

Refine: Year Before Application

Fall

- **Solidify** your “why”; your PSSAT should be mostly filled out by this point!
- **Start** personal statement
 - ◆ Attend “Personal Statement Workshop”, a “Personal Statement Brainstorming Session”, or watch video on the [PPAC YouTube page](#)
 - ◆ One of these is required BEFORE you can have your PS reviewed by PPAC
- **Begin** to research and possibly narrow down your list of schools you want to apply to.
 - ◆ See “[Choosing a School List](#)” document for more information
- **Research** and understand how to demonstrate the core competencies schools are looking for.
 - ◆ It is imperative you understand the competency, self-reflect on experiences that demonstrate growth and achievement in that area, and know how to articulate all of this through written language.
- **Finalize** your professional school test date and register for the exam.
 - ◆ Research and buy study materials. Refer to the PPAC website for a list of resources to help.
- **If applicable**, begin the process of applying for fee assistance for professional school application and/or professional school test
 - ◆ Most are “first come, first serve” so apply early!
 - ◆ You will need tax documents, etc. so begin the process early to ensure you have enough time to gather necessary materials
- **Consider** which faculty, advisors, clinicians, and/or mentors with whom you have developed strong professional relationships that you will approach to write your letters of recommendation.
 - ◆ Understand program requirements around who needs to write and submit the letters
- **Continue** to complete any pre-requisite courses and other degree-specific requirements
 - ◆ Focus on rigor and upper division when possible!
- **Continue** participation in your “experiences”
- **Identify** and pursue leadership opportunities on campus or in the community.

Spring

- **Gather** additional information for your “Experiences”- dates of service/work, hours total, contact information, etc.
- **Writing**
 - ◆ Revise and finalize Personal statement
 - ◆ Experience descriptions
 - Write or revise descriptions
 - For help refer to our [Experience Description](#) document
 - Construct descriptions for “most meaningful” experiences, if applicable
 - ◆ If applicable:
 - Other Impactful Experiences (MD)
 - COVID-19 impact statement, if applicable
 - Manual Dexterity (Dental)
- **Ask** for letters of recommendation
 - ◆ Visit PPAC [website](#) and refer to “Letters of Recommendation” section for your specific professional track
 - ◆ Give your letter writers plenty of time to craft a *strong* letter of recommendation (8-10 weeks minimum)
 - ◆ Be prepared to provide your personal statement and a resume
 - ◆ Be informed of the process of submissions so you can inform your writers

- Interfolio -and/or-
- Directly to the application system
- ◆ Give letter writers a rough deadline for submission
- **Order** transcripts
 - ◆ Order a copy for yourself to enter coursework on your application
- **Finalize** schools you are applying to
- **Identify** and finalize source of funding for fees
- **Download** instruction manual for application and review
- **Make** note of relevant application dates:
 - ◆ Opening date
 - ◆ Submission date
 - ◆ Length of verification process
 - ◆ First day verified applications are sent to professional schools (if applicable)
- **Attend** PPAC's "Completing your Professional School Application" workshop
- **Apply!**
 - ◆ Refer to "Polish and Present" sheet for details