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
Any Questions?