

COVID-19 Health Professions FAQs:

Last updated: September 1, 2020

How do I make an appointment?

Katie Boes, Health Professions Advisor, will continue to offer individual advising appointments remotely. Schedule an appointment using [Handshake](#) (Career Center -> Appointments -> Health Professions), and we will meet using Microsoft Teams (through video, or audio only if you'd prefer). Please [install Microsoft Teams](#) before our appointment. Katie will initiate the Teams call at the time of your scheduled meeting. Remember that Wooster is in the Eastern Standard Time zone.

What does the College's Pass-Fail option for Fall 2020 courses mean for health professions schools?

For most health professions schools including medical schools, all prerequisite coursework must be taken as a graded course (they have not accepted pass/fail in the past). We are now facing an unprecedented situation with COVID-19, and The College of Wooster has offered students an *option* to pass-fail courses (see The College of Wooster's [Fall Semester 2020 Policies](#)).

We all wish to know more about how health professions schools will consider this unusual semester during future admissions. As of March 30, 2020, there have been no 'universal' policies from health professions schools regarding whether pass-fail grades will be accepted in place of letter grades for pre-requisite courses. Instead, individual medical (and other) schools are making their own decisions, and many prefer that any prerequisite courses remain as graded courses if your school offers graded courses as an option this semester (as Wooster does).

As health professions advisor, I encourage you to do your best in your courses while prioritizing your health and the health of others. I will update this site when there is more concrete information from health professions schools and associations. In the meantime, I encourage you to strive to complete Fall 2020 prerequisite courses for a grade, as doing so will minimize/eliminate any potential confusion about whether schools will accept the courses. If I receive additional updates I may update this guidance.

To follow updates regarding these policies:

- Osteopathic medical schools (DO) can be found [here](#). Other COVID-19 updates are posted at this [ChooseDO page](#).
- Allopathic medical schools are posting policies through MSAR and on [this spreadsheet](#).

Please know that I'm here to support you. If you have specific questions or concerns and would like more individualized guidance, please book an appointment to talk with me.

How will health professions schools view online coursework, which is often discouraged?

At this time, many/most colleges have moved to online learning, and we expect that health professions schools will be accepting of this for Spring 2020 and Fall 2020. However, we have yet to learn official updates from many health professions schools.

If you are considering taking summer 2021 courses that are being moved to online, you may wish to use caution in proceeding if you can take the course in person at a later time, particularly if it is a prerequisite course for medical school. Please feel free to book an appointment with Katie if you'd like to talk about this.

How will COVID-19 affect entrance exams (MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc)?

COVID-19 has resulted in the cancellation of many scheduled in-person test dates. Please bookmark and follow these sites for the most up-to-date information:

- For medical students: [MCAT Coronavirus FAQ page](#) .
 - MCAT Registration re-opens Thursday May 7. See updates about the exam format/options [here](#) (shortened exams in May – Sept; three tests/day)
 - See the updated MCAT calendar [here](#)
- For dental students: [DAT](#)- see 'Important Updates...' section
- For optometry students: [OAT](#)
- Other: [GRE](#) and [TOEFL](#)

I am a student who is currently in or just starting the medical school application process. How will COVID-19 affect the application cycle and process?

Allopathic (MD): For students in the current (2020) or upcoming (2021) allopathic (MD) medical school application cycle, please bookmark and follow this [COVID-19 and AMCAS page](#). Check back frequently for updates.

- Individual medical schools are making decisions about the impacts of COVID-19 on admissions processes. It's complex to follow the updates as they vary across schools, but AAMC has released (and will continue to update) [these comprehensive reports for all to stay informed](#).
- Ongoing updates/policies from individual allopathic (MD) medical schools about their admissions protocols are/will be posted on [MSAR](#) and/or on individual school websites.

- As one example of what some schools are saying, the California medical schools just released [this joint statement](#) saying that they will accept applications from students who have been unable to take the MCAT due to COVID-19, but will require that applicants take the MCAT before they make admissions decisions (assuming that MCAT testing resumes before October 2020). Therefore, they encourage students to apply even without MCAT scores. *(Note from Katie: Please know that this is a very personal decision as the application process is financially costly and many applicants ordinarily prefer to apply *after* they know their MCAT score and are satisfied with it).*
- As of April 8, 2020, AMCAS announced that they do **not** expect to add any questions about COVID-19 on the AMCAS application. Instead, individual medical schools who wish to learn more about the impact of COVID-19 on applicants will include this in their secondary application.

Osteopathic (DO): For students in the current (2020) or upcoming (2021) osteopathic (DO) medical school application cycle, please bookmark and follow this [AACOMAS page](#) and this [ChooseDO page](#).

- To read how Osteopathic medical schools are adapting their admissions process, see [this letter](#) (sent April 9).
- AACOMAS is planning to include an additional question about the impact of COVID-19 on the AACOMAS application. It is an open response essay question (up to 2500 characters) asking applicants to describe how COVID-19 has impacted their pathway to medical school. (In terms of any academic, personal, financial, or professional barriers resulting from COVID-19).

For my chosen health profession (medical, dental, etc), how do I stay updated on the COVID-19 impacts and updates?

Please bookmark any relevant sites for you, and check back frequently for updates:

- Medical (see also question above):
 - [MCAT updates](#)
 - [AMCAS updates](#) (MD)
 - [ChooseDO updates](#) (DO)
- Dental:
 - [DAT](#)
 - [AADSAS](#)
- All other health professions: [Health Professions COVID-19 Related Links and Information](#)

As a health professions student, other than prioritizing the health of myself and others, what can I be doing during this time?

Please see this link for a comprehensive and ever-growing crowd-sourced list of ideas:
[Ideas for Prehealth Students During COVID-19](#)