

# GEN ST 297A ([14649](#)) Spring 2020

## Applying to Health Professional School (Online)

**Instructor:** Dan Poux, Career & Internship Center, MGH 134, [danpoux@uw.edu](mailto:danpoux@uw.edu)

**When:** Tuesdays 2:30-4:20

**Click here to connect each week:** <https://washington.zoom.us/j/463404025>

This seminar is designed for UW students and alumni who are planning to apply to graduate-level health professional programs. Online sessions in Zoom will include small group discussion and feedback on draft application materials, short lectures, and conversations with admissions representatives from medical and dental schools. 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 **participation** (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 **June 5**, the last day of instruction for the quarter.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Assignment due at 2:30</b>
<b>3/31</b>	Seminar Overview Application Timelines & Processes	
<b>4/7</b>	Identifying your Dependable Strengths	
<b>4/14</b>	Writing about your clinical experience	
<b>4/21</b>	Writing about your research experience	
<b>4/28</b>	Writing about your leadership experience	
<b>5/5</b>	Small Group Discussion of Activity Descriptions Writing the Personal Statement	Draft Activity Descriptions (+ Peer Editing)
<b>5/12</b>	Getting Great Letters of Recommendation	Peer Feedback Survey #1
<b>5/19</b>	Small Group Discussion of Personal Statements Identifying Target Schools & Demonstrating a Good Fit	Draft Personal Statement (+ Peer Editing)
<b>5/26</b>	Financing Health Professional School	Peer Feedback Survey #2
<b>6/2</b>	Acing the Interview	Self-Assessment

**Draft Activity Descriptions:** Due 5/5 at 2:30pm (20 points)

1. Submit four activity descriptions into Canvas. These should include:
  - Description of a Clinical Experience Activity
  - Description of a Shadowing Activity
  - Description of a Leadership Activity
  - Description of a Non-Health Activity

If you don't have one of these, substitute with another activity from a different category (e.g. research experience). Try to **loosely** follow the guidelines for your application system -- don't feel too constrained by character limits at this point. (10 points)

2. On the due date for the assignment, Canvas will assign you two other submissions for peer review. (5 points for each peer review = 10 additional points)

**Activity Descriptions – Peer Feedback Survey:** Due 5/12 at 2:30 pm (5 points)

After providing and receiving peer feedback, 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?*

**Draft Personal Statement:** Due 5/19 at 2:30 pm (20 points)

1. Submit your draft personal statement in Canvas. Include any prompts provided by your application system. Try to **loosely** follow the character limit provided. (10 points) Consider these prompts if they are helpful:

- *Why have you selected this health profession?*
- *What hardships, challenges, or obstacles have influenced your educational pursuits?*
- *Provide context for any significant fluctuations in your academic record that are not explained elsewhere.*
- *Express your commitment to helping others and mention any efforts made that enforce that commitment.*

2. On the due date for the assignment, Canvas will assign you two other submissions for peer review. (5 points for each peer review = 10 additional points)

**Personal Statement – Peer Feedback Survey:** Due 5/26 at 2:30 pm (5 points)

After providing and receiving peer feedback, 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?*

**Self-Assessment:** Due 6/2 at 2:30 pm (20 points)

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*