

GEN ST 297 ([15009](#))

Applying to Health Professional School

This seminar will meet **Tuesdays** in Winter Quarter 2019 from **2:30-4:20** in Thomson 101.

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*

This is a one-credit seminar graded as Credit/No Credit. Students who score 80 or more points out of a possible 100 points will receive credit. Students' scores include points for **attendance** (three points per class session) and **five writing assignments** (10-20 points each).

Assignments turned in late will be subject to an appropriate penalty (10% if turned in one week late or less, 20% if turned in more than one week late). No assignments will be accepted after **March 15**, the last day of instruction for the quarter.

Date:	Topics:	Assignment due at 2:30
1/8	Seminar Overview Application Timelines & Processes	
1/15	Identifying your Dependable Strengths	
1/22	Writing about your clinical experience	
1/29	Writing about your research experience	
2/5	Writing about your leadership experience	
2/12	Peer Editing your Activities Writing the Personal Statement	Draft Activity Descriptions
2/19	Getting Great Letters of Recommendation	Peer Feedback Summary #1
2/26	Peer Editing Personal Statements Identifying Target Schools & Demonstrating a Good Fit	Draft Personal Statement
3/5	Financing Health Professional School	Peer Feedback Summary #2
3/12	Acing the Interview	Self-Assessment

Draft Activity Descriptions: Due 2/12 at 2:30pm

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*

If you do not have one of these, substitute with another activity from a different category (e.g. research experience). Follow the format for your application service. Bring two hard copies to class on 5/1 for peer feedback.

Activity Descriptions – Peer Feedback Survey: Due 2/19 at 2:30 pm

After participating in a peer feedback session in class, respond to the following survey questions:

- *Who were your peer editors?*
- *What was the most helpful feedback you received from your peers?*
- *How will you incorporate this feedback into the revised versions you submit in your application?*
- *Was there any feedback from your peers that you disagreed with? If so, why?*
- *Did your peer editors try interesting approaches to the assignment, or include different content, than you?*
- *What did you learn from your peers' approach to writing about their activities?*

Draft Personal Statement: Due 2/26 at 2:30 pm

Submit via Canvas a draft personal statement. Follow the format for your application service, and bring two hard copies to class on 5/15. Consider the following:

- *Why have you selected this health profession?*
- *What motivates you to learn more about this health profession?*
- *What do you want schools to know about you that has not been disclosed in other areas of your application?*
- *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?*
- *Provide context for any significant fluctuations in your academic record that are not explained elsewhere.*
- *Describe any special talents that could be transferable to this health profession.*
- *Express your commitment to helping others and mention any efforts made that enforce that commitment.*
- *Describe how your personal, educational, and professional background will help you achieve your goals.*

Personal Statement – Peer Feedback Survey: Due 3/5 at 2:30 pm

After participating in a peer feedback session in class, respond to the following survey questions:

- *Who were your peer editors?*
- *What was the most helpful feedback you received from your peers?*
- *How will you incorporate this feedback into the revised personal statement for your application?*
- *Was there any feedback from your peers that you disagreed with? If so, why?*
- *Did your peer editors try interesting approaches in their personal statements, or include different content, than you?*
- *What did you learn from your peers' approach to their personal statement?*

Self-Assessment: Due 3/12 at 2:30 pm

Reflect on your readiness to apply for a health professional program based on the following:

- *Motivation*
- *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*
- *Overall Application Preparedness*