

Making the Most of the Health Professions School Fair

- 1. Visit as many programs as you can.**
 - Don't limit your table stops. What you think you know about a program may be quite different from the reality.
- 2. Visit professions/programs outside your target field.**
 - Take the opportunity to learn about other fields and programs.
 - You may learn about fields you didn't know existed. Everyone should have a parallel career path.
- 3. Ask questions you won't be able to read about on their website.**
 - Engage in conversation about your particular interests and how their program may fit them.
- 4. Prepare your Elevator Speech - Interaction time can be limited, let this be your personal-selling statement**
 - Greeting: "Hello my name is ____"
 - Educational Background: "I'm majoring in __ with an area of concentration/minor in __ and graduate in __"
 - Description of Interests: "I'm interested in __ opportunity because of my experience in __" Or "my goal is to __"
 - Strengths and Accomplishments: 5-10 seconds
 - Closing: "I'm hoping you could __", "I'd love to speak with you about __", "I'm very interested in learning about __"
- 5. Don't ask about minimum GPA and test scores.**
 - Catalog minimums are nowhere near the class averages and ranges of the scores preferred by the admissions committees.
- 6. Ask about how non-academic factors are valued.**
 - How much weight is given to the personal statement? What clichés should be avoided?
 - What makes letters valuable? How can they stand out?
 - How to articulate special/unique circumstances (full-time work, academic missteps, career change, virtual experiences, etc.)?
- 7. Ask about the curriculum.**
 - The organization/structure of the curriculum can vary. For health professions programs, when does clinical exposure begin?
 - How are classes taught the first year? In the second? Are there electives, or are classes the same for all?
 - For health professions, where are clinical rotations? How far will/can you travel?
- 8. Ask about the cost of attendance rather than cost of tuition – the two can vary greatly.**
 - What is the average cost of attendance? What are average rental costs in that city?
 - Are there scholarships, or do most students take loans to finance education and living expenses?
 - What is the average graduating student debt load?
- 9. Ask about the student body.**
 - What undergrad majors, schools and/or states are most represented?
 - What is the gender, racial or ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds of a typical class?
 - How competitive or collaborative are students? Can you share some specific examples?
 - Are students ranked against each other? What factors are used?
- 10. And you can also ask about:**
 - School setting – for health professions, is it part of a university or stand-alone? Urban, suburban or rural?
 - Housing – on-campus, off-campus nearby or farther away?
 - Access to non-academic campus facilities you have come to expect (rec center, food court, intramurals)?
 - For health professions, ask about board passage rates and school-sponsored preparation?
 - Career services, graduate destinations, alumni network?

School Name	Admission Rep, Location & Mission	Unique Information