

GEN ST 297: Applying to Health Professional School

The course is designed for UW students and alumni who are planning to apply in the current year to graduate-level health professional programs, including dental, medical, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant and veterinary schools. Class time will include small group work, short lectures, and visits from experts, including admissions officials and health professionals. Seminar participants will be able to:

- *Identify salient criteria for choosing target schools*
- *Articulate personal fit with their health profession of interest*
- *Prepare a compelling application to a health professional program*

Session topics will include:

- *Identifying your Dependable Strengths*
- *Writing about your clinical experience*
- *Writing about your leadership experience*
- *Writing about your research experience*
- *Writing the Personal Statement*
- *Getting Great Letters of Recommendation*
- *Identifying Target Schools & Demonstrating a Good Fit*
- *Financing Health Professional School*
- *Acing the Interview*

Assignment Descriptions:

Draft Activity Descriptions: Submit in Canvas the following:

- *Description of a Clinical Experience Activity*
- *Description of a Shadowing Activity*
- *Description of a Leadership Activity*
- *Description of a Non-Health Activity*

Draft Personal Statement: Submit via Canvas a draft personal statement. Consider the following:

- *Why have you selected this health profession?*
- *What motivates you to learn more about this health profession?*
- *What hardships, challenges, or obstacles have influenced your educational pursuits?*
- *Did you have to work to pay for your education? How has that made you a stronger applicant?*
- *Describe any special talents that could be transferable to this health profession.*
- *Describe how your personal, educational, and professional background will help you achieve your goals.*

Self-Assessment: Reflect on your readiness to apply based on the following:

- *Academic Preparation*
- *Standardized Exam Preparation and Performance*
- *Shadowing and Clinical Experiences*
- *Service and Volunteer Experiences*
- *Leadership and Teamwork Experiences*
- *Research and Scholarly Experiences*
- *Personal Qualities and Professional Behavior*
- *Letters of Recommendation*