APPLICATION FOR PREMEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE EVALUATION

The Premedical Advisory Committee (PAC) Evaluation is a comprehensive letter of evaluation that is written for each candidate applying to programs in the health professions.

OFFICE OF PREPROFESSIONAL ADVISING AND CREDENTIAL FILE PROCEDURES
The first step in applying for a Committee Evaluation is to open a premedical file. Files are opened automatically for applicants when a letter of recommendation and waiver form is received. Files are also opened for those who attend the mandatory PAC Application Workshop. Opening a file essentially means declaring your intention to apply to health professional school for a certain application year. You will submit all necessary components of the PAC Application by the deadline: 5 pm, Wednesday, February 15th, 2017. The Center for Student Advising will coordinate the scheduling of your Committee Interview.

ASSIGNMENT OF PREMEDICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND PREPROFESSIONAL ADVISER
All applicants will be assigned a premedical committee member and preprofessional adviser. You will be notified of these individuals’ names and contact information soon after you submit your application. Your committee member will be an Advising Dean from the Center for Student Advising. Both individuals will be present at your committee interview and will have input into your evaluation. Your preprofessional adviser will be a member of the preprofessional advising staff and will be available to answer your application related questions throughout the process.

PAC APPLICATION PROCESS
In order to prepare your Committee Evaluation, we need full information about your academics, extracurricular activities, work experiences, etc. We gain this information from your application materials and an interview.

In order to obtain a committee interview and evaluation, you must submit all materials to Preprofessional Advising by 5 pm, Wednesday, February 15th, 2017. The application has two parts.

Part I is a webform located at https://www.cc-seas.columbia.edu/advising/preprofessional/pacapp

Part II should be attached at the bottom of the webform before submission. Your Part II document should not exceed 800 KB. If you have problems uploading your Part II, please email it to preprofessional@columbia.edu before the February 15th deadline.

The following is a list of the components of the application that you must submit by 5 pm, Wednesday, February 15th, 2017.


Part II:  1. & 2. Activities Grid and Graph  3. Autobiography
         4. Expanded Statements  5. Supplemental Questions
         5. Resume
RECOMMENDATION LETTER DEADLINE: JUNE 1st, 2017

DEADLINE
All applicants who wish to obtain a Committee Evaluation must meet the February 15th, 2017 deadline. Any requests for exceptions/extensions must be submitted in writing and approved by the Premedical Advisory Committee before the February 15th deadline. This is a serious deadline and since we release this application in December you should have plenty of time to complete this task. Please be advised that extensions are rarely granted.

WRITING AND RELEASE OF COMMITTEE EVALUATION
We will begin to write committee evaluations for all interviewed applicants after all letters of recommendation have been received. For those students who meet the June 1st, 2017 letter of recommendation deadline, it is our goal to complete evaluations by July 31st. This date may however be altered if you are waiting to take your MCAT until July, August, or September. For applicants who fail to meet June 1st recommendation deadline, we will do our best to write your evaluations in a timely manner, but we cannot guarantee a specific date of completion. Evaluations cannot be officially released until the applicant electronically submits a .pdf copy of AMCAS/TMDAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS/VMCAS application to Preprofessional Advising at preprofessional@columbia.edu.

SENDING OF COMMITTEE EVALUATIONS:
Applicants must submit a .pdf of the AMCAS/TMDAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS/VMCAS to Preprofessional Advising at preprofessional@columbia.edu.

1) Please make sure that the schools you are applying to are listed on your application.
2) Please note that the Premedical Advisory Committee Evaluations can only be sent for the purposes of applications to health professional schools.
3) We submit allopathic and osteopathic letters to medical schools using the AMCAS Letters Service and Virtual Evaluations, a secure, web-based system through which health professions advisers can transmit letters of evaluation to health professions schools. Dental evaluations are uploaded to AADSAS.

PREMEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Required for February 15th Deadline:

Part I
This webform will collect contact information and other important data to be used in preparation of your Premedical Advisory Committee Evaluation. You will need to calculate your science GPA using the BCPM calculator found on Columbia’s website (https://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/gpascalculator). It also requires that you read and initial a statement verifying the accuracy of the contents of your application.

Other Transcripts (if applicable)
If you have attended an institution other than Columbia University for post-secondary coursework (summer, postbacc, or graduate), please submit an unofficial transcript to Preprofessional Advising.

Part II
Activities Grids
These grids will help us get a more specific sense of the types of activities in which you’ve been involved. Please make sure to list your activities in chronological order. List each experience only once—do your best to categorize them accurately. You will be asked to recreate this type of list on most centralized applications. You may expand to additional pages as needed.

**Activities Graphs** These graphs will help us get a chronological snapshot of your activities by semester/summer, both during your college years and the years following graduation. Remember to include anything to which you devoted time during the school, summers, and after (for alums).

**Autobiography**
In the space provided please provide a comprehensive autobiography. Be sure to include a description of your self, your family background, your childhood, and other significant life experiences through the present time. It should also include the nature and development of your interest in the health professions and any other information that you feel would help us in getting to know you better. You may expand to additional pages if necessary.

**Expanded Statements**
These one to two page statements will give you a chance to provide the committee with more in-depth information about your activities and your motivation for a career in healthcare. Please be sure to make these statements different from your autobiography. In other words, do not replicate information.

**Supplemental Information Form**
These are short answer questions and should be answered concisely. See attached. Again, try not to replicate information provided elsewhere.

**Personal Resume**
Please copy and paste your resume at the end of Part II of your application. Your resume should follow a standard resume format. A sentence or two describing the nature of the experience should accompany each activity or experience and it should indicate start and end dates (month and year). Your resume should not exceed 1-2 pages. You should focus on your post-secondary experiences.

**Note about gender-based misconduct:**
The Premedical Advisory Committee application is an opportunity to tell your story and to reflect on your varied experiences both professional and personal. All the details you include in your application help us write a comprehensive and nuanced committee letter of evaluation. However, there may be some details from your past that are sensitive in nature. While we certainly believe that difficult personal experiences may have relevance to your own personal narrative and may have impacted your decision to pursue medicine, we feel it is important to clarify that advisers at the Center for Student Advising are mandatory reporters of any instance of gender-based misconduct, even when the misconduct occurred before you matriculated at Columbia. If you disclose an incident of gender-based misconduct in your PAC application or other application materials shared with our office, we are obligated to inform the appropriate offices at Columbia University that we have become aware of an incident of gender-based misconduct. Acting upon this information, the appropriate office would then contact you via email with additional resources for support. The university wants to make sure that students are aware of their resources for support, yet we want to emphasize that you maintain full autonomy over what resources you wish to engage. If you have any additional questions about this, please make an appointment with one of the prehealth advisers.
Digital Photo

Please upload a digital photo of yourself to the webform along with Part II of your application. It should be a head and shoulders close-up (i.e. like a typical school or passport photo). Your photo will be viewed by Preprofessional Advising staff only and will not be shared. Please send images in JPEG or TIFF format and limit the size to 800KB. Please name the file Last name, First Name. If you have trouble uploading your headshot, please email it to preprofessional@columbia.edu.

**Additional Required Materials:**

**Interview (Spring/Early Summer 2017)**

Each candidate is required to schedule an interview with the Premedical Advisory Committee after submission of the PAC Application. We hold interviews from early March through early June. We will send instructions on how to schedule your interview soon after the February 15th deadline. Accommodations will be made for those studying abroad to complete the interview before or after they return. For alumni living a significant distance from NYC, we can do interviews via Skype, although we always prefer in-person when possible. **These are formal interviews, and you should dress in business attire. Each interview will last approximately 45 minutes.**

**Access Decision Form (to be completed at interview)**

This is the waiver that will be attached to your Committee Evaluation. If you waive your right to access to the Committee Evaluation you will need to waive your right also to all individual letters of recommendation.

**Premedical Advisory Disciplinary Release (to be completed at interview)**

This is a form which grants the Premedical Advisory Committee Access to your judicial affairs record regarding academic and disciplinary sanctions.

**Letters of Recommendation (Deadline: June 1st, 2017)**

You are required to submit a minimum of four letters of recommendation and a maximum of six. These letters of recommendation will be included in their full, original form in your Committee Evaluation. We recommend at the minimum two academic letters of reference from faculty or graduate teaching fellows at Columbia. It is required to have at least one from someone who has taught you in the premedical sciences and recommended to have one from a faculty member in the humanities or social sciences. Others who may write useful letters include research mentors, administrators, faculty advisors, athletic coaches, supervisors of campus or summer jobs, and those who have known you in volunteer positions.

Please note that there may be schools that have more specific requirements – (i.e. Harvard and Duke require two science letters written by instructors who have taught you in the classroom) and if you’ve completed a graduate program, most schools will require a letter from someone who taught you in that program.

(See FAQ # 9 for more advice on obtaining letters of recommendation.) Provide recommenders with the Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation and a Recommendation Waiver Form.

**AMCAS Application (Summer 2017)**

You MUST submit a .pdf of your AMCAS/TMDSAS/AACOMAS/AADSAS/VMCAS application to Preprofessional Advising at preprofessional@columbia.edu following submission. Your Committee Evaluation will not be sent until we receive this document. Additionally, priority in letter writing will be determined in part based on when you submit this application.