

# LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

*Health Professions Program*

Easton, Pennsylvania 18042 • TEL 610-330-5521 • FAX 610-330-5711 • <http://healthprofessions.lafayette.edu>

To: Campus Academic Advisors

From: The Health Professions Advising Program  
Professor Nancy M Waters, Faculty Health Professions Advisor  
Ms Simona Glaus, Coordinator, Health Professions Advising

Re: Helping YOU Help HP Students

As the semester gets underway, we in the Health Professions Advising Program are grateful for the care you take advising students on their academic programs at the College. Sound academic advice leads to judicious choices by students to maximize success in their chosen majors and expand their post-graduate options. We encourage and support you as gatekeepers of students' aspirations. For those among your advisees who express interest in some aspect of Health Professions, we provide a wealth of resources to assist your advising effort. We want to encourage *students* to be responsible for their choices, to do the requisite 'homework' and demonstrate initiative, so when you hear of their interest in some aspect of the health professions, we suggest you direct them first to the [Health Professions Advising website](#). There they (and you!) will find an extensive information, from FAQs and upcoming year-specific information sessions and handouts to course recommendations and ways to remain engaged as they discern their path. Often students are uncertain about a given area of focus, and so HPAdvising interfaces with the Gateway Career Center to provide feedback, guidance and off-campus experiences for our students. We would love to see more of our students using those resources, and we encourage you to suggest those options to them. Please guide your new First-Year Student Advisees and others to our resources when appropriate. This is particularly important for less-confident students who are hesitant until they see how they perform at Lafayette. But it is never too early for students to seek our guidance about their potential career goals in health professions.

We have discovered a misperception among our students and ask your help in clarifying. The *Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC)* is charged to provide key services to students seeking entry into 5 areas of medicine: allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, veterinary, optometry and dental schools, and schools of podiatric medicine. Faculty on HPAC review materials, interview applicants, evaluate each one and contribute to our Composite Letter of Evaluation (CLOE) that carries the weight of the College in its recommendation. Applicants from institutions like Lafayette who have committees like HPAC are **expected** by schools to be using these resources. We have learned that some of our students are mistaken that HPAdvising is remedial...that 'strong' students do not need this. Nothing could be further from the truth, and students who come late to HPAdvising or fail to participate may lack the meaningful advice they need. Worse yet, they make assumptions or take advice from well-meaning but less reliable sources, to their detriment. This may unfortunately reduce student success. HPAdvising strengthens candidacy among viable applicants, and schools value that input. We want to encourage you to suggest students seek advice from reliable sources. We need your help in steering them to HPAdvising and remaining engaged.

We stand ready to augment your advising efforts, not replace them. These students should be seeking advice from you, their Academic Advisor, first and frequently, after which they can peruse the information online and, in the event of specific questions, make appointments with either Dr Waters or Ms Glaus after they have done their due diligence. We are not an 'end run' around seeking information. Nothing can supplant your perspective as an Academic Advisor. No course should be taken solely 'because it looks good to med schools' but rather, because there is sound academic reason and student passion for taking it. You are the best gauges of that passion and commitment. Should you have questions you cannot easily answer during advising sessions, we urge you to call or email us so we can help you provide the best advice to your HP students. Whether you are new to Academic Advising here or want to know the current landscape of HPAdvising, we are happy to offer guidance. Let us know if you would find that useful.

Good luck getting the semester underway, and don't hesitate to get in touch if needed.