Tips for a Strong Application

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Programs in Our Department

- Master's
  - Biomedical and Health Informatics (M.S.)
  - Biostatistics (M.S.)
  - Clinical Research (M.S.)
  - Public Health (MPH)
- PhD
  - Biomedical and Health Informatics
  - Clinical and Translational Research
  - Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Your Application Needs to …

- Convince us:
  - You are capable of doing well in our program (aptitude, prior success)
  - You know what the field is and why it makes sense for you
  - Our program fits with your career/professional goals
    - Do your homework on our program
  - This is a good "match"
  - If PhD program: demonstrate experience and commitment to research

General Comments

- Applications reviewed holistically
  - Every part matters
  - Weakness in one area can be compensated for in other parts
- No official minimum GPA/score
  - But if low, you need to compensate and/or explain
- We're looking for win-win
  - If we aren't the right program for you, we'll say so
- OK to apply for different kinds of programs, but customize your application for each type of program

Elements of an Application – All Matter!

- Transcripts (upload unofficial transcript with application)
- Personal Statement
- CV (Resume)
- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- International student? Need TOEFL, IELTS or Pearson
- Standardized Testing - Depending on Program, e.g. GRE, MCAT
  - Might be required or optional, might be waived if requested

Transcripts

- All undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- Unofficial copies are fine
    - Sufficient to be reviewed
    - Official copy only needed to start program

Personal Statement

- Your background. Tell us your story. OK to brag a little, don't overdo.
- Why are you interested in this field?
  - Show us you know what the field is and why you want to pursue it
- What do you want to do for your career?
- How does this degree program fit in with your plans?
- Why *our* program? (Hint: Don't just copy/paste from website)
  - For PhD program, higher bar for showing you checked us out thoroughly
- Address any "issues" – and why they won't be a problem here
  - e.g. Low GPA – why? Health issue, family issue, wrong major
    - We are very understanding!

CV (Resume)

- Regular resume – education, experience
- Highlight anything strongly related to the field
- Highlight any research experience
- Highlight responsibility, ability to juggle multiple tasks

Letters of Recommendation

- 3 letters – Master's programs will review based on two if 3rd isn't in
- Most letters are from professors
- Letters from a supervisor at work are fine
- Usually, at least 2 should be from academics
  - If PhD program, should be all 3 – unless one is a research job supervisor
- If out of school for a while, might only have 1 academic letter
- Get letters from people who know you and can talk specifics
  - Had personal interactions with! Asked questions, met with them, did projects with them.
  - Research interest/aptitude, intellectual curiosity, related skills, responsibility
  - Want a different dimension than the transcripts offer