Suggested Application Timeline
Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental

First Year
- Attend “Pre-Health 101,” a workshop for first-year SMU students interested in Pre-Health programs, and other Pre-Health programs
- Explore academic areas of interest
- Join organizations (seek areas of interest, including Pre-Health) and become active members
- Get to know your professors
- Meet regularly with your pre-major academic advisor
- Get organized (create a resume – see Pre-Health website - and begin journaling experiences)
- Establish good study habits and find balance (academic and social)
- Learn more about the medical/dental professions: volunteer in hospitals or clinics, shadow doctors or dentists, read medical/dental articles, journals, and publications
- Participate in activities to serve the community
- Investigate research positions in a faculty lab (second semester)
- Apply for summer programs, work, or take summer courses
- Finish the year strong

Second Year
- Meet with the Office of Pre-Health Advising (first and second semesters)
- Attend “Pre-Health 201,” a workshop for second-year students, and other Pre-Health programs
- Stay on track academically
- Correct any weaknesses in your academic skills (Alshuler Learning Enhancement Center)
- Continue reading (include topics related to medicine) to improve critical analysis and reasoning
- Continue getting to know your professors (letters of recommendation will be needed)
- Seek meaningful leadership positions
- Seek meaningful research opportunities
- Stay organized (build your resume, journal experiences, set goals)
- Join AED (Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre-professional honor society, second semester)
- Participate in healthcare-related activities (shadowing, volunteering, working)
- Attend the Health Professions Panel (spring semester)
- Investigate professional schools and various healthcare programs
- Apply for summer programs, work, or take summer courses
- Finish the year strong (applications may begin at the end of the third year)

Third & Fourth Years
- Students MUST meet with the Office of Pre-Health Advising (Dedman Life Sciences Building, Room 135), in their junior year to review academic and extracurricular progress AND to receive additional, important, and timely information. MANDATORY ATTENDANCE at an application workshop is one of the requirements to be eligible to interview with the Health Professions Recommendation Committee (HPRC). Please contact the Office of Pre-Health Advising to learn more about the HPRC and all eligibility criteria.

Notes
- These are general guidelines to prepare for professional school in medicine and dentistry.
- Other professional programs such as Physician’s Assistant, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine require similar experiences with similar timelines. Consult with the Office of Pre-Health Advising for more information.