**How to Prepare for Your Interview with the Health Pre-Professional Committee (HPPC)**

1. Your overall GPA must be 3.25 or above to be considered for a Committee interview.
2. Not all qualified students will be granted an interview.
3. Typically, only pre-medical, pre-dental, and pre-optometry students interview with the HPPC. Physician assistant programs, pharmacy schools, and veterinary colleges do not solicit committee letters.
4. Meet with your Health Career Advisor regularly for at least two years prior to requesting an interview. We can’t write a letter about you if we don’t know you.
5. Keep impeccable records. You will need a complete accounting of your relevant work background, clinical and shadowing experiences, and volunteer activities. Keep a complete record that includes dates, times, number of hours per week, and contact information (supervisor name and phone number, address of organization).

**The Interview Process**

**Step 1:** The Request for a Committee Interview should be completed and submitted no later than Monday, December 2, 2019. Requests may be submitted online (PDF format only) to tammi@siu.edu or hand-delivered to the Health Professions Office.

Forms and instructions for the Request for Committee Interview, Biographical Information, and the Core Professional Course List are available at: [http://science.siu.edu/advisement/health_advisement/](http://science.siu.edu/advisement/health_advisement/). The Request for Evaluation form that you will give to your Evaluators is located at [http://science.siu.edu/academics/prehealth.html](http://science.siu.edu/academics/prehealth.html).

**Step 2:** You will be notified by email by December 9, 2019, if you are selected for an interview.

**Step 3:** Interview candidates will begin work on the Application Packet that includes:

- Evaluations
- Biographical information
- Core Professional Course List
- 2-3 additional Letters of Recommendation

**The Committee requires at least three evaluations.** Each evaluation MUST be accompanied by the Request for Evaluation form. Do not forget to include it when you ask your letter writers for a reference. Two evaluations must be from science professors at SIUC. Three to five evaluations are recommended. Submit no more than six. Non-academic sources may include a non-science professor, an employer, a volunteer coordinator, or a health professional you have observed. A well-written letter of recommendation from a physician is ideal. The completed Request for Evaluation form includes rank in class, checklist, and separate letter.
For Spring 2020 Interview consideration, you should distribute your Request for Evaluations no later than Friday, December 13, 2019. Non-academic letters of recommendation do not require the evaluation form, but make your requests at the same time. Your letters of recommendation should be submitted on letterhead if possible.

Evaluations and letters of recommendation should be received by the HP Office no later than Friday, February 7, 2020. The Health Professions Office accepts information by mail or email tammi@siu.edu.

**Step 4:** Complete the Biographical Information outline (including personal statement essay) and Core Professional Course List. You will turn in this information, completed, as a packet no later than Friday, February 7, 2020. Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered to the Health Professions Office.

*Pre-professional interviews are scheduled for spring semester only, February through April. Please plan accordingly. Evaluations and letters of recommendation take time to prepare.*

**Step 5:** Review current issues relevant to your chosen profession and your personal career choice philosophy. Select and research information about the professional schools to which you plan to apply. Practice interviewing. You should dress in a professional manner for your interview.

**Step 6:** You will be interviewed by 3-4 members of the Health Pre-Professional Committee (HPPC) over a period of 30 minutes. At a later date, the Committee will meet as a quorum and evaluate each candidate in four areas: 1) Academic record, 2) Personal attributes, 3) Time management and organization and 4) Medically related experiences. Please stay in contact with your Health Professions Advisor about your Committee evaluation so that you may obtain valuable Committee feedback.

**Step 7:** The Health Pre-Professional Committee Letter is written upon request (e.g., AMCAS Letter Request form and AADSAS electronic request) by the Health Professions Advisor and reviewed by the Committee Co-Chair. The Committee Letter includes a summary of the Committee’s Quorum Discussion. Your Evaluations and letters of recommendation are appended to it.

**HEALTH PREPROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE 2019-2020**

Todd Pierson, (Co-Chair) SIU School of Medicine/Physician Assistant Program
Tammi Pinski, (Co-Chair) Health Professions Advisement
Health Professions Information Office

Wesley C. Calvert, Mathematics
Derek Fisher, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Dawn Grisley, Physiology
Valerie Rasp, Asst. Dean for Recruitment & Retention
Latasha C. Redmond, Biological Sciences
Liz Saunders, Academic Advisor

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