Please take notes and remember to sign in
• Launch of new website!: [https://muse.union.edu/healthprofessions/](https://muse.union.edu/healthprofessions/)  
This is where all HPAC Review forms and resources will be located.

• Please review weekly Health Professions update emails that go out every Friday with announcements on meetings, internships, research/clinical opportunities prior to making an appointment. We are no longer putting posts in Nexus.

• Community Action, Research and Education (CARE) Fellowship ($3,800 for 300 hours with 240 direct patient contact hours). Must apply through 2 processes: [CARE program application](https://muse.union.edu/undergraduate-research/summer-research-applications/) and for funding: [https://muse.union.edu/undergraduate-research/summer-research-applications/](https://muse.union.edu/undergraduate-research/summer-research-applications/)  
INFO Meeting Tuesday Jan 28 common hour Wold 010 (Deadline Feb 14th)

• Hospice Training: If you would like to learn more about the application/interview process, contact Amy Scarlett at ascarlett@communityhospice.org or 518-377-8846

• Joan Nicole Prince Home Training February 5th and February 7th (4:00 PM—9:00 PM) at the home. You must contact Volunteer Coordinator, Amanda Neveu at 346-5471 or volcoorjnp@nycap.rr.com in advance if you plan to attend

• Utilize Becker Career Center resources (e-recruiting). They offer 3 paid summer internships (approx. $3,000 for 300 hours) to work at a non-profit if you obtain the agency’s support. Becker is hosting an information meeting Wednesday, Feb. 27, 1pm in the Becker Career Center. [https://www.union.edu/becker-career-center/community-service-internships](https://www.union.edu/becker-career-center/community-service-internships)
Health Professions Alumni Brunch
Saturday April 13, 2019
2 Scholarship Opportunities

**Obenzinger Scholarship** (must be sophomore or junior receiving financial aid)

- The amount of the scholarship for the 2019/20 academic year will be approximately $37,000 to be used toward meeting your financial need as measured by the FAFSA and CSS Profile.
- Any need in excess of the Obenzinger Award will be met with Union College Scholarship, eliminating your need-based loans.
- $1,000 cash at prize day in 2020 (next year)
- Paid work-study position doing public health-related work-can be unpaid internship through healthcare agency with an endorsement letter from the organization.
- Should be either a Sophomore or Junior with strong grades (above 3.5 math/science gpa and competitive standardized test scores) with plans to apply to allopathic medical (MD) schools

**Harold and Ellen Nagorsky Memorial Prize**

- Awarded to the premedical student who is in the junior class and contributes the most to the Union College community through extracurricular activities.
- Prize (approx. $1,000) to be awarded this year May 2019 at Prize Day

Both Prizes require that you complete an application (available in our office located in Olin 110)
Goals of Today’s Meeting

At the completion of the meeting, you should be able to...

• Articulate what a “committee letter” is and the process required to obtain one in support of your professional school application

• Assess whether you are ready to go through committee review this year

• Realistically estimate your “cohort” year (earliest year you would likely begin professional school and draft a timeline of necessary steps to launch an application)

• Understand the steps required to initiate committee review and secure your materials in the future
What is a committee letter?

Why do I need one?

Who writes the letter and how?
What is discussed in the committee letter?

• Motivation for Medicine/Clinical Background

• Involvement in extracurricular activities and leadership roles that you have held

• Interpersonal characteristics

• Academic record
Who Writes the Committee Letter and How?
Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC)

Prof. Weisse, Director-Health Professions Program

Prof. Beaton, Asst. Director-Health Professions Program

Prof. Cohen, Biology

Prof. Kehlbeck, Chemistry

Prof. LaBrake, Physics

Prof. Olberg, Biology

Prof. Rosenthal, Math

Matt Milless, Director of Student Activities
Committee Letter is Based Upon the Following Sources:

• On-line portfolio outlining grades, experiences, and goals via personal statement (you provide this)

• Evaluation letters to be submitted to our office (faculty and/or other evaluators provide these)

• Information from 2, 1-hour interviews to be conducted in the spring (committee members provide this)
Are You the Best You Can Be?

Committee Review is Only Done Once. Check out Anatomy of an Applicant
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Grid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking and reasoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication skills-oral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication skills-written</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to work with others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability /dependability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience / adaptability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service orientation / concern for others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiarity with field/Clinical Background</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Overall Committee Rating
(these math/science GPA ranges are approximations!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Qualities</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Academic Abilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recommended very highly</td>
<td>3.8+ bcpm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recommended highly</td>
<td>3.5-3.8 bcpm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recommended</td>
<td>3.0-3.5 bcpm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recommended with reservations</td>
<td>2.75-3.0 bcpm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credentials Presented for Consideration</td>
<td>&lt;2.75 bcpm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MCAT

- **Recommended resources by the makers of the test (AAMC)**

- Additional resources are available at the library reference desk under “Weisse” (including Exam Crackers)

- Practice, practice, practice
## Not Accepted

### Not Accepted 2017 Cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Year</th>
<th>Processed</th>
<th>MCAT</th>
<th>new MCAT</th>
<th>BCPM</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>additional information</th>
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<tr>
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<td>8/13/2016</td>
<td>508</td>
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<td>3.78</td>
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<tr>
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### Accepted

#### Acceptances MD 2017 COHORT

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<th>BCPM</th>
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<th>additional information</th>
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</thead>
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#### Acceptances DO / Other 2017 COHORT

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<td>509</td>
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<td>3.56</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In addition to grades...

Genuine, heartfelt, sustained service that includes interaction with patients.

Albany Medical College is seeking candidates who have 500-1000 patient hours.
Who should seek committee review this year?

- Alumni/Seniors/Juniors with competitive grades and significant clinical outreach and service who hope to begin fall 2020.

- Sophomores eligible for early assurance programs.

If your math/science GPA < 3.0 or you have not had much patient contact or community service, the committee recommends a deferral of HPAC review.
What if you are not ready to apply?

- Establish plans for addressing any deficiencies. For example, if grades are low, consider graduate programs or post-bac programs found at [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)
- If lacking in clinical experience, consider seeing out clinical work during gap year(s)
- Consider other options (other health professions? Foreign schools?)

...doing a gap year has been a fantastic path to medical school, so far. With all of the travelling and expenses associated with applying, I would have struggled mightily had I attempted to do this during the school year... I didn't really think doing a gap year would be good for me, and neither did my parents. But, that was the way it went and it has been great. ~Union alum
What do students do when they are competitive but have a gap year?

• Research, Fellowships (Fulbright, Minerva, Watson)
• Education-Pursue graduate degree
• Service, Volunteer
• Clinical experience
Virtual Info Session with Alumni

Thursday, Jan. 31, 1pm
Becker Career Center
(we’ll have pizza & salad)

MSKCC Recruiters and Union Alumni will share insights about the new grad roles and on-campus interviews.

Bring your questions! ALL students welcome!

Questions? Contact Rochelle at carusor@union.edu
If You Are Ready To Apply...
January

Attend the informational meeting and submit your Health Professions Advisory Committee Request for Review Form.

Follow multi-step instructions provided via e-mail from health_pro@union.edu to activate and then begin HPAC online portfolio.

Complete one Health Professions Advisory Committee Individual Evaluation Letter Request Form for each evaluation letter to be submitted on your behalf.

February

Complete HPAC on-line portfolio.

Periodically check your HPAC on-line portfolio to see whether the evaluation letters that you requested have been submitted. Evaluation letters are due by NOON on the FIRST MONDAY of March.

March

Submit the completed HPAC on-line portfolio by NOON on the FIRST MONDAY of MARCH.

Sign up for both HPAC interviews following deadlines/instructions provided via e-mail from health_pro@union.edu.

April/May

Complete both HPAC interviews and take necessary admissions tests (i.e. MCAT, DAT, OAT etc…).

May

Attend the informational meeting on the application process. Begin application (i.e. AMCAS, ACOMAS, AADSAS etc…) and make final decision on application after reviewing test scores. Put in transcript requests with registrar’s office.

June

Use health_pro@union.edu for all inquiries to our office and when providing our office with a PDF version of your submitted application. Note: AMCAS applicants must also email a PDF of the letter request form along with the submitted application.

July

Submit all secondary applications.
Evaluation Letters

• The committee will accept up to four letters with a requirement for 2 science evaluators (evaluators cannot be a member of the HPAC committee)

• For each evaluator who will be writing on your behalf, complete a Health Professions Advisory Committee Individual Evaluation Letter Request Form

• Note that the individual letter waivers and the Waiver selection made in the Request for Review form must match.

• Only ask people who know you well and whom you think can speak to your suitability for a career in medicine

• Consider providing evaluators with relevant information

• Evaluation letters are due no later than noon the first Monday of March. You will be able to monitor submissions within the HPAC online portfolio system.

NOTE: letters submitted to our office can only be sent to professional schools and not other programs (i.e. research, grad school, internships/scholarships, post-bac programs etc.).
How Do I Initiate Review?
(2 STEP PROCESS)
HPAC Portfolio Only available in February

1. **Complete the Health Professions Request for Committee Review**

2. Within 3 business days, you should receive an e-mail from **health_pro@union.edu** with instructions on how to access the on-line portfolio.

Check Spam
Sign back into the application periodically to see if the Application button appears in the upper right corner (our office has to manually change your status to an active applicant in the system).

Make sure to read the “Help” page carefully. Give yourself 10-15 minutes for the first time working on the application because you need to fill in all of the required fields (indicated by a * red asterisk) before hitting the SAVE button. The information that you enter at this point can simply be filler information because you will be able to go back in and edit everything any time you want.
Tips when completing on-line application

• Carefully read/follow instructions

• Alumni should use permanent, non-Union email (i.e. gmail)

• Required fields have a red asterisk. Task #1 is to enter a value in all required fields on each page and select the Save button at the bottom.

• Save your information in a separate Text Pad or Word Pad document.

• Don’t wait until the last minute to work on the application.
1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name *

Middle Name

Last Name *

Are you in the Leadership in Medicine Program? *
- no
- yes

I affirm that this application has been completed in compliance with the Union College Honor Code. *

I acknowledge that the committee to which I submit my portfolio will verify records of my disciplinary points and Academic Honor Code violations with the Dean of Students office and the Dean of Studies office.

I acknowledge that an institutional action includes sanctions for Honor Code violations issued after either hearings or Chair-Dean Reviews as well as the assignment of points even if they were later reduced. You must briefly explain each instance, the date(s) of occurrence (MM/YYYY), and any sanctions and/or points assigned.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to verify all of my institutional actions with both offices (Dean of Students, Dean of Studies) before submitting my portfolio for review by the respective committee.
Institutional Action

"Were you ever the recipient of any institutional action by any college or medical school for unacceptable academic performance or conduct violation even though such action may not have interrupted your enrollment or required you to withdraw?"

“You must answer ‘Yes’ even if the action does not appear on or has been deleted from your official transcripts due to institutional policy or personal petition.”
Institutional Action

- Any and all points ever received must be reported (you may want to verify with Dean of Students office)
- Any honor code violations (Dean of Studies)
- Any conduct issues

- Medical schools expect applicants to be completely forthcoming.
A memorable and well-written essay takes time and reflection...

• Pull together the highlights of your accomplishments/experiences relevant to medicine over the last 3-4 years before drafting your “story”

• Get help (i.e., Becker, Writing Center) and make several revisions

• Keep in mind that it is not really a “personal” statement where you broadcast your thoughts or philosophical position distinct from experiences
FREE WRITING WORKSHOP!

Monday February 11th (Common Lunch Hour)
Library Phi Beta Kappa room
RSVP via link:
https://goo.gl/forms/TZ5OaU9RhkScCFsn2

(space is limited)

Come and learn about the art of composing an effective essay for your application to medical programs and for your Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC) Review during this interactive workshop. You must rsvp in advance.

Presented by: Joseph Johnson, Director of Writing Programs
Next meeting will be in May

• Discuss how to complete applications (AMCAS, AADSAS etc...)
• Discuss how to establish a list of schools to which to apply
• Review procedures for ensuring that your committee letter gets sent to schools
• Hear from successful applicants from the previous year
Please Ask Any Questions Now