your advisor for information on officers in the club and how to be notified of meetings. Watch for posters in the biology building and secure an e-mail address so that you may be contacted about upcoming events.

There are many social, academic, and professional organizations on campus that you may want to join and participate in. A word of caution is offered to those individuals that want to belong to everything. Select organizations that you have an interest in and have time to contribute to. Don't "spread yourself too thin". You can learn valuable skills outside the classroom and develop interpersonal skills essential to successful admission to professional school.

Academic Preparation

There is no better preparation for professional school than the liberal arts education you have available to you as an undergraduate. Admissions committees are searching for candidates who will be successful in the life-long learning required of health professionals. Take advantage of the opportunities to explore areas of interest within the entire university course offerings. For example, a course in medical sociology or ethics may not be required but may give you an insight as to how the general public views the field of medicine. Working with your advisor will help to ensure that your transcript reflects your interests, potential and commitment to learning.

While the requirements for most professional schools are relatively standard, the route to completing them is in no way prescribed. The challenge is to find the right path for you to follow in preparing for your ultimate goal (acceptance into the professional program of your choice). The most common path that students at PSU follow is to take a prescribed number of required courses each semester along with some elective hours. Semester by semester curricula are designed for various pre-professional majors. For example, if

you meet with a pre-med advisor, they may show you a proposed list of courses from the freshman year through your graduation date. This outline is not "set in concrete" and many students deviate from this schedule. Again, the path you follow is up to you. Life experiences and varied backgrounds are often beneficial when applying and interviewing for acceptance to a professional program. Non-traditional students can be successful applicants and contribute maturity and wisdom to the medical school class.

A word of caution should be given to those students who may want to take advanced courses before they have the appropriate background. It may be difficult to explain to an admissions committee why you received a below average grade in a course you took before you had the necessary background. Take courses for which you have the necessary academic preparation and intellectual maturity.

Choose an area of concentration that excites you. The success of your application will not be affected by your choice of concentration, but by your academic performance and intellectual enthusiasm.

There is nothing magical about the four year time frame after high school to prepare you for professional school. In choosing the flight path you may find it useful to take a period of time away from school.

Academic Pre-Requisites for Pre-Health Professions

Although requirements vary depending upon the pre-health profession you chose, specific requirements in math and science as well as the humanities will be required. It is at this point that emphasis is again placed on working closely with your advisor and utilizing resources available to you on the web as well as library resources. A list of web sites is a good place to start.

Personal Preparation for Professional School

Developing the interpersonal, social, and intellectual attributes critical to success in the medical profession may well be the most challenging aspect of the preparation, but is often overlooked. It is also often the reason an applicant who looks "great on paper" receives rejection after rejection following medical school interviews. While developing your plan for preparing for a career in

the medical profession be certain to attend to the following questions.

- How will you demonstrate a passion for lifelong learning across disciplines to the admissions committees?
- How will you convince the admissions committees you have made a well informed decision to spend the rest of your

life working with people who are ill and in crisis?

- How will you demonstrate your understanding of the power of cultural and social issues in the maintenance of health and prevention of disease?

II. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The following information pertains to medical school admission. Your advisor will supply similar information as it applies to your pre-health profession.

The AAMC and its Role

The membership of the Association of American Medical Colleges includes all American and Canadian medical schools, four hundred of the country's major teaching hospitals and ninety-one academic and professional societies involved in medical education and research. The purpose of this organization is to advance medical education and the nation's health. In pursuing this goal, the AAMC provides several very important services to you as an applicant to medical school. It is this organization which is responsible for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) as well as for the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS).

The AAMC also is an important resource for individual medical schools and health professions advisers. By working with the health professions advisor you will insure that you have access to the valuable resources provided by this organization.

When to Apply

Because the application to medical school requires an enormous investment of resources in terms of time, finances, and emotional stamina it is important to make a careful, well informed decision about the best time to apply. The length of the application process makes it necessary to consider the effect of the process during an approximate fifteen month time frame.

In planning your finances, approximately \$1,500-2,000 may have to be budgeted if you are applying to schools across the country. Comments about the specifics of this section are addressed in a later

section of this handbook. Some of the things that may be foremost on your mind such as taking a vacation with your family or spouse, "mailbox watching", being gone from class to interviews, graduating, keeping your job so you can pay for all this, along with many others too numerous to mention can contribute to emotional stress and distract you from your ultimate goal of matriculating into the medical school of your choice.

Well over 90% of our students at PSU have chosen to apply during the summer or fall after completing junior year. Others may decide to apply as sophomores through the Partners Program we have with the University of Health Sciences in Kansas City - see your advisor for details. Others apply in their senior year and plan on making one year available to them to gain additional experience in the medical field or to take a tour of Europe or live and work in a foreign country to learn a second or third language and how that country looks at medical care for their population.

In general you should plan to apply to medical school when you are ready to present the strongest application and are ready to fully commit to the rigors of medical school.

Application Success

Our success rate at PSU is above the national average and we are working hard to keep it that way. The major factors considered by medical schools and other professional schools are addressed in a later section of this handbook. A brief explanation of the MCAT is included here because of its relative weight in application success.

The MCAT

The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is a standardized exam which medical schools use as

an aid in predicting an applicant's potential for success in the medical school curriculum and to some extent the ability to pass board exams. If viewed as a tool for organizing and summarizing your undergraduate preparation for medical school, the exam can be useful.

A great deal of anxiety has developed within the pre-med student population concerning this exam. You must remember that it tests your ability to solve problems in the science areas to which you have been exposed as well as your verbal reasoning and writing skills. Students may find themselves adequately prepared by using self-study programs or taking the Kaplan Review course that is offered during the spring semester. It is also advisable that you take sample review exams. Becoming familiar with the type of questions asked and writing sample essays is to your advantage. There is no substitute for taking this exam seriously and making adequate preparation.

Because of the admissions procedures of many medical schools, the MCAT should be taken in spring of the application year. If you are taking classes in the spring semester that are important for the MCAT, schedule a test date in April of the application year. There is also an exam given in August which is useful if a retake is necessary or if a student has not adequately prepared for the earlier exam. For those medical schools that have an early decision program (EDP), you will have to take the exam by April to be able to apply. EDP programs are addressed in another section of this handbook. Applications for the MCAT are available in the Biology office as well as in the University Testing Center. Be sure to follow instructions carefully and get your application in on time. There is an additional fee attached to late application. The cost of the exam usually goes up every year.

The ability of the MCAT for predicting medical school performance has been studied (MCAT INTERPRETIVE MANUAL, A Guide for Understanding and Using MCAT Scores in Admissions Decisions: Association of American Medical Colleges, 1998). One study incorporates data from 14 medical schools and followed their 1992 and 1993 cohorts through their four years of school. Multiple regression is used to assess the relationships between certain predictor variables (listed below) and medical school performance. The relationship between predictor variables and a single performance measure is estimated by a multiple correlation coefficient which ranges from

from 0 to 1.0. A 0.0 means no relationship and 1.0 indicates a strong relationship.

The predictor variables were:

- Undergraduate science GPA and Undergraduate nonscience GPA (UGPAS)
- Verbal Reasoning, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, and Writing Sample scores (MCATS)
- UGPAs and MCATs

The median values of the multiple correlations (correlation are corrected for restriction in range) are:

Predictor Set	Year 1 GPA	Year 2 GPA	Year 1-2 GPA
UGPAs	0.54	0.58	0.58
MCATs	0.67	0.62	0.64
UGPAs, MCAT	0.75	0.70	0.76

The AMCAS

The American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) is a centralized service designed to benefit both medical school applicants and medical school admission committees. It collects, coordinates and processes applications and data. Not all medical schools subscribe to this service. If you are unsure of whether the medical school(s) you wish to apply to are members; this information can be found in the AAMC publication that lists all medical schools in the U.S. and Canada. Consult with your advisor, if you have questions concerning this component of your application.

You will submit one central application to AMCAS if you are applying to medical schools that subscribe to this service. Non-AMCAS schools will have their own application service and must be contacted for an application. There is an AMCAS fee charged based on the number of participating schools to which you apply.

When discussing where to apply with your advisor and how many schools to apply to, keep in mind that as you increase the number of schools to which you apply the cost continues to rise. Most schools will have a supplemental application that will be mailed to you after they receive information from AMCAS that you have applied to their school. You must fill out this application and return to the individual school that you received it from. There is also a charge usually attached to this supplemental application also. The cost of applying

continues to rise and the wise student selects schools carefully and does not use what is often called the shotgun approach.

Completing the AMCAS application on time and sending it in as soon as possible is a must!! If it takes six weeks for AMCAS to process your application and mail it to the schools which you have indicated on your application it should be sent to, and you then add another two to four weeks for receiving a supplemental application and returning it to the individual medical school; you can see that the application process must be done expeditiously.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AMCAS

- Question: What should I use as my permanent address?
- Answer: It is very important to list a permanent address where you can depend on regular mail delivery. A dorm address or apartment that you will not be living in over the summer should not be used.
- Question: If I took one course at a community college during high school or in the summer before attending college, do I have to list this as a school attended?
- Answer: Yes! You must list and provide official transcripts for all institutions above the high school level at which you have attempted coursework, regardless of whether credit was earned. The grades for all of these courses will also be included in

the Academic Record and AMCAS grade calculation.

- Question: Should I attach a resume rather than trying to fit my activities onto the first page?
- Answer: No! You must not send additional sheets with the AMCAS or additional lines if you are using the AMCAS-E (the computer disk form). You may use abbreviations to put more than one activity and to emphasize the activities most relevant to your application.
- Question: What do they want in the personal statement?
- Answer: Students often find this the most difficult section of the application to complete. It is the most important statement you will probably write for the application process. Your advisor can help you with this section and you may seek help from outside sources.

The key to a successful personal statement is often found by telling a story about you that has led to your interest and desire to attend medical school. You should also keep in mind that this is a personal statement and must accurately reflect your feelings and desires. Interviewers will often ask you questions about comments you have written in your personal statement. If it is not about you, it will obviously be detected by the interviewer.

You may write several drafts of this personal statement before you are satisfied with the end-product.

III. A PRE-PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

Graduation Requirements

Understanding that the pre-professional student does not major in pre-med, pre-dent, pre-vet, etc; but rather in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Social Sciences, Foreign Language, English, or any of the various majors on campus, it is imperative that you accept the responsibility of meeting all stated requirements of the degree major you seek. Make sure to prepare your curricula so you complete the full array of graduation requirements in your chosen major. It is also imperative that you satisfy the course requirements for the professional school(s) to

which you intend to apply. Your advisor(s) are aware of these requirements and will work closely with you to help insure that you will meet or exceed all the necessary course work.

Admission Tests Required by Most Professional Schools

Each of the four year professions (with the present exception of Chiropractic medicine) require completion of a standardized admission test as part of the admission process. These tests are better known by their abbreviations.

- Chiropractic - None
- Medicine - MCAT (Medical College Admission Test)
- Osteopathic Medicine - MCAT (Medical College Admission Test)
- Dentistry - DAT (Dental Admission Test)
- Optometry - OAT (Optometry Admission Test)
- Podiatry - MCAT (Medical College Admission Test)
- Veterinary Medicine - GRE (Graduate Record Exam) or VCAT (Veterinary College Admission Test)

Most of these tests are offered several times each year and are designed to measure skills and knowledge considered important for successful completion of the professional school curriculum. Most exams have several sub-tests which cover foundation areas such as chemistry, biology, physics, science problems, verbal reasoning, writing sample, etc. Dentistry also adds a perceptual motor ability sub-test and optometry evaluates vocabulary via a verbal ability sub-test. Some will ask for a written narrative in response to a general topic.

It is recommended that you take the appropriate test in the calendar year prior to the year you plan to enter professional school. You are encouraged to review thoroughly for the admission test before taking it for the first time. Your advisors can give you some guidance in this area.

Application Services

Application services are centralized, non-profit organizations for preliminary processing of the mass of applications generated each year in the various four year health professions. The student applicant submits just one set of application materials and official transcripts to this service. All inputs are standardized and validated before being forwarded to each of the institutions which you are applying.

The primary goal of these services is to provide the participating professional schools (not all schools subscribe to these services) with uniform readable information on their candidates. The major sections include: a) general information; b) the academic record; and c) the personal statement. Thorough instructions booklets and or computer disc, information is included in the registration materials.

These registration materials are available through your advisor or through the national registry office for each of the application services.

Before mailing your application materials, you need to make a copy for your own records and your advisor may request a copy.

Some examples of these application services are listed below:

- AMCAS - American Medical College Application Service
- AACOMAS - American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service
- AADSAS - American Association of Dental School Application Service
- AACPMAS - American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service

If you are applying to institutions that do not subscribe to the application service, you must communicate directly with the admissions office of each institution, using their specific application forms. All application service activity is between you (the applicant) and the professional schools you are applying to. This process is totally separate from and unrelated to the supportive documentation provided by your advisors and or pre-professional committee.

Where to Apply

If your state of residence has one or more of the professional schools to which you want to attend, it is usually your best chance for acceptance. It may also be the least expensive, as out of state schools will charge out of state tuition. Residency requirements vary state by state and it is best to check those requirements with the director of admission at the out of state school you are applying to. Regional institutions in states other than your state of residence may have co-operative agreements with neighboring states that have a professional school to which you want to attend but is not a professional school located in your state of residence. This is common in veterinary medicine.

Highly qualified students with strong academic records, above average admissions test scores,

career experience, and strong letters of support, could apply to institutions nationwide.

If you are a non-U.S. citizen, you may not be eligible for financial aid at many state supported professional schools. The international student should target private schools. You may also be required to show validation of your ability to pay the four year tuition fees up front.

Considerable thought should be given to your selected list of schools. Admission Requirements Handbooks are valuable resources for formulating your list. Once again, it is important that you discuss your options with your advisor.

Early Decision Programs

Some medical schools participate in an Early Decision Program established by the Association of American Medical Colleges. Students file an application to only one school by mid-June. When applying early decision, students may not apply to any other medical school prior to being informed of the EDP school's decision to accept or not to accept. The EDP option is very beneficial to well qualified applicants who are sure of their choice of school.

The AMCAS form will ask if you are applying for an EDP. Most early decision programs require higher MCAT scores and higher overall GPA's than are required for regular decision. If rejected by the EDP, you are free to enter the normal applicant pool (including the school to which you applied for early decision). There is no penalty for applying early decision. It simply forces you to single out the one school you would most like to attend and are prepared to contractually matriculate at without further application initiatives.

Performance Standards for Admission

While there is no specific formula or prescription for gaining admission to a four year health profession school, there are some indicators which are reasonable landmarks. Examination of the data on entering classes reveals several general performance standards. Four factors which heavily influence the admissions process in all four year health professions and for all applicants are:

- Overall grade point average (GPA)
- Admission test scores

- experience in health care
- Interview

Your overall GPA is indicative of your academic performance record. - what have you done with what you've got. The standardized admissions test scores are predictive of what might be expected of you when taking future standardized tests such as the National Board Exams or State Certification Exams. If you are non-competitive in the first two categories, little else matters. Admissions committees have no need to risk an acceptance on exceptional personalities with sound references and clinical experience but marginal or weak academic performance credentials. There are simply too many well rounded, exceptional personalities who do have strong academic credentials.

The following provide some general guidelines on cognitive variables and reflect reasonable mean scores for successful applicants around the country.

- CHIROPRACTIC
 - GPA-2.5 or better
 - no standardized admission test
- DENTISTRY
 - GPA-3.2 or higher
 - DAT-18 Academic Average, 16 Perceptual Ability Average
- MEDICINE
 - GPA-3.5 or higher
 - MCAT
 - Verbal Reasoning 9-10
 - Physical Science 9-10
 - Biological Sciences 9-10
 - Writing Sample (highly variable) M-N-or 0 expected
- OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
 - GPA-3.4 or higher
 - MCAT
 - Verbal Reasoning 8-10
 - Physical Science 8-10
 - Biological Sciences 8-10
 - Writing Sample (highly variable).M-N-or 0 expected
- OPTOMETRY
 - GPA-3.2 or higher
 - OAT
 - QR (321), RC (311), PHY (314), BIO (321), genCHEM (315), orgCHEM (324)
 - Academic Average 320, Total Science 320

- PHARMACY
 - GPA-3.25 or higher
 - PCAT-360-450
- PODIATRY
 - GPA-3.1
 - MCAT
 - Verbal Reasoning 7
 - Physical Science 7
 - Biological Sciences 7
 - Writing Sample M-N
- VETERINARY MEDICINE
 - GRE-1500 or higher

In conclusion, all students aspiring to gain admission to one of the four year health professions should plan to maximize their qualifications by keeping in mind that most Admission Requirement Handbooks identify minimum requirements for entrance. Internet (web) resources should not be overlooked. Your advisor(s) can help you locate resources. When surfing the net, keep in mind that there is a lot of good information available, as well as questionable information. Close association with your advisor(s) is highly recommended. A list of health professions web links is provided in the next section for your convenience.

IV. HEALTH CAREER LINKS

For general health career information, go to the Biology Department Career Page (<http://www.pittstate.edu/biol/career.html>) for information on a variety of health career options and pre-health programs. The rest of this section is organized into three areas as follows:

Medical Fields

- Schools and Associations - includes information on chiropractic, dentistry, ophthalmology, optometry, osteopathy, physician, podiatry, and veterinary medicine
- Application, Testing, and Financial Aid Information
- Student Self-help Pages
- Other Links: holistic/naturopathic medicine, MD/PhD Programs, medical school rankings, minority/diversity organizations, scientific medical journals

Allied Health Fields

- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Pathology
- Pharmacy
- Pharmacology
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant

Other Health-related Topics

- Environmental and occupational health
- Health policy, ethics, and government
- Organizations (professional, college associations, student associations)
- Other links
- Public health

A. MEDICAL FIELDS

1. Schools and Associations by Specialty

Chiropractic

The American Chiropractic Association
<http://www.amerchiro.org/>

Schools - Regional

Cleveland Chiropractic College
<http://www.clevelandchiropractic.edu/>

Schools - Other

Southern California University of Health Sciences
<http://www.scuhs.edu>

Dentistry

American Dental Association
<http://www.ada.org>

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
<http://aapd.org>

Regional Schools

UMKC School of Dentistry

<http://www.umkc.edu/dentistry/>

Creighton University School of Dentistry
<http://cudental.creighton.edu/>

Ophthalmology/Optometry/Orthoptics

American Academy of Ophthalmology
<http://www.aao.org/>

The American Academy of Optometry
<http://www.aaopt.org/>

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
<http://www.opted.org>

Regional Schools

University of Missouri - St. Louis
<http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/optometry/>

American Orthoptic Journal / American Society of Certified Orthoptists
<http://www.aoj.org>

Physicians, Osteopathic (D.O.)

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
<http://www.aacom.org>
Regional Schools

Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
<http://www.KCOM.edu>

Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
<http://osu.com.okstate.edu/osucom.html>

Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences
<http://www.kcumb.edu/>

Physicians (M.D.)

Association of American Medical Colleges
<http://www.aamc.org>

List of Medical Schools (members of AAMC)
<http://www.aamc.org/medicalschoools.htm>

American Medical Association
<http://www.ama-assn.org>

Regional Schools

Saint Louis University School of Medicine
<http://medschool.slu.edu/>

University of Kansas School of Medicine
<http://www.kumc.edu/som/som.html>

University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine
<http://www.muhealth.org/~medicine/>

University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine
<http://research.med.umkc.edu/>

University of Oklahoma College of Medicine
<http://www.medicine.ouhsc.edu/>

Podiatry

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
<http://www.aacpm.org>

American Podiatric Medical Association
<http://www.apma.org>

American Podiatric Medical Student Association
<http://www.apmsa.org>

Schools of Podiatry

College of Podiatric Medicine - Des Moines, Iowa
<http://www.dmu.edu/cpms/>
Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine
<http://www.rosalindfranklin.edu/scpm/>

Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine
<http://www.ocpm.edu>

Veterinary Medicine

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
<http://www.aavmc.org>

American Veterinary Medical Association
<http://www.avma.org>

Regional Schools

Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine
<http://www.vet.ksu.edu>

Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine
<http://www.cvm.okstate.edu/>

University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine
<http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/>

2. Application, Testing, and Financial Aid Information

Testing and Admissions Aids

Kaplan
<http://www.kaplan.com>

Professional School Associations

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
<http://www.opted.org>

Association of American Medical Colleges
<http://www.aamc.org>

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
<http://www.aacp.org>

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic
Medicine
<http://www.aacom.org>

Financial Aid

FASFA Express
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/express.html>

Financial Education and Wellness
http://www.aamc.org/members/gsa/cosfa/financial_wellness/start.htm

3. Student Self-help Pages

Interactive Medical Student Lounge
<http://come.to/med-lounge>

Stanford University - look for link to student blogs
<http://med.stanford.edu/>

Organization of Student Representatives
<http://www.aamc.org/members/osr/start.htm>

4. Other Links

Holistic/Naturopathic Medicine

National College of Naturopathic Medicine
<http://www.ncnm.edu/>

Medical School Rankings

Princeton Review's Best Medical Schools
http://www.review.com/med/best_medical_schools.html

Eckerd College's Ranking of Medical and
Osteopathic Schools
http://www.eckerd.edu/academics/nas/premed/MCAT_GPA_List.htm

US News Online: America's Best Graduate
Schools
<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/FAIR/PRIMMED.HTM>

Minority/Diversity

MEDPREP
<http://www.siumed.edu/medprep/>

Undergraduate Scholarship Program for
Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds
<http://www.ugsp.nih.gov/>

Diversity
<http://www.aamc.org/diversity/start.htm>

Scientific Medical Journals

National Academy Press
<http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/>

B. ALLIED HEALTH FIELDS

check the Biology Health Careers link page for more information!!

Occupational Therapy

American Occupational Therapy Association
<http://www.aota.org>

Regional Schools

Creighton University School of Allied Health Professions
<http://spahp.creighton.edu/>

KUMC School of Allied Health
<http://www.kumc.edu/SAH/OTEd/index.html>

Univ. of Missouri Columbia - School of Health Professions
<http://www.umshp.org/shpsite/index.htm>

Pathology

Internet Pathology Laboratory for Medical Education
<http://library.med.utah.edu/WebPath/webpath.html>

Pharmacy/Pharmacology

American Pharmaceutical Association
<http://www.aphanet.org/>

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
<http://www.aacp.org>

American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists
<http://www.aaps.org/s>

Regional Schools

Univ. of Kansas School of Pharmacy
<http://www.pharm.ku.edu/>

Univ. of Missouri - Kansas City
<http://www.umkc.edu/depts/pharm/>

St. Louis College of Pharmacy
<http://www.stlcop.edu/>

Creighton University
<http://spahp.creighton.edu>

Physical Therapy

American Physical Therapy Association
<http://www.apta.org>

Regional Schools

University of Kansas
<http://www.kumc.edu/SAH/pted/>

Wichita State University
http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=chp_pt

Physician Assistant

American Academy of Physician Assistants
<http://www.aapa.org/>

Sports Medicine

American Therapeutic Recreation Association
<http://www.atra-tr.org/>

C. OTHER HEALTH-RELATED TOPICS

Environmental and Occupational Health

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
<http://www.acoem.org/>

Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine
<http://www.coem.com>

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
<http://www.niehs.nih.gov>

National Environmental Health Association
<http://www.neha.org>

Health Policy, Ethics, Government

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
<http://www.niehs.nih.gov>

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
<http://www.ahrq.gov/>

Dept. of Health and Human Services
<http://www.hhs.gov>

World Health Organization (WHO)
<http://www.who.int/en/>

National Rural Health Association
<http://www.nrharural.org/>

Organizations

Professional

American Academy of Family Physicians
<http://www.aafp.org>

American Academy of Ophthalmology
<http://www.aao.org/>

American Academy of Optometry
<http://www.aaopt.org/>

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
<http://aapd.org>
American Academy of Physician Assistants
<http://www.aapa.org/>

American Chiropractic Association
<http://www.amerchiro.org>

American Dental Association
<http://www.ada.org>

American Medical Association
<http://www.ama-assn.org>

American Occupational Therapy Association
<http://www.aota.org>

American Physical Therapy Association
<http://www.apta.org>

American Podiatric Medical Association
<http://www.apma.org>

College Associations

Association of American Medical Colleges
<http://www.aamc.org>

The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
<http://www.opted.org>

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
<http://www.aacom.org>

American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
<http://www.aacpm.org>

Student Associations

American Medical Student Association
<http://www.amsa.org/>

American Podiatric Medical Student Association
<http://www.apmsa.org>

Other Links

Doctors' Guide to the Internet
<http://www.pslgroup.com/docguide.htm>

Health World
<http://www.healthy.net/>

MEDLINE
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>

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