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Wendy's Advice Column: Waitlists

Advice on What To Do If You've Been Waitlisted



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The 2009 application cycle is still very dynamic and there is likely to be quite a bit of movement on the waitlists and hold files in the coming weeks, and even throughout the summer. In order to give yourself the best chance of being admitted if you are placed on a waitlist, you should write to the schools at which your application is still being considered. The letter can be sent by email directly to the person who authored the waitlist letter and should briefly express your continued interest in attending the school and any new information you may have to provide, such as spring grades when they are available, etc. It is important to include specifics as to why you are attracted to that program in particular and you may even choose to indicate that, if accepted, you would attend that program – but only if this part is absolutely true.

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Important Dates:

- May 27th: Wendy's summer walk-in hours begin
- June 1st: Priority Deadline for the HPAO Pre-health packet
- June 1st: Letters of recommendation deadline for HPAO Pre-health packet
- June 24th: UMDSOM Open House (9:00 a.m. —1:30 p.m.)

Get into Med School?

If you have received an offer from a professional school—medical or other—let the Health Professional Advising Office know! It helps keep records up-to-date.



Featured Health Career: Occupational Therapist

Overview

Occupational therapists (OTs) assist clients in performing activities of all types, ranging from using a computer to caring for daily needs such as dressing, cooking, eating, and driving. Services typically include: customized treatment programs to improve one's ability to perform daily activities; comprehensive home and job site evaluations with adaptation recommendations; adaptive equipment recommendations and usage training; and guidance to family members and caregivers.



Working Conditions

Occupational therapists in hospitals and other health care and community settings usually work a 40-hour week. Those in schools may also participate in meetings and other activities, during and after the school day. More than one-third of occupational therapists work part time.

Academic Requirements

A post baccalaureate entry-level degree in occupational therapy is the minimum requirement for entry into this field.



For additional resources, please visit:

<http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/Career.6c.aspx>

UMDSOM Open House

The University of Maryland School of Medicine is hosting an Open House for all prospective students. The Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24th, from 9:00 a.m.-1:30p.m.

Students will have the opportunity to hear from representatives in the Dean's Office, Office of Admissions, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Medical Education, Office of Student Research, and the MD/PhD and other dual degree programs. Students will also have the opportunity to meet with medical students and a campus tour will be provided.

Due to the location, this event is only for students. Students can register online at:

<http://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/admissions>

HPAO Summer Hours and Deadlines

Wendy's Summer Walk-in Hours

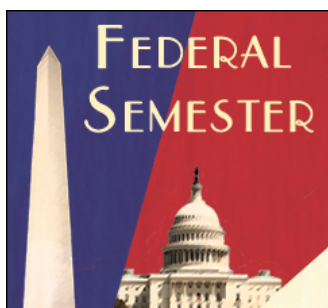
- ⇒ Start on Wednesday, May 27th
- ⇒ Mondays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.

HPAO Pre-health Packet

- ⇒ June 1st: Priority deadline for pre-health packet—all packets submitted by this date are guaranteed a committee letter by August 1st, provided conditions outlined on the website are met
- ⇒ June 1st: Letters of recommendation due to HPAO—letters received after this will be accepted up until the first credentials mailing form is submitted
- ⇒ August 3rd: LAST DATE to submit pre-health packet to HPAO
- ⇒ September 30th: Last date to add additional letters of recommendation

For more details on the deadline and additional dates to keep in mind, visit the HPAO's timeline:

<http://prehealth.umd.edu/Timeline.html>



Federal Semester is a year-long program at the University of Maryland that brings students from all disciplines together to learn, discuss and explore federal policy. A variety of federal policy themes are represented in the program including Health Policy. Students choose one theme such that they have the opportunity for detailed study of one area of federal policy.

The Federal Semester Seminar and Activities engage students in discussion and exploration of current issues. The Seminar instructor has expertise in a thematic area of federal policy and brings an insider perspective to the program. All students will have a meaningful internship experience where they may apply concepts learned during the Federal Semester Seminar. Supplemental courses provide breadth to student understanding of federal policy and its implications and applications.

For more information or to apply, click here: <http://www.federalsemester.umd.edu/index.html>

Obama's Health Care Plan

Quick Facts

- ⇒ Eight principles of reform
 - Speed up use of electronic health records and information technology
 - Support more research into comparing treatments so doctors and patients have better information on what works best
 - Double research on cancer, including a 6 billion injection at the National Institutes of Health
 - Improve services for American Indians and Alaskan Natives
 - Recruit more health professionals, including 330 million dollars for more doctors, nurses and dentists in regions of shortage
 - Expand child care such as Early Head Start and Head Start and create Nurse Home Visitation to support first time mothers
 - Strengthen quality and efficiency of Medicare, the government insurance program for seniors
 - Increase food safety and prevention of foodborne illness by investing over 1 billion dollars for more Food and Drug Administration inspections, labs, and surveillance
- ⇒ Estimated cost: \$76.8 billion for FY2010
- ⇒ Additional proposed costs: >\$680 billion over 10 years to finance the overhaul of our health care system

Current Progress

- ⇒ The President signed the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act on February 4, 2009, which provides quality health care to 11 million kids – 4 million who were previously uninsured
- ⇒ The President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:
 - Protects health coverage for 7 million Americans who lose their jobs through a 65 percent COBRA subsidy to make coverage affordable
 - Invests \$19 billion in computerized medical records that will help to reduce costs and improve quality while ensuring patients' privacy
 - Provides \$1 billion for prevention and wellness to improve America's health and help to reduce health care costs
 - Provides \$1.1 billion for comparative effectiveness research that will give doctors objective information about which treatments work and which do not
 - Provides \$500 million for health workforce to help train the next generation of doctors and nurses

All information was taken from the following sources:

"Obama's Health Plan" from Medical News Today

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/140494.php>

"Health Care" from The White House

http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health_care/

Health Budget Plan for 2010

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/fy2010_new_era/Department_of_Health_and_Human_Services1.pdf

Optometry School and the OptomCAS

Applying to optometry school? Did you know that the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) has created a centralized application service called the OptomCAS. Through this application, you no longer have to worry about filling out a number of applications because this one application is accepted by all 20 of the schools and colleges of optometry. Some benefits of the new OptomCAS application process include:

- Web-based application
- Checklist to help navigate through the application process
- No need for multiple copies of your transcript and letters of recommendation

The OptomCAS application will be up and running for the first time on July 15, 2009 for the 2010-2011 application cycle. For more information, follow the link:

<http://www.opted.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3499>

OAT Scoring Gets Tweaked

Students taking the OAT have been scoring higher on the test in recent years than in the past. As a result, the mean score on the OAT has shifted from a 300 to about a 330. The Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) has said that “As part of the ongoing validation process for the OAT, it has been noted that the mean is drifting past 300. To correct this drift, the OAT will be recalibrated so that the mean is again close to 300 and the standard deviation is 40.” The OAT itself is receiving no change, just the way the scores are calculated. The scoring change will take effect on May 1st, 2009.

ASCO has also said that the new scores and old scores will not be comparable. Thus, if you have taken the OAT under their previous scoring method and received a 320 and took the newly scored OAT and received a 300, you can not say that you did better in the past. For students that will be taking two newly scored OAT tests, rest assured that those scores will be comparable.

Some good news for students preparing to take the OAT is that no study adjustments are necessary since the content of the exam will remain the same. A downside will be that what getting a higher score on the exam will become more difficult. For more information on the changes regarding OAT scoring, follow the following link and navigate to scoring:

<https://www.ada.org/oat/index.html>

May-June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	JUNE 1 <i>Pre-health packet priority deadline; Rec letters DUE</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

**Please note, the Pre-health website has a Google calendar that can be synced with your Gmail account or with other calendar programs.

Please e-mail us with any comments or questions you would like to see addressed in the HPAO Newsletter!
Prehealth7805@gmail.com

Find us online!
<http://prehealth.umd.edu>

Health Professions Advising Office Mission

The mission of the undergraduate Health Professions Advising Office supports the overall objectives of the University of Maryland, particularly its commitment to health care education and the training of health care professionals for the 21st century and beyond.

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