



As an advisor, there's certain information - dates, deadlines, program directories - that you want to have "at your fingertips". We've collated some of this information into this "fingertip guide" that you can use to advise your students, create your own handouts and publications, and otherwise stay up to date with information for a range of professions.

Version - December 6, 2023

Profession	Multiple Degree Paths				Master's Degree-Level Programs			
	Nursing	Occupational Therapy	Public Health	Athletic Training	Speech-Language Pathology	Physician Assistant/Physician Associate	Anesthesiologist Assistant	
Professional Association	AACN American Association of Colleges of Nursing	OTA American Occupational Therapy Association	ASPPH Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health	NATA National Athletic Trainers' Association	ASHA American Speech-Language Hearing Association	PAEA PA Education Association	AAAA American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants	
School & Program Directory	AACN Member Program Directory		OTA School Directory	ASPPH Academic Program Finder	CAATE Program Directory	ASHA EdFind Program Directory	PAEA Program Directory	AAAEP Members
Standardized Exam Information								
Standardized Exam	Graduate Record Exam (GRE)	Graduate Record Exam (GRE)	Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Many no longer requiring	Graduate Record Exam (GRE)	Graduate Record Exam (GRE)	Graduate Record Exam (GRE)	GRE MCAT	
When is the exam offered?	Several times per month, year round	Several times per month, year round	Several times per month, year round	Several times per month, year round	Several times per month, year round	Several times per month, year round	MCAT = Eight months a year, 2-5 dates per month: January, March-September GRE = Several time per month, year round	
Exam Fee Information	GRE Fees	GRE Fees	GRE Fees	GRE Fees	GRE Fees	GRE Fees	GRE Fees	
Exam Fee Assistance URL	GRE Fee Reduction Program	GRE Fee Reduction Program	GRE Fee Reduction Program	GRE Fee Reduction Program	GRE Fee Reduction Program	GRE Fee Reduction Program	GRE Fee Reduction Program	
Application Service Information								
Centralized Application Service (CAS)	NursingCAS Nursing's Centralized Application Service	OTCAS Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service	SOPHAS The centralized application service for schools & programs of public health	ATCAS Athletic Training Centralized Application Service	CSDCAS Communication Sciences & Disorders Centralized Application Service	CASPA Central Application Service for Physician Assistants	CASAA Central Application Service for Anesthesiologist Assistants	
Do all accredited schools/programs participate?	No - apply to non-participating programs directly	No - apply to non-participating programs directly	No - apply to non-participating programs directly	No - apply to non-participating programs directly	No - apply to non-participating programs directly	No - apply to non-participating programs directly	No - apply to non-participating programs directly	Yes
CAS Opens	Late August	Mid-July	Mid August	Late June	Mid-July	Last Thursday in April	Early March	
CAS First Date To Submit	CAS is available continuously	As soon as CAS opens	August 16, 2023	Institutions select own deadlines				typically 3/10

	Multiple Degree Paths			Master's Degree-Level Programs				
Profession	Nursing	Occupational Therapy	Public Health	Athletic Training	Speech-Language Pathology	Physician Assistant/Physician Associate	Anesthesiologist Assistant	
CAS First Date Transmitted to Schools	When application is submitted	When application is submitted	When application is submitted	When application is submitted				
Application Deadlines	Varies by program	June	Varies by program	Institutions select own deadlines	November through April for Fall start	June through April	typically 2/28	
CAS Application Fee Information URL	NursingCAS Fees	OTCAS Fees	SOPHAS Fees	ATCAS Fees	CSDCAS Fees	CASPA Fees	CASAA Fee Schedule & Waiver Program	
CAS Income-Based Application Fee Assistance	Covers single application; limited quantity	Covers single application; limited quantity	Covers single application; limited quantity. Financial- and service-based waivers offered.	Offers discount/fee waivers for those eligible	Covers single application; limited quantity	Covers first two programs; limited quantity	Covers initial (single) application; limited quantity	
CAS Contact Info	NursingCAS Customer Service	OTCAS Customer Service	SOPHAS Customer Service	ATCAS Customer Service	CSDCAS Customer Service	CASPA Customer Service	CASAA Applicant Help Center	
General Information & Resources								
Top Link for Students	Resources for Students	Become an Occupational Therapist	This is Public Health	Career and Education	Information for Students	Advisor & Pre-PA Resources	Anesthesiologist Assistant - FAQs	
Professional Degree(s)	Most common are Bachelors (BSN), Masters (MSN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Doctorate (PhD) See NursingCAS Compare Degrees PDF	Master's and Doctoral degrees	Many including Masters (MPH, MS, MHA), Doctorate (DrPH, PhD)	Master's degrees	Master's degree	Master's degree (specific credentials vary by program)	Master's degree (MSA, MMSc, MHSc)	
Years to Degree	One or more depending on program	Two or more depending on degree	Generally 1-3 (masters), 4-7 (doctoral)	Generally 2	Two	24-27 months on average	24-28 months	
Advisor Information & Resources								
Resources for Advisors		Become an occupational therapy practitioner	ASPPH - Study	Athletic Training	Information for Students for Audiology and Speech Language Pathology Careers	Advisor & Pre-PA Resources	CASAA Help Center	
CAS Advisor Portal Info	Universal Advisor Portal	Universal Advisor Portal	Universal Advisor Portal	Universal Advisor Portal		Universal Advisor Portal	Universal Advisor Portal	
Most Recent Update	February 2024	January 2023	January 2023	March 2023	March 2023	March 2023	March 2023	
							January 2023	

	Doctoral-Level Programs											
Profession	Dental Medicine	Optometry	Pharmacy	Veterinary Medicine	Allopathic Medicine	Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary – Texas Schools	Osteopathic Medicine	Podiatric Medicine	Audiology	Physical Therapy	Naturopathic Medicine	Public Health
Professional Association	ADEA American Dental Education Association	ASCO Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry	AAPC American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy	AAVMC American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges	AAMC Association of American Medical Colleges		AACOM American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine	AACPM American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine	ASHA American Speech-Language Hearing Association	APTA American Physical Therapy Association	AANMC Assoc. of Naturopathic Medicine Colleges	ASPPH Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health
School & Program Directory	Deciding where to apply ADEA Dental Explorer	ASCO Map	PharmCAS School Directory	Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements (VMSAR)	AAMC Member Directory Medical School Admissions Requirements		AACOM Member List	AACPM Member List	ASHA EdFind Program Directory	PTCAS Program Directory	AANMC Member List	ASPPH Academic Program Finder
Standardized Exam Information												
Standardized Exam	Dental Admission Test (DAT)	Optometry Admission Test (OAT)	There is currently no standardized entrance exam.	Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Only 2 schools require the GRE	Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)	Varies based on profession	Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)	Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)	Graduate Record Exam (GRE)	Graduate Record Exam (GRE)	Graduate Record Exam (GRE)	Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Many no longer requiring
When is the exam offered?	Year-round	Year-round	N/A	Several times per month, year round	Eight months a year, 2-5 dates per month: January, March-September	Varies based on profession	Eight months a year, 2-5 dates per month: January, March-September	Eight months a year, 2-5 dates per month: January, March-September	Several times per month, year round	Several times per month, year round	Several times per month, year round	Several times per month, year round
Exam Fee Information	See DAT Guide	See OAT Guide	N/A	GRE Fees	MCAT Scheduling Fees	Varies based on profession	MCAT Scheduling Fees	MCAT Scheduling Fees	GRE Fees	GRE Fees	GRE Fees	GRE Fees
Exam Fee Assistance URL	DAT Fee Waiver	OAT Fee Waiver	N/A	GRE Fee Reduction Program	AAMC Fee Assistance	Varies based on profession	AAMC Fee Assistance	MCAT Scheduling Fees	GRE Fee Reduction Program	GRE Fee Reduction Program	GRE Fee Reduction Program	GRE Fee Reduction Program
Application Service Information												

	Doctoral-Level Programs											
Profession	Dental Medicine	Optometry	Pharmacy	Veterinary Medicine	Allopathic Medicine	Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary – Texas Schools	Osteopathic Medicine	Podiatric Medicine	Audiology	Physical Therapy	Naturopathic Medicine	Public Health
Centralized Application Service (CAS)	ADEA AADSAS Associated American Dental Schools Application Service	OptomCAS Optometry Centralized Application Service	PharmCAS Pharmacy College Application Service	VMCAS Veterinary Medical College Application Service	AMCAS American Medical College Application Service	TMDSAS Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service	AACOMAS American Assoc. of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service	AAPCPMAS American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service	CSDCAS Communication Sciences & Disorders Centralized Application Service	PTCAS Physical Therapist Centralized Application Service	NDCAS Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine Centralized Application Service	SOPHAS The centralized application service for schools & programs of public health
Do all schools/programs participate?	Yes - either ADEA AADSAS or TMDSAS	Yes	Most, but not all, pharmacy schools participate in PharmCAS	Yes - either VMCAS or TMDSAS	Yes - either AMCAS or TMDSAS	Yes	Yes - either AACOMAS or TMDSAS	10 of 11 member schools participate	No - apply to non-participating programs directly	No - apply to non-participating programs directly	No - apply to non-participating programs directly	No - apply to non-participating programs directly
CAS Opens	Early May	Late June	Mid-July	Late January	Early May	Early May	Early May	Early August	Mid-July	Mid-June	Early September	Mid August
CAS First Date To Submit	Early June	As soon as CAS opens	As soon as CAS opens		Late May	Mid May	Early May	Early August				August 16, 2023
CAS First Date Transmitted to Schools	After application is verified	After application is verified	Schools can view upon submission and GPAs after verification		Late June	Mid May	Early May	Early May				When application is submitted
Application Deadlines	Latest are February	December through May	Priority Deadlines: as early as October; Regular Deadlines: November through June	September	August through December	Varies by program	December through April	April through June	April for Fall start	October through May	Varies	Varies by program
CAS Application Fee Information URL	2022–23 ADEA AADSAS Application Cycle Updates	OptomCAS Fees	PharmCAS Fees	VMCAS Fees	AMCAS Certification and Fees	TMDSAS Certification and Fees	AACOMAS Fees	AAPCPMAS Fees	CSDCAS Fees	PTCAS Fees	NDCAS Fees	SOPHAS Fees

	Doctoral-Level Programs											
Profession	Dental Medicine	Optometry	Pharmacy	Veterinary Medicine	Allopathic Medicine	Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary – Texas Schools	Osteopathic Medicine	Podiatric Medicine	Audiology	Physical Therapy	Naturopathic Medicine	Public Health
CAS Income-Based Application Fee Assistance	Covers three schools; limited quantity	Some programs provide coupon codes	Covers single application; limited quantity	Covers initial fee; limited quantity of secondary fee waiver	AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP) covers AMCAS fees for 20 school designations.	None	Covers single application; limited quantity	Covers single application; limited quantity, first come, first serve	Covers single application; limited quantity	Covers single application; limited quantity	None	Covers single application; limited quantity. Financial- and service-based waivers offered.
CAS Contact Info	ADEA AADSAS Customer Service	OptomCAS Contact Us	PharmCAS Customer Service	VMCAS Customer Service	AMCAS Contact Us	TMDSAS Contact Us	AACOMAS Customer Service	AACPMAS Customer Service	CSDCAS Customer Service	PTCAS Customer Service	NDCAS Customer Service	SOPHAS Customer Service
General Information & Resources												
Top Link for Students	ADEA GoDental	Resources for Applicants and Advisors	Pharmacy is Right for Me	Becoming a Veterinarian	AAMC: Students & Residents	TMDSAS Homepage	Choose DO	Become a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine	Information for Students	Careers in Physical Therapy	Resources for Prospective Students	This is Public Health
Professional Degree(s)	Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)	Doctor of Optometry (OD)	Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) or Veterinary Medical Doctor (VMD)	Doctor of Medicine (MD)	See Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary profession entries	Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)	Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM)	Doctor of Audiology (AuD)	Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)	Naturopathic Doctor (ND)	Many including Masters (MPH, MS, MHA), Doctorate (DrPH, PhD)
Years to Degree	Four	Four	3-4 years for PharmD after 2-4 years of college	Four	Traditionally four; some three-year programs	Varies based on profession	Four	Four	3-4 years, depending on program	Four	Four	Generally 1-3 (masters), 4-7 (doctoral)
Advisor Information & Resources												
Resources for Advisors	Advisor Page	Resources for Applicants and Advisors	Resources for Applicants and Advisors	Advisor Page	Advisor Page	Advisor Page	Advisor Page	ExplorePodMed	Information for Students in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology	Advisor Page	ASPPH - Study	
CAS Advisor Portal Info	Universal Advisor Portal	Universal Advisor Portal	Universal Advisor Portal	Universal Advisor Portal	AAMC AIS		Universal Advisor Portal	Universal Advisor Portal		Universal Advisor Portal	Universal Advisor Portal	Universal Advisor Portal
Most Recent Update	January 2023	January 2023	February 2024	March 2023	January 2023	January 2023	January 2023	December 2023	March 2023	January 2023	January 2023	January 2023