utd pda dental school application guide!!
(still in revision)

congratulations! you're applying to dental school! it's time to show off all the hard work you've put in.

UTD HPE PROCESS

- The HPE process is what gets you your "committee letter" that many dental schools prefer to have. With a committee letter, HPAC will send all of your letters of evaluations for you (along with the committee letter), rather than you individually submitting them yourself.
  - There are a limited number of HPE spots every year! They typically fill within the first week of opening (or even earlier). Because of this, I highly recommend working ahead of the opening date so that you are able to submit WHEN IT OPENS!
  - Here is a link to the HPE information: https://oue.utdallas.edu/pre-health/apply-to-schools
  - **For EY 2024, the first day to access the Bio Form/submit for HPE is October 1:**
    - Register for HPE to receive the **Bio Form**
    - The Bio Form is basically the entire TMDSAS Application on a Word Document. In order to get a spot in HPE, you need to submit a completed Bio Form to HPAC (for us starting, October 1). It is a rolling process so the sooner you get your form in, the more likely you are to get a spot.
    - The form is LONG! Work on your essays in advance to get a head start!
      - 1. Personal Statement: The personal essay asks you to explain your motivation to seek a career in dentistry. You are asked to discuss your philosophy of the dental profession and indicate your goals relevant to the profession. 5000 characters, including spaces.
      - 2. Personal Characteristics (Required): Learning from others is enhanced in educational settings that include individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Please describe your personal characteristics (background, talents, skills, etc.) or experiences that would add to the educational experience of others. 2500 characters, including spaces.
      - 3. Unique Circumstances (Optional BUT DO IT): Briefly discuss any unique circumstances or life experiences that are

relevant to your application, which have not previously been presented. 2500 characters, including spaces.
- *Your essays do not need to be perfect. Your activities do not need to be perfect. You'll revise this later with your advisor but get a draft in there so you have something to submit!*
- There is a section on the Bio Form asking about letters of evaluation. They are only asking for the names of who you think will write your letters- you do NOT need to submit them when applying to enter the HPE process. This will come in the spring.
- If selected for HPE, you will revise your application with an assigned advisor and will have 2 faculty interviews that are meant to mimic dental school interviews. They will receive your Bio Form in advance and will ask you questions based on that.
- Your interviewers will likely be Dr. Murchison and another faculty member.
- Dress professionally!

Letters of Evaluation
- From the Bio Form "HPE participants must solicit at least **3 letters of evaluation (max 5), including 2 from science professors.**"
- You also **must have a letter of evaluation from a dentist!**
- Begin thinking about who you would like to write your evaluation letter and give them ample time to write it! Typically people ask 2-3 months in advance- some people get it done quickly and others may need longer. It also depends on your relationship with the individual, so it's up to you to gauge when to ask for your letter.
- For HPE Applications: In order for your Committee Letter to start being written, ***ALL*** of your letters of evaluation need to be submitted to HPAC. Only then will your HPAC advisor present you to the committee. With this, I would request letters February/March so that they can be finished and turned in by end of April/early May!

TMDSAS: https://www.tmdsas.com/
- This is where you'll access the application for the four Texas schools.
- If you completed the Bio Form, this application is practically identical.
- For EY 2023: We could begin *accessing* the application in early-May and could begin *submitting* the application in mid-May. People will tell you different things about the timing to submit, but I was told by HPAC to aim to submit by **June 1** to be considered early!
- I only had to write one secondary application for TMDSAS, and it was a short one for TAMCOD.
- You do NOT need to submit your transcripts, DAT score, or letters of evaluation in order to submit your primary application.
    - Letters of evaluation: "You can submit your application before TMDSAS has received your letters of evaluation. Your letters will be added to your application as they are received and they will not cause a delay to your application processing time. Schools will receive these updates automatically as letters are received."
    - Transcripts: these will be requested by TMDSAS later on.
    - DAT Scores: you can report these after submitting however "any change in planned test dates MUST be immediately reported to TMDSAS"

AADSAS: information link, login link
- This is where you'll access the application for any schools outside of Texas.
- It is very similar to TMDSAS. The character count on your activity descriptions are a little longer (600 characters) and the personal statement is slightly shorter (4500 characters).
- For EY 2023: The timeline is later than TMDSAS. We could begin *accessing* the application in mid-May and could begin *submitting* June 1.
- You will individually add the schools that you want to apply to and you will be able to see if they have any **supplemental questions** that you need to submit with the primary application. Other schools will have you submit your primary application first, and then after it has been verified, they will send you a **secondary application.** Other schools require no additional questions at all.
- *** AADSAS requires you to submit your transcript **at the time of your primary application.** This includes your UTD transcript as well as any other coursework such as community colleges. THESE TAKE TIME TO PROCESS (electronic transcripts can be processed in a day while paper transcripts may take 10 days)! Order these transcripts when you begin your application so that by the time you are ready to submit, you don't have to worry about them!
- You do NOT need to submit your letters of evaluation and DAT scores in order to submit your primary application.

- Letters of Evaluation: LOEs are not required to complete the ADEA AADSAS application, but most dental schools require LOEs to be complete before they can review the application.
- DAT Scores: You may submit an ADEA AADSAS application before taking the DAT, but you should know that many schools consider you for admission only after they have received your DAT scores.