**COMMITTEE EVALUATIONS:**

**Complete the “Request for Committee Letter of Evaluation” form** and return it to Wendy Praisner (Sackler, S228). The sooner we receive this, the sooner we can begin processing your application.

**Have transcripts** from all other colleges that you have attended sent to Wendy Praisner, Chemistry Department, Clark University, 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

**Complete a “Faculty Appraisal of Applicant” form** for each individual from whom you wish us to request a letter of recommendation. Specify five Clark faculty members, including three from the sciences, but you may add coaches, and supervisors of jobs, internships, volunteer work, extracurricular activities, etc. Please supply email addresses of all off-campus references. If you feel that you cannot get enough letters of recommendation, please consult with Dr. Denis Larochelle, Chair of the Premedical and Predental Advisory Committee. The purpose of all recommendations is to enable the Committee to write the most effective personal evaluation. We strongly urge that you waive your right to see these appraisals since, in our experience, this leads to more meaningful evaluations. Recommenders generally will not write negative letters without warning you, but this will only be possible if you contact them first. It is both good practice and common courtesy to contact recommenders prior to submitting their names. It is a good idea to obtain letters of recommendation from faculty soon after you have completed course work or research with them since they will remember you better. If you anticipate taking additional courses or continuing research with a particular faculty member then it is best to delay requesting a letter until completion of that. Please note that all signed “Faculty Appraisal of Applicant” forms must be returned to Wendy Praisner (Sackler, S228) who will distribute them to the designated faculty members or others from whom you are requesting an evaluation. (You must not distribute these forms yourself.)

Although the Committee letter of evaluation is confidential, it is not our intention to do anything behind your back. Many medical/dental/other health professional schools only respect letters if they are confidential; if not, the schools feel that the letters are brokered. We must honor the confidentiality of the information we receive on your behalf, but we will tell you your level of recommendation and will convey as best we can the tenor of the letter so that you can accurately judge the level of support in your evaluation. If, for any reason, you do not wish to use the Committee letter of evaluation, it is your obligation to let us know this in writing.

It is in your best interest to get us all the information we need by May 15, or as soon thereafter as possible. Early application is critical. If you also submit your common application forms (AMCAS, AACOMAS, AADSAS, etc.) early in the application cycle, and certainly no later than September 1, you are likely to be seriously considered by more schools and to obtain interviews and acceptances earlier. In fact, application after September 1 may result in limiting your options to wait lists rather than outright acceptance, and many schools are finding that their wait lists are not moving. It is especially important that students applying early decision get us their information promptly since EDP deadlines are August 1 or earlier.

**SCHOOL SELECTION:**

Since application fees are high, you should limit your applications to twenty, usually fewer. Furthermore, you should try not to apply to either too many or to unrealistic schools; every medical school gets a list of where you are applying. Dr. Larochelle will be happy to advise you on school selection and early decision options. This is best done after you know your MCAT/DAT, etc., scores. You can find specific information for individual schools on their respective web pages or in MSAR (Medical School Admission Requirements).

**MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST (MCAT):** The MCAT is offered multiple times from late January through September each year. Applicants may take the exam up to three times per year but may be registered for only one testing date at a time. Applicants may take the exam no more than four times over two consecutive testing years and no more than seven times in a lifetime (beginning with the April 2015 test dates and beyond).

**DENTAL ADMISSION TEST (DAT):** Students interested in dentistry must take the DAT. Tests are administered year-round at Prometric Test Centers. Applicants must wait at least 90 days from their previous attempt, before retaking the DAT. Applicants who have had three or more DAT attempts must apply for permission to test again. From that time, applicants may retest only once per 12-month period.

**PREPARATION:** Almost all institutions require and pay significant attention to your MCAT/DAT/OAT/GRE etc. scores. We can advise you on good study methods. See the **Standardized Exams** page.
APPLICATION: It is important to apply as early as possible so that you can be assured of a seat at a local test site. Register for the MCAT online. Students are urged to take the MCAT no later than spring of the year they plan to apply. This enables you to make a more intelligent selection of schools, generally leads to earlier invitations for interviews, opens up early-decision possibilities, and affords you the opportunity to retake the exam if your test results are disappointing.

AAMC FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FAP): An AAMC FAP application, along with all required documentation, should be submitted as soon as possible.

STANDARDIZED APPLICATION SERVICES - AMCAS/AADSAS/AACOMAS/VMCAS:

AMCAS FEE ASSISTANCE: If you wish to obtain AMCAS fee assistance, you must submit your FAP application before you file your AMCS. If your application is approved, not only will you save on AMCAS fees, but many schools will waive their supplementary fees (which can add up to a considerable amount).

Most medical, osteopathic, dental, podiatry, veterinary, etc., schools subscribe to a common application service, and it is to your advantage to submit those forms as early as possible. Processing delays of 30-45 days are common, and these organizations are extraordinarily rigid with respect to deadlines. Errors in reporting grades, etc. can lead to serious delays, and you must also make sure that transcripts from all post-secondary institutions which you have ever attended are requested well before deadlines. Have them sent immediately.

You should also immediately begin work on your AMCAS (or other common application) personal statement. In the case of AMCAS, it may contain no more than 5300 characters or one full page. Your essay should be reviewed by those whose opinions you respect. You should not hesitate to avail yourself of the services of the Writing Center. Dr. Larochelle will be happy to discuss optimal ways for you to present yourself. Your final essay should be in perfect English.

SECONDARY APPLICATIONS:
These are automatically sent out to applicants once a school receives the common application. As with the personal statement, the responses must be in perfect English. You are encouraged to use the same resources you used in crafting your personal statement (Writing Center, Dr. Larochelle, others willing to read your drafts). A good rule of thumb is to return your responses within two weeks of receiving a secondary application. Make sure you understand the school mission for each school you have applied to, and craft your responses to reflect how that resonates with your own personal goals for your education.

INTERVIEWS:
This is the last stage, but a very important one, in gaining acceptance. The office is prepared to help by micro-interviewing you (i.e., videotaping a mock interview) as well as by providing you with: 1) General information on the interview process; 2) Clark contacts who may be able to give you information about a specific school; 3) Advice on how well you are handling your interviews. However, this is only possible if you briefly write up your interviews as soon after they occur as possible, and submit them to our office.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE OFFICE:
It is imperative that we know how to contact you, phone number, address, and e-mail. We also need a pdf copy of your submitted AMCAS/AADSAS/AACOMAS/VMCAS etc. application and up-to-date information on the status of all of your applications; i.e., whether you have been invited for an interview, placed on an alternate, hold, or wait list, been accepted or rejected (e-mail premed@clarku.edu or telephone 508-793-7119 Wendy Praisner with this information). The Health Careers Advising Office (Sackler, S228) can best serve your needs only if we know the current status of all your applications. Keep us informed by visiting the office, telephoning, or e-mailing.

PREMEDICAL AND PREDENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Dr. Denis A. Larochelle, Chair, Premedical and Predental Advisory Committee, Biology, Lasry Center for Biosciences, Room 334, 508-793-7631, dlarochelle@clarku.edu

Dr. Robert A. Drewell, Biology, Lasry Center for Biosciences, Room 330, 508-793-7625, rdrewell@clarku.edu

Ernest R. Krygier, Chemistry, Sackler, Room S204, 508-793-7574, ekrygier@clarku.edu

Dr. Deborah M. Merrill, Sociology, Jefferson, Room 407, 508-793-7284, dmerrill@clarku.edu

Dr. Néva P. Meyer, Biology, Lasry Center for Biosciences, Room 342, 508-793-7476, nmeyer@clarku.edu

Wendy Praisner, Program Coordinator, Sackler, Room S228, 508-793-7119, fax 508-793-7117, premed@clarku.edu