How to Be a Competitive Candidate
Luis Munguia, CSUF Career Coach
Introductions

• Major
• Health Profession Program
What is Professional School?

Professional School focus on the training and/or specialization of the career one is studying.

More real-world applications tends to be the emphasis. Health professional schools have a lot of clinical related experiences tied into the curriculum.
Sample Professional Degrees

Master’s Degree
- Master’s in Public Health
- Master’s in Nursing
- Master’s in Medical Science
- Master’s in Kinesiology
- Master’s in Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Master’s in Occupational Therapy
- Master’s in Social Work
- Master’s of Science, Counseling

Doctoral Degree
- MD – Medical Doctor
- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- DO – Osteopathic doctor
- DDS – Doctor of Dental Surgery
- DDM – Doctor of Dental Medicine
- Doctor of Optometry
Gaining Experience

• Student Clubs and Organizations
  – Student Health Professions Association
  – Human Services Student Association
  – American Medical Student Association
  – Kinesiology Student Association
  – And More!

• Internships
  – Cope Health Scholars

• Volunteer
  – Hospitals
  – Hospice
  – American Red Cross

• Work
  – Medical Scribe
  – EMT
  – PT Aide
Gaining Experience

• **Shadow**
  – Speak to faculty, family, and friends
  – Utilize LinkedIn
  – Conduct Informational Interviews

• **Professional Associations**
  – American Occupational Therapy Association
  – American Counseling Association
  – American Medical Association
  – American Dental Association
  – American Academy of Physician Assistants
Choosing the right program

• Research
  – Competitive applicant
    • GPA
    • Test Scores
    • Clinical Hours (PA, PT, OT)
    • Shadow Hours
  – Pre-Req.
  – Faculty
  – Size
  – Student Resources
  – Boards
Research Statistics

• Number of applicants received
• Number of interviews granted
• Number of students enrolled
• Average overall GPA
• Average science and/or pre-requisites GPA
• Average test scores
Sources to learn about programs

- Professors
- Admission Counselors
- Other Students & Alumni
- Centralized Application Systems
  - American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Services (AACOMAS)
  - Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS)
  - American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS)
  - Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA)
  - Occupational Therapy Centralized Application System (OTCAS)
  - Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service (PTCAS)
College/Career Quick Links

**Please note, the Career Center will be offering virtual drive-thru and virtual appointments. Visit Titan Connection for virtual drive-thru access.**

**Actively Prepare for Your Future Career**
- Explore: Visit the Career Center to discover your strengths and possibilities for future success
- Engage: Attend Career Center events and workshops or utilize our resources to connect with yourself, employers, and the world at large
- Execute: Take action by scheduling an appointment with your College Career Specialist

**DRIVE-THRU HOURS HAVE GONE VIRTUAL!**

Career Center Virtual Drive-Thru & Career Specialist Drop-In Hours

Visit [Virtual Career Center](http://www.fullerton.edu/career/students/virtual_career_center.php) by virtually for a quick 10-15 minute session with
College/Career Quick Links

College of Health and Human Development

Elisabeth Bohadilla
College Career Specialist for the College of Health & Human Development

As of March 18, 2020 and until further notice, I am working remotely.

Schedule an Appointment through our Online Appointment System with me, your College Career Specialist.

Or you may visit my virtual drop in career advising hours on

- Tuesdays, 11:00am-12:30pm
- Thursdays, 2:30pm-4:00pm

Details at bit.ly/cc-dt

Learn more about your College Student Success Team.

Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Chanda Ishisuka
College Career Specialist for the College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

- CSUF students and recent alumni (graduated within 1 year) can make appointments with me to discuss career planning and preparation, finding a job or internship, resume, cover letters, interview practice, grad school preparation, and more. I also help students who are not sure what they can do with their major, or may want to find a different major or career. I’m here to help you.

Schedule an Appointment

or come to Zoom Drop-In Hours: Tuesdays from 10:30am-noon link

Learn more about your College Student Success Team.
Health Professions Advising Office

Welcome to the Health Professions Advising Office (HPAO) website. This site has been constructed to guide you and inform you about our services. The HPAO, which was started by Dr. Miles D. McCarthy in 1983, has helped hundreds of students gain admission to health professions schools. Our students have gained entry into some of the nation's most prestigious schools including Harvard, Stanford, John Hopkins Albert Einstein College of Medicine, as well as all of the UC campuses. CSUF is also 17th in the nation in graduating Latinos with bachelor's degrees in health fields. We hope that you can become a piece of our history while embarking on your lifelong dream of becoming a health professional.

Do you have a quick question? Or do you not have enough time to schedule an appointment? Please send us an e-mail us at hpadvising@fullerton.edu and we will get back to you within 1-2 days.
What does it take to get into Professional School?

• Academic history

• Application process

• Standardized entrance exams
Common application requirements

• Courses (pre-requisites)
• GPA
• Exam scores
• Letters of Recommendation
• Statement of Purpose
• Application
• Interview
About Standardized Tests

- DO/MD: MCAT
- Dental: DAT
- Optometry: OAT
- Vet: GRE
- Public Health: GRE
- Physical Therapy: GRE
- Occupational Therapy: GRE
Asking for letters of recommendation

- Request in person whenever possible
- Allow at least two months between request and date due
- Ask if reference can write a substantive letter in support of your application.
- Always thank your references in writing
Statement of Purpose

• Type
  – Specific to institution
  – Why do you want to be...

• Suggested Content
  – Personal background
  – Development of your interests
  – Related experiences
  – Future goals (general)
  – Obstacles and inconsistencies
  – Special expertise
Statement of Purpose

• Style
  – Readable with clear, simple and precise writing style

• Tips
  – Be professional, organized, concise, honest, specific
  – Think about the selection committee and what they’re looking for
  – What will you contribute to the program?
  – Why our institution?
  – Review and revise!!!
Making Yourself Competitive

• Follow admission procedures
• Understand criteria & statistics
• Gain experiences & skills
• Expand your geographic search
• Apply early
• Meet the faculty
What Admissions Evaluate

- No exact recipe
  - Academically prepared
  - Well-rounded
  - Involvement in the community
  - Commitment to compassionate health care
  - Understanding of the profession
  - Excellent verbal and written communication skills
Professional School Funding

- Financial Aid
- Fellowships
- Assistantships
- Scholarships
What if I don’t get in?

• Contact schools for feedback
• Improve your profile
  – Academics
  – Professional Experience
  – Standardized tests
  – Interviews
• Look at private schools or schools who have rolling admission. Sometimes you can still apply in May, June, or July before you start the program.
Questions
Contact Information

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- Luis Munguia – HHD Career Coach
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- Book Virtual Appointments Online at
  http://www.fullerton.edu/career/contact-us/request-appointment.php