

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA Health Professions

## Advising NEWSLETTER

### A Message from Your (Favorite) Pre-Health Advisors!

Can you believe that the 2014-2015 school year is almost at an end? We hope that you had a successful year and that you engaged in activities that will prepare you for your future as a health care provider. As you get ready to begin your summer vacations, we encourage you to continue to participate in service, research, leadership, and volunteer activities. Have an awesome summer break! See you in the fall!!

RTR,

Mrs. Denham, Mrs. Elmore (formerly Ms. Craig),  
Mrs. Smith and Mr. Larocco

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS**

#### **APRIL 2015**

4/7- AED Induction Ceremony

4/13-4/30- The College of Arts and Sciences goes to walk-in advising only.

4/21-4/22- Mark Scott from USA SOM on campus!

4/24- Classes End

4/27-4/30- Final Exams

Check [the calendar](#) on the Health Professions website for additional meeting dates and times!

#### **Health Professions Advisors**

Katie Craig (A-I)  
[kacraig@ua.edu](mailto:kacraig@ua.edu)

Rob Larocco (J-R)  
[rrlarocco@ua.edu](mailto:rrlarocco@ua.edu)

Marian Denham (S-Z)  
[Marian.denham@ua.edu](mailto:Marian.denham@ua.edu)

LaTandra Smith (Out of Office until 4/20)  
[Latandra.smith@ua.edu](mailto:Latandra.smith@ua.edu)

Make an appointment to speak with an advisor by going to [as.ua.edu/appointment](http://as.ua.edu/appointment)

### **AS 101 and AS 299 Course Information for the 2015-2016 School Year!**

**Attention Pre-Medical, Pre-Dental, and Pre-Optometry Students:** Planning to apply to professional school during the **2017** Application Cycle? Then consider enrolling in the **AS 299: Prehealth Junior Seminar!** This class offers a great deal of information related to both the UA Committee Interview process, applying to professional school, and tips for both strengthening and assessing your competitiveness as applicants!

The CRN is 50679 and takes place Thursdays @ 3:30pm!

**Attention Underclassmen: Interested in Learning more about the Prehealth Tracks offered at UA?** Consider enrolling in one of our **AS 101: Prehealth Compass Courses.**

There are two sections of this course:

CRN 45689 on Mondays @ 4:00pm and

CRN 49181 on Wednesdays @ 4:00pm

### **Final Express Advising Sessions for Summer/Fall 2016 Registration**

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN 205 GORGAS LIBRARY-NO APPOINTMENT IS REQUIRED \*\*

April 8	Wednesday	3:00-5:00	Freshmen
April 14	Monday	1:00-3:00	Freshmen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- ✓ **Mark Scott, Dean of Admissions at the University of South Alabama's College of Medicine, will be on campus conducting Sophomore Mock Interviews on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Look for information to be sent out through the Pre-Health Listserv!**
- ✓ **Attention students interested in applying to Physician's Assistant (PA) schools for the 2016 Application Cycle: The CASPA 2016 Application Cycle opens on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. You are highly encouraged to read the instructions and FAQs before you begin your application. Please see attached document for more details.**
- ✓ **Officer Norman Manglicmot, the Regional Recruiter of Medical Officer Programs with the United States Navy, will be holding an info session in the Ferguson Center on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30p in Room 300/3107. Come out and learn more about scholarships and opportunities that the Navy offers!**

## Words of Wisdom from a few Graduating Seniors (and a 1<sup>st</sup> year Medical Student)

"For any Pre-Optometry students, make sure to take the OAT after completing physics! And stay involved. Being well rounded counts a lot, especially at the interview!"

--Jessica Grimes (UA School of Optometry, Class of 2019)

"Don't be afraid to cold call offices and ask for opportunities! I called a dozen dental offices in St. Louis offering to work unpaid, and it led me to valuable shadowing hours, a fantastic mentor, and eventually a full-time (paid!) position working in infection control, insurance, and dental assisting!"

--Abby Tadros (UAB School of Dentistry, Class of 2019)

"When considering service projects and extracurricular involvement, be sure to find something you're passionate about. It's easy and incredibly rewarding to stay committed to a cause you truly believe in."

--Kimberly Triplet (University of Florida College of Medicine, Class of 2019)

"As for my advice to the premed students, I would advise them to strive to actually learn the concepts from the science course they are taking instead of just memorizing. Learning the material rather than just memorizing for the tests makes preparing for the MCAT easier. I would also suggest for them to become involved on campus in organization/causes about which they are passionate. If you go into volunteering with that mindset, it will show in your applications and interviews."

--Sarah Cox (Medical Colleges of Georgia, Class of 2019)

*"As pre-health students, I know what you are doing is difficult, and I wish I could tell you that it's going to get easier. You don't need it to though. You are doing this because this is what you want, and you are more than capable of reaching your goals. Desire is a huge part of medicine, whether you want an MD, DO, NP, DMD, or PA. You want it? Good. Now make it happen. Oh, and take Histology if you can, that class is wicked hard to pick up your first year of medical school."*

--Adam Beg (UAB School of Medicine, Class of 2018)

# Information for Students Applying to Health Professions Programs for the 2016 Application Cycle

## Physician Assistant

The CASPA 2016 cycle is quickly approaching! Please see the links below to help you prepare for the new 2015-2016 CASPA application.

1. The 2016 application cycle opens on April 22, 2015, and the CASPA Instructions & FAQ are now available for review. You are HIGHLY encouraged to read through all of the Instructions & FAQ before you begin your application, even if you have applied in the past, as the new application has many changes. Instructions & FAQ: <http://bit.ly/2015CASPAFAQ>

2. The video below will show you some of the new features of the CASPA application.  
Application Video: <http://bit.ly/CASPA3ApplicationVideo>  
Application Questions Document: <http://bit.ly/CASPAAppQuestions2015ForApplicants>

3. The PA virtual fair is on April 21-22, 2015. Join over 30 PA programs for a two-day fair loaded with information. Register: <http://bit.ly/CareerEcoRegStudents>

Please note that the cycle does not open until April 22, and NO documents or test scores should be sent to CASPA prior to April 22. Any documents or scores received prior to this date will be discarded. If you have any questions, please contact CASPA customer service at [caspainfo@caspaonline.org](mailto:caspainfo@caspaonline.org) or 617.612.2080. We are available Monday-Friday, 9AM-5PM EST

## Medical, Dental, and Optometry Students:

	<b>Allopathic</b>	<b>Osteopathic</b>	<b>Optometry</b>	<b>Dental</b>	<b>Texas</b>
<b>Application System</b>	AMCAS	AACOMAS	OPTOMCAS	ADEA AADSAS	TMDSAS
<b>Application Opens</b>	May 5, 2015	May 1, 2015	July 1, 2015	June 2, 2015	May 5, 2015 (at 8am)
<b>To start your Application you will need:</b>	MCAT/ AAMC ID	MCAT/ AAMC ID	Create Username/ Password	DENTPIN	Create Username/ Password

Committee Interviews will begin on April 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are eligible for a committee interview (you should have received an email), and you have NOT SIGNED UP, please come to 200 Clark Hall to sign up. Limited spaced remaining!

# Information for Students Applying to Health Professions Programs for the 2016 Application Cycle

## Veterinary Medicine Students

1. VMCAS opens May 13, 2015 through September 15<sup>th</sup> 2015.
2. Deadline for VMCAS 2016 is September 15, 2015 at MIDNIGHT
3. In order to be eligible for transcript verification, you must have the following items in by the Sept 15<sup>th</sup> deadline:
  - a. Submitted Application and VMCAS Fee
  - b. Minimum of 3 letters of recommendation
  - c. All OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS for schools listed in the "Institutions Attended" section of your application.

## Physical Therapy Students:

2016 PTCAS Application opens on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. The PTCAS website ([www.ptcas.org](http://www.ptcas.org)) should be updated during the summer with more information deadlines and dates.

In the meantime, take time to get MORE observation hours from a Physical Therapist.

## Occupational Therapy Students:

OTCAS opens on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 and Closes June 2016.

## GRE Information

### 2014–2015 Test Dates

**Note:** All deadlines below are registration receipt dates at ETS. All dates shown are (MM/DD/YY).

#### For Testing in the United States and Puerto Rico

Test Dates	Registration Deadlines			Scores Available	
	Regular Deadline	Late Deadline <sup>1</sup>	Supplementary Test Center and Monday Administration Deadline <sup>2</sup>	Online	Approx. Score Report Mailing Date
09/27/14	08/22/14	08/29/14	08/08/14	10/27/14	11/07/14
10/25/14	09/19/14	09/26/14	09/05/14	11/24/14	12/05/14
04/18/15	03/13/15	03/20/15	02/27/15	05/18/15	05/29/15

# Information for Students Applying to Health Professions Programs for the 2016 Application Cycle

## Pharmacy Students

### 2015–2016 Important PCAT® Dates

TESTING WINDOWS	* REGISTER AND SCHEDULE BY:	** LATE REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULE BY:	*** CANCEL BY:
<b>July 2015</b> <b>9–10</b> <small>Registration opens 3/2/2015 12:01 A.M., CT</small>	<b>May 8, 2015</b> <small>After this date, late fees apply</small>	<b>June 30, 2015</b> <small>Late fees apply</small>	<b>July 2, 2015</b>
<b>September 2015</b> <b>16–18</b> <small>Registration opens 3/2/2015 12:01 A.M., CT</small>	<b>July 15, 2015</b> <small>After this date, late fees apply</small>	<b>September 8, 2015</b> <small>Late fees apply</small>	<b>September 10, 2015</b>
<b>October/November 2015</b> <b>Oct. 26–30/Nov. 2–6</b> <small>Registration opens 9/18/2015 12:01 A.M., CT</small>	<b>October 19, 2015</b> <small>After this date, late fees apply</small>	<b>October 21, 2015</b> <small>Late fees apply</small>	<b>October 23, 2015</b>
<b>January 2016</b> <b>5–6</b> <small>Registration opens 3/2/2015 12:01 A.M., CT</small>	<b>November 6, 2015</b> <small>After this date, late fees apply</small>	<b>December 28, 2015</b> <small>Late fees apply</small>	<b>December 30, 2015</b>

### Register and schedule by 11:59 P.M., CT

\* Register with PCAT and schedule with Pearson VUE, as seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

\*\* Last day for registering with PCAT and scheduling with Pearson VUE (late fees apply). The “Late Registration and Schedule By” deadline will result in additional fees (non-refundable) and no assurances that you will receive your preferred testing date, time, and location.

\*\*\* In order to receive a partial refund, cancel your seat at Pearson VUE and cancel your registration on the PCAT site.

Keep this booklet for reference. This booklet provides information about applying to take the PCAT, preparing for the test, and receiving PCAT scores. A printable version of this *Candidate Information Booklet* can also be found at the PCAT website, along with the most up-to-date and complete information about the PCAT.