

Benefits of Taking Steps to Develop Application Expertise

- The more you understand the process of applying, the less stressful it will be.
- While the Pre-Professional Advisors are here to help and support you, ultimately, it is your application and your responsibility. You need to learn everything you can about the process.
- Learning about the process early helps you strategically plan for a more competitive application and for the costs associated with your application.

When to Start

- Typically the summer after your first year of college is a good time to start building your knowledge base. While you can realistically start any time, this helps you determine your next steps for your sophomore year so that you don't lose track of what you need to be doing.
- Junior year is basically your application year. You need to have a plan heading into your junior year for taking your aptitude test, gathering letters of recommendation, and tackling your applications at the end of that year. It can really sneak up on you—especially if you lose track of everything your sophomore year.
- Already your application year and just getting started? It's never too late! Jump into the process and come see us as often as you need to figure out the process.

What to Focus On

- Your Field
 - Develop a realistic view the field and what it is like to work in the area on a daily basis.
 - What is the future of the field?
 - What are the current trends in the field?
 - What are some of the professional organizations related to the field—what do they lobby for?
 - Have you shadowed practitioners in the field? What did you learn? What are their concerns about the field? What do they enjoy about the field?
- Your Aptitude Test
 - What is on it?
 - When is it offered?
 - How long do you have to wait between tests if you want to take it again?
 - Gather ideas for how to prep for it.
 - Learn about the costs and the costs of various methods of preparation.
- Your Application
 - What will be on it?
 - When does it open?
 - What information about activities will you need to provide so you know what details to track?
 - What is the prompt for your personal statement?
 - How long is your personal statement? Start a file with ideas of things you might want to include.

Remember

You don't have to learn everything—that's why Pre-Professional Advising is here. We will help you learn about this process. But it is a great idea to go to the pertinent websites for your field and start poking around. Become familiar with what information is there and where to find it. You also need to learn which online sites provide credible information and which do not. Starting with the sites provided by Pre-Professional Advising is a good idea.

Applications can be stressful. The more you understand about the process and the more you know about them the more you will feel that you are in control of the process and that it is not running your life!