# Student Timelines for Health Professional School Testing and Applying

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## Junior Year => Fall semester

### September-October
- Choose your schools and check out:
  - Course requirements => add to your senior year schedule if you are missing any
  - LOR author requirements
- Make study plan for spring:
  - Choose your target testing date
  - Decide on type of test prep
- Make initial ask for LOR’s in person sometime in the fall or early spring at the latest

### October
- Register for MCAT (for January-June testing dates)

## Junior Year => Spring Semester

### January
- Register for DAT, OAT, GRE

### March
- File WICHE Forms with state office (if applicable)
- Register for PCAT

### April
- Confirm LOR authors and get summer contact info

### April-May-June
- Take MCAT, DAT, OAT, GRE

### May-June
- Begin work on 1\textsuperscript{st} applications for AMCAS, ACOMAS, AADSAS, CASPA, VMCAS

### June
- Submit 1\textsuperscript{st} applications for AMCAS, ACOMAS, AADSAS, CASPA, VMCAS
- Request LOR’s for AMCAS, ACOMAS, AADSAS, CASPA, VMCAS to be uploaded about 2 weeks after you submit 1\textsuperscript{st} application

### July
- Take PCAT (July)
- Begin work on 1\textsuperscript{st} applications for OptomCAS, PharmCAS, and Chiropractic schools
- Request LOR’s for OptomCAS, AACPMA, and Chiropractic schools to be uploaded about 2 weeks after you submit 1\textsuperscript{st} application

### August
- Work on 2\textsuperscript{nd} applications for medical, osteopathic, dental, PA, pharmacy and vet schools
- Begin work on 1\textsuperscript{st} applications for AACPMA
- Request LOR’s for AACPMA to be uploaded about 2 weeks after you submit 1\textsuperscript{st} application

## Senior Year => Fall Semester

### September
- Submit all 2\textsuperscript{nd} applications for medical, osteopathic, dental, PA, pharmacy and vet schools
- Submit 1\textsuperscript{st} application to AACPMA
- Interviews?

### October-December
- Interviews?
- Continue building resume

## Senior Year => Spring Semester

### January-May
- Interviews?
- If rejected
  - Get feedback from interviews/schools to improve next application
  - Do what is suggested: retake test, build resume, etc.
- If waitlisted
  - Get feedback from interviews/schools to improve next application
  - Do what is suggested until acceptance is confirmed
  - Continue to build resume
  - Show continued interest in schools

### May-August
- If still waitlisted,
  - Continue building resume until acceptance is confirmed – keep in mind this could be as late as the week before classes start!
  - Get the re-application process started following same timeline as before
- Re-apply? (Hopefully not!)
## Application Services

In most cases, applying to health professional school is a two-step process involving primary and secondary applications. The vast majority of health professional schools use application services to handle their primary applications. This ensures a uniform application from every applicant and also cuts down on the time, paperwork and money involved for the applicant. Secondary applications are always school specific and vary widely. The table below compares the various health professional application services used for primary applications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Service</th>
<th>Opens for data entry</th>
<th>Accepts LOR’s?</th>
<th>Time needed to process apps</th>
<th>Deadline for 1° Apps</th>
<th>Plan to submit 1° Apps by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>CASPA ~April 15</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Up to 4 weeks</td>
<td>September-March</td>
<td>June-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>AMCAS ~May 1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4-6 weeks</td>
<td>August-December</td>
<td>June-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopathic</td>
<td>AACOMAS ~May 1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>October-April</td>
<td>June-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>AADSAS ~June 1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4-6 weeks</td>
<td>September-February</td>
<td>June-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary</td>
<td>VMCAS June</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Up to 4 weeks</td>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>June-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optometry</td>
<td>OptomCAS ~July 1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>4-6 weeks</td>
<td>December-May</td>
<td>July-August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>PharmCAS July</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Up to 5 weeks</td>
<td>December-March</td>
<td>July-August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podiatry</td>
<td>AACPMAS ~August 1</td>
<td>No – applicants may use Interfolio or Virtual Evals</td>
<td>Up to 5 weeks</td>
<td>April 1 of year you plan to start</td>
<td>April 1 of year you plan to start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiropractic</td>
<td>There is no application service for these schools - each school has its own application, accepts original LOR’s, and has its own timeline for applying</td>
<td>~9-12 months before you plan to start</td>
<td>~9-12 months before you plan to start</td>
<td>Updated 9/15/17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>