Overview of the Application

Med/Vet/Dental School 2026 - 2027

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APPLICATION OVERVIEW

In this presentation, we will cover:

1. Data & Other Admissions Factors
2. **Timeline & Overview**
3. Application Components: **Highlight on Composite Letter Process**
4. Resources
5. Next Steps

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Some Data

Dartmouth Applicant Outcomes in the Application Process

2025 Dartmouth Applicants: Medicine

Total Applicants: 135 Total Not Accepted: 28

Acceptance Rate: 79% Total Accepted: 107

Accepted	Mean	Range
GPA	3.75	3.16-4.0
BCPM*	3.64	2.62-4.0
MCAT	517	501-527
Not Accepted	**Mean**	**Range**
GPA	3.6	2.66-3.98
BCPM	3.45	2.41-3.89
MCAT	514	498-528

*BCPM=Biology, Chemistry, Physics, & Math:

2025 Dartmouth Applicants: Medicine Nationally

National Acceptant Rate: 44%

Dartmouth Acceptance Rate: 79%

"Bad Math" but worth noting: if we chose only to include applicants we worked with, and then also take into account folks who wanted to give it a go, knowing it was a very long shot that might require a do-over, the acceptance rate shifts to 86%

National Applicants Accepted	Mean
GPA	3.81
BCPM	3.75
MCAT	512

Dartmouth Accepted	Mean
GPA	3.76
BCPM*	3.64
MCAT	517

*BCPM=Biology, Chemistry, Physics, & Math:

2025 Dartmouth Applicants: Dental/Veterinary?

Reminders: Some Factors for Success

- Clinical Exposure
- Altruistic Activities
- Scholarly Experience
- Personal Statement
- School List
- Interview
- Letters of Evaluation
- Utilization of HPP
- Distance Travelled
- Authenticity
- Sincerity

Demonstrating Competencies, for instance:

- Listening Skills
- Problem Solving
- Witten & Oral Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Initiative
- Cultural Competency
- Compassion/Empathy
- Integrity
- Resiliency
- Adaptability
- Reliability & Dependability
- Persistence
- Motivation
- Intellectual Curiosity
- Perspective Taking
- Creativity

APPLICANT’S ROLE
HPP’S ROLE

2025-2026 Cycle: Your Role

1. Join the MedApp 2026-2027 Listserv by using QR Code!
2. Meet with an HPP advisor to assess your readiness to apply.
3. Familiarize yourself with HPP resources on our website: https://www.dartmouth.edu/prehealth/applying/
4. Review the HPP Composite Process Handbook – and especially the Composite Timeline within it.
5. Be aware of all deadlines.
6. Set your email to receive HPP emails and read all MedApp Listserv emails and newsletters.
7. Read all HPP application/composite resources.
8. Know your tasks; Prepare; Act

2026-2027 Cycle: HPP's role

1. HPP advisors can help you assess your readiness to apply.
2. HPP will provide resources w all steps and info on our website: https://www.dartmouth.edu/prehealth/applying/
3. HPP will provide regular updates with important information and timely tasks through our MedApp Listserv emails and newsletters.
4. HPP advisors will provide important workshops/info sessions to help you prepare
5. HPP advisors can help review application writing.
6. HPP coordinator will oversee final Composite process.

THE APPLICATION TIMELINE

Timeline: Fall 2025 – Summer 2027 Medical/Dental

Composite Letter Process

Fall 25-Summer 26

Reflection and Writing; Letters

Winter-Spring 26

Writing -Final Drafts, Med School List

Winter-Spring 26

Primary and Secondary Applications

Spring-Summer 26

Interview Invitations

August-March 26

Final Decisions

Winter-Spring 27

TIMING IS A CRUCIAL FACTOR

Because most schools have rolling admissions, we highly recommend submitting your primary application EARLY in the process if possible.

Understanding the application timeline helps you prepare in a timely fashion!

What is EARLY?
Aim to submit between first date of submission and end of June.

Should you wait for Spring Grades?
Maybe! They will often benefit an applicant.

*Consult with HPP re: if it will benefit you to wait for Spring Grades which become available ~ June 15

When Do Applications Open?
From 2025-2026 Cycle; 26-27 will be similar

2025 Cycle (‘25 matriculation)	AMCAS (MD)	AACOMAS (DO)	TMDSAS (Texas)
Date Application Opens			
Date Submission Opens			
Date Processed Application Sent to Schools			

2025 Cycle (‘25 matriculation)	AADSAS (Dental)	VMCAS (Veterinary)
Date Application Opens		
Date Submission Opens		

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

In this section, we will cover:

1. Letters of Evaluation/Composite Letters
2. Primary Applications
    - Application Services
3. Standardized Tests
    - Fee Assistance
4. Situational Judgment Tests
5. Secondary Applications
6. Interviews

Letters of Evaluation and the COMPOSITE LETTER PROCESS (Most Immediate)

The Composite Letter

A unique, comprehensive letter of evaluation that shares a cohesive narrative about the applicant.

For MD, DO, and Dental Schools
(some Vet schools but can do letter packet* for Vet, more later)

The Composite Letter is written by one person—the Composite Writer.
The writer includes their first-hand knowledge of the applicant, and incorporates information from your 3-5 support writers and autobiographical info you share.

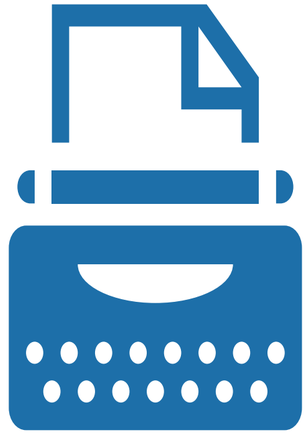
The writer consolidates that information and creates a composite perspective that summarizes:

- Information about an applicant's academic background
- Their extracurricular experience
- Their personal/professional qualities
- Preparedness/Motivation for medicine/dentistry

The Composite Letter

You choose your Composite Writer:
The composite writer does need to be someone from the Dartmouth community (including Geisel and DHMC).

- Most often a faculty member
- Sometimes staff, PI, etc.
- Does not need to be in the sciences



You will also choose 3-5 support writers.

HPP oversees the Composite Letter Process. The HPP staff creates the completed composite letter of evaluation packet to ensure the integrity, confidentiality, and quality of the letter.

Choosing Writers

Composite Writer and 3-5 Support Writers typically include the following:

1. Ideally: Two faculty who have taught you in a science class (check schools of interest)
   - One can be science-based neuro or engineering
   - They do not both need to be from Dartmouth
2. One faculty from your major (if not a science major) or from another type of class is typical, not necessarily required .
3. From experiences outside the classroom. Examples include, but not limited to:
   - Research supervisor
   - Coach
   - Supervisor from a job/internship/volunteer experience
   - FSP faculty
   - Etc

   SUPPORT LETTERs can be written by individuals outside of Dartmouth as well.

Your Composite Steps & Tasks

- Read the timeline
- Choose and ask a composite writer
- Choose and ask 3-5 support writers
- Create deadlines for your writers
- Start a PrivateFolio account using HPP's instructions
- **Write autobiographical sketch, update your resumé (helps w starting the writing process, can do anytime)**
- Send the sketch and resumé to support writers
- Upload autobiographical sketch, resumé, and transcript into PrivateFolio
- Monitor PrivateFolio account
- Submit a "release to composite form" to HPP when all support letters and your documents have been uploaded to Privatefolio

Writer's and HPP's Composite Steps & Tasks

1. After HPP receives your "release to composite" HPP creates one file with all materials (your support letters, auto sketch, resumé, transcript and detailed instructions) and delivers to to your composite writer
2. Your composite writer submits their letter directly to HPP 3-6 weeks after you submit the "Release to Composite Form."
3. HPP staff reviews the letter for revisions. This may from 1-4 weeks.
4. When letter is complete HPP creates final Composite packet
5. The final product is a single pdf file that includes a cover letter from HPP, your composite letter, and your support letters.
6. HPP notifies you with instructions on how to transmit your letters to AMCAS, AACOMAS, and/or TMDSAS, or AADSAS.

Target Deadlines for Composite Process

- ❑ October- Early January: Ask letter writers.
  - Contact them early so they can put it on their calendar.
  - They may have multiple requests and limit how many they can write.
- ❑ March 25: target deadline for support writers.
- ❑ May 30: HPP ideal final deadline for support letters.
- ❑ Mid-May- June 25: target deadline for the composite writer.
- ❑ July 31: HPP ideal final deadline for the composite writer.

THE PRIMARY APPLICATION

Primary Application Includes

- Demographics/Personal Information
- Work and Activities
- Personal Statement/Narrative
- Exam Scores
- Input Every Course
- Transcripts from all Post Secondary Institutions Attended
- Impact Statement
- Institutional Action Statement
- School List
- Additional Essays (AADSAS, TMDSAS, Combined Degree)

FYI
Letters of Evaluation-Composite Letter Are Usually Submitted AFTER Submitting Primary Application!

FYI: Institutional Action, Felonies, & Misdemeanors

- Applications ask if you have ever had an institutional action, felony, and/or misdemeanor. Secondaries might ask about summary offenses and other charges.
- If you are not sure if you have one, speak to your pre-health advisors to clarify.
- If you have, you must say yes and explain.
- Please talk directly to your pre-health advisers about this between now and early spring.
  - Stay calm until you've had a chance to discuss it with us.
  - We can coach you through what you will say about it.
- Your composite writer or one of your support writers can also offer context.

BE PREPARED

A LOT OF WRITING AHEAD
Primary: Work/Activities; Personal Statement
Secondary Essays
(+Update Letters later)

Attend Workshops! Seek feedback on writing drafts in timely fashion

FILLING OUT APP

- Attend HPP workshop re: Dartmouth specific instructions for filling out app
- Keep FAQs by your side when filling out

Submission Timeline?

Factors: Quality of writing;
Waiting for transcript

APPLICATION SERVICES
EXAMS
COSTS
FEE ASSISTANCE

Application Services

The most common application services are:

1. AMCAS (Allopathic Medicine – MD)
2. AACOMAS (Osteopathic Medicine)
3. TMDSAS (Texas Medical & Dental Schools)
4. AADSAS (Dentistry)
5. VMCAS (Veterinary Medicine)

View application guides for all services that may apply to you.

Fee Assistance Programs:
For Testing & Applications

MCAT/AMCAS Fee Assistance

- The fee reduction isn't retroactive, you have to be approved before you sign up to gain the benefit.
- Plan ahead to apply. You'll need to gather tax/income info, fill it out, and, then, it takes 5-10 business days to process once you submit.
- Reduced MCAT & rescheduling fees
- Free AAMC MCAT practice products
- Also reduces AMCAS application costs.
- Most medical schools will also waive secondary fees

AACOMAS Fee Assistance

TMDSAS: no fee waivers available

DAT Fee Waivers

AADSAS Fee Waivers

GRE Fee Reimbursements

VMCAS Fee Reimbursement

Standardized Testing: Medical

MCAT: $345

- Pre-Registration open
- Registration OPEN for January and March – June Dates.
- July-September MCAT dates: Expected to open in February 2025
- Fee Assistance Program.
- To apply for accommodations: https://bit.ly/35Gcche
- MCAT Registration information can be found here: https://bit.ly/3jLw9bH
- Detailed content MCAT information can be found here: https://students-residents.aamc.org/prepare-mcat-exam/whats-mcat-exam
- **HPP MCAT resource page:** https://www.dartmouth.edu/prehealth/applying/mcat.html

Standardized Testing: Dental/Veterinary

DAT (Dental): $525

- Apply, then obtain DENTPIN
- You are required to take the exam within 6 months of applying for the DAT, or you must pay the fee again.
- Learn more and apply for accommodations: https://bit.ly/2TATRwA

GRE (Veterinary Medicine): $220

- Get started here: https://www.ets.org/gre

Do not wait on letters to submit your primary application

Applicants typically submit their composite letter set AFTER they have submitted their primary application.

You don’t have to wait to submit your primary application for the letter to be completed. It is typical for the composite letter packet (and committee letters from other schools) to be added later.

SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

Secondary Applications

- From every school you've applied to
- Includes 2-8 essay prompts from each school, and sometimes other short questionnaires.
- Most schools don't screen before sending secondary applications.
- Treat each secondary as if it's the only one that matters! Focus on quality.
- Avoid:
  - Focusing on speed versus quality, or quality without timeliness.
  - Writing when tired or burnt out
  - Re-using essay's w/out double checking prompts.
- Be sure you know school mission, values, curriculum.
- Be sure you know how your candidacy aligns.
- Make sure THEY know too.

SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT TESTS (SJTs)

Situational Judgment Tests (SJTs)

CASPer

- Website: https://acuityinsights.app/casper/
- Test Dates: https://takecasper.com/dates-times/
- When you register, (opens May) you will see a list of schools that require it.
- You will want to select all the schools that will receive the report.
- Cost: $85 – includes 7 programs. $16 for each additional program.
- After the test, it takes 4 weeks to deliver your scores to schools.
- Only valid for one application cycle

AAMC PREview

- Programs that require or recommend Preview: https://students-residents.aamc.org/aamc-preview/aamc-preview-professional-readiness-exam
- Cost: $100 flat fee
- Valid for up to 3 application cycles but can only be taken once per test year.
- Registration opens January

ATTEND SJT WORKSHIP IN WINTER TERM FOR MORE INFO!

THE PARTS OF THE COMPLETED PRIMARY APPLICATION

The Completed Application Includes 5 Parts:

1. Exam Scores
2. Verified Primary Application
3. Letters of Evaluation
4. SJT’s
5. Secondary Application

.

TIMELINE-MORE DETAILED

Timeline: Fall 2025 – Summer 2026 Medical/Dental

Composite Letter Process

Fall 25-Summer 26

- Learn about it
- Choose and ask letter writers
- Discuss if needed with HPP
- Open PrivateFolio
- Complete forms for HPP
- Write autosketch, update resumé & transcript & send to support writers
- Upload documents to PrivateFolio

Reflection and Writing; Letters

Winter-Spring 26

- Brainstorm
- Reflect and Write
- Attend “Writing for Application Workshops”
- Send reminders to writers
- Submit autosketch and resume to writers and upload to PrivateFolio
- Monitor PrivateFolio
- Develop school list

Preparing the Application

Winter-Spring 26

- Draft essay and activities
- Review with HPP advisors and/or other readers
- Attend “Filling out Application” workshop
- Utilize HPP/ AMCAS Tutorials
- Choose medical school list

The Official Application

Spring-Summer 26

- Complete and submit primary application
- When complete, submit Composite Letter packet
- Order official transcripts
- Draft and complete secondaries
  - Essays
  - Prerequisites
  - Update portal

Timeline: Late Summer 26 – Winter/Spring 2027 Medical/Dental

Interview Invitations

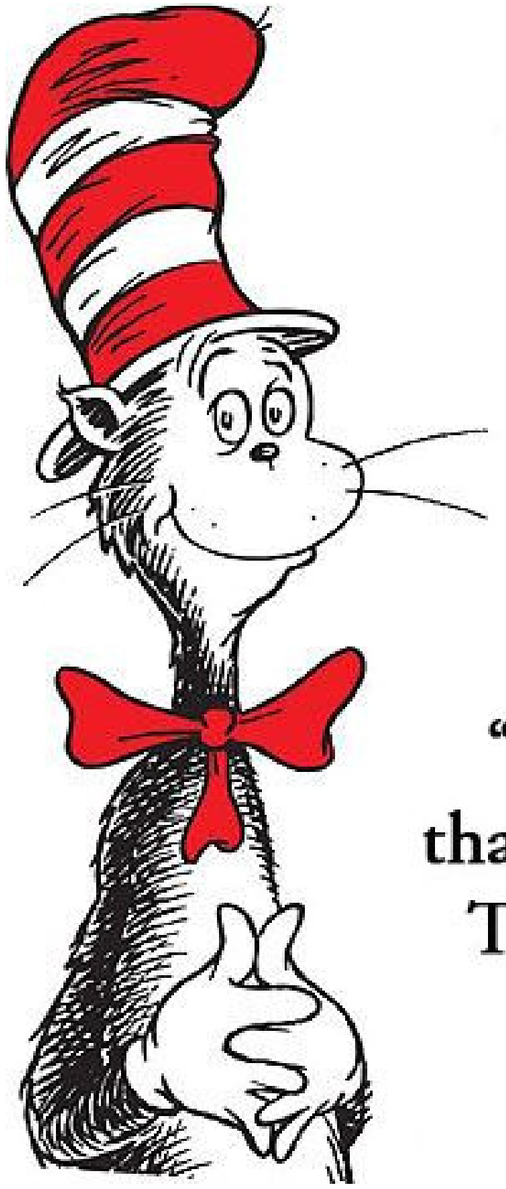
Late Summer-Fall 26

- Finish up secondaries
- Interviews begin and continue through March
  - Traditional
  - Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI)
  - Hybrid
- October 15: first round of offers begins; rolling basis after
- Complete FAFSA

Interviews, Final Decisions

Winter-Spring 27

- Continue interviews
- If holding more than 1 offer, begin withdrawing other offers and finalizing decisions
- Some schools will release offers in March



"Today you are You,
that is truer than true.
There is no one alive
who is Youer than
You." - Dr. Seuss

Next Steps

Next Steps

1. Assess: Speak with Advisor—readiness for strong application
2. Get familiar with Composite Letter Process: Go to HPP website and open Application tab
    - Read the Overview of the Composite Process
    - Decide on letter writers
    - Ask writers. When you get your yes's, use the HPP instructions to open a PrivateFolio account (Look under Letters of Evaluation)
3. Start gathering info about your experiences: List your activities; start remembering dates, hours memories etc.
4. Create a file to jot down memories, idea, reflections
5. If might qualify, prep to apply for Financial Assistance Program

EXPERIENCE/ACTIVITY	CATEGORY-EXPERIENCE TYPE	START DATE	END DATE	HOURS	ORG NAME	CONTACT PERSON	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE	ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES/GROWTH/KEY MOMENTS: Any Core Competencies

2026-2027 Cycle Other Resources

- **American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC):**
  https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/
  - AMCAS: https://bit.ly/3jEr8l5
  - MCAT: https://bit.ly/3kErE3F
  - MSAR: https://bit.ly/3kEoKMt
  - Aspiring Docs: https://bit.ly/3kFWj0x
  - Advisor Reports (temporarily public) https://bit.ly/31Re19T

- **American Dental Education Association (ADEA):**
  https://www.adea.org/GoDental/The_application_to_dental_school__ADEA_AADSAS.aspx
  - AADSAS Applicant Help Center: https://bit.ly/3mxJt5e

- **Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC):**
  https://www.aavmc.org/
  - VMCAS: https://bit.ly/3kQXNW5

Final Advice

- Utilize HPP to help you assess where you're at and for any other part of the process.
- Don't compare yourself to anyone else.
- Be yourself.
- Give yourself time to write well