

Student Guide

Tips for Attending a Health Professions Fair¹

What is the health professions fair?

The health professions fair is a one-day event set up to connect interested students and community members to large numbers of health professions program representatives. Program representatives are there to promote their school and programs and recruit prospective applicants. So, if you are interested in learning more about a particular program, school, or potential career, use the opportunity to participate in the health professions fair to your advantage.

What are the benefits of attending the health professions fair?

Consider a health professions day fair to be one-stop exploration for your health professions interests and pursuits. It will provide an excellent opportunity for you to talk to numerous health professions program representatives at one time and place. Some direct benefits of attending a health professions day fair include:

- Making contacts in an efficient and economical way.
- Learning more about specific health professions programs, schools, and careers.
- Talking to admissions and program representatives face-to-face.
- Gathering information or seeking feedback about educational background, experiences, in your application portfolio, as well as for suggestions on how to become a more competitive applicant.

Day of Event Tips

Bring a pen, folder, note pad, and/or some sort of log sheet to keep you organized. A highlighter can be useful to help indicate which school(s) you want to see. Be open-minded and flexible, you might be surprised what you find out.

Meeting Program Representatives

Approach a representative and introduce yourself. Shake hands, make good eye contact, and tell the representative your name, major and interests. The more focused you are the better. Have a 30-second “elevator speech” as a way to sell yourself to a school. This is a great way to introduce yourself. In less than one minute, you need to introduce yourself and express enthusiasm and interest in pursuing a career in a health profession occupation.

Thank representatives for any brochures or promotional materials you were given. Collect business cards and jot down a fact on the back to jog your memory if you want to write a follow-up email.

Other Dos and Don'ts:

- Be assertive without being rude.
- Don't monopolize someone's time.

¹ Adapted from “AAMC: Choosing a Medical career and selecting medical schools: 35 questions I wish I had asked.

- Be sensitive to others waiting behind you.
- Realize that admission representatives/recruiters like to talk to groups.
- Observe other students as well as health profession program representatives for clues.

First-Year Pre-Health Profession Pathway Student

Goal: Exploration, understanding expectations

1. I am a first-year student—what do you think I should focus on to be successful applicants later on?
2. “What kinds of experiences do your strongest applicants usually have by the time they apply?”
3. “Are there particular classes you recommend taking early, or common first-year mistakes students should avoid?”
4. What would you like me to know about your school that I can’t find out from your website?
- 5.

Second-Year Pre-Health Profession Pathway Student

Goal: Clarify personal planning, early preparation for application skills.

1. I am working on getting more clinical or volunteer experience—what types of experiences stand out the most to your admissions committee?”
2. If I plan to apply in a year or two, what should I be doing now to stay on track?
3. How do you recommend students start preparing for entrance exams like the MCAT/DAT/GRE/etc. at this stage?
4. Does your program value research, community service, or clinical exposure more—or is it about balance?
5. Do you offer any pipeline programs, summer programs, or early application pathways for students in their second year?

Third or Fourth-Year Pre-Health Profession Pathway Student

Goal: Preparing to apply, clarifying admissions expectations, understanding program fit.

1. I am planning to apply soon—what qualities or experiences really set competitive applicants apart in your program?”
2. How does your admissions team view GPA, entrance exam scores, experiences, and personal attributes?”
3. What does your interview process look like, and what advice do you have for preparing for it?
4. Are there specific parts of the application where students commonly misunderstand or make avoidable mistakes?
5. What support systems do your students have once they are in the program (tutoring, mentoring, wellness resources)?

Alumni or Post-Bacc Pre-Health Professions Pathway Student

Goal: Strengthening or reinventing the academic record, demonstrating readiness, addressing gaps.

1. I am returning to the pre-health path as an alum/post-bacc—what do successful

- nontraditional applicants often bring to your program?”
2. How does your admissions committee view formal structured post-bacc programs or DIY additional course work completed post-bacc when evaluating academic readiness?”
 3. If I am trying to strengthen my GPA or science foundation, what type of coursework do you recommend? Is it recommended to repeat low performing courses?
 4. Are there specific ways nontraditional applicants can highlight their maturity, work experience, or life experiences?

Exploratory or Discovering Health Careers Pathway Student

Goal: Broad exploration of health fields, understanding fit, learning about program options.

1. I am still figuring out which health career fits me—how would you describe what makes your school unique?
2. For someone who isn't sure yet, what kinds of introductory courses, webinars, or info sessions would you recommend from your school?”
3. What are some common traits or interests you see in students who end up applying to your program?
4. If I am not sure yet, what is the best way to start exploring multiple health professions?
5. If I want to explore this career path with others, what should I look for or consider when researching different health professions?

Extra questions to ask during the event:

1. Why do you think students choose your school?
2. Are there special or combined programs offered?
3. What does a successful applicant look like at your school?
4. What is the median range of entrance exam scores and GPAs of applicants accepted to your school?
5. How does your school prepare students for selecting a specialty and applying for residency or employment?
6. What are the opportunities available for research?
7. When does patient interaction or clinical rotations begin?
8. Can you speak about your curriculum and approach to teaching/learning?

Financial Aid

9. What are the current tuition and fees? Is this an expense that increases yearly?
10. In addition to funds provided through use of federal financial aid, are there significant amounts of university/institutional aid available to students?
11. Are there students who have an "unmet need" factor in their budget? If so, how do these students come up with the extra funds?
12. Are there services/staff available to assist students with budgeting and financial planning?
13. Does this school provide guidance to its students and to its graduates/alumni on debt management?

Health Professions Fair: Personal Agenda Worksheet

My Goals for Attending the Fair (What do I want to learn, do, or accomplish today?)

• Goal 1: _____

• Goal 2: _____

Priority	School/Program	Why I want to talk to them
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Follow-Up Tasks After the Fair (Emails to send, advisors to meet with, research to do, deadlines to track.)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

What I Learned Today

- _____
- _____
- _____

