HPAS Personal Statement - Veterinarian

The HPAS Office will write a Committee Letter in support of your application to veterinary school, when you have submitted an Autobiography and Personal Statement to the HPAS Office on or before March 15.

The suggested faculty and mentor Evaluation Letters should be in student’s file before June 1.

The HPAS Office must have a copy of the completed veterinary school application on file before the Committee Letter can be mailed to the veterinary school.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The Autobiography is required on or before March 15, if a Committee Letter is to be written.

- The Committee Letter is usually written after June 1 and no later than September 15.

- The Autobiography/Personal Statement should comply with the guidelines as outlined on page 2.

- When the student has submitted the 3 Part Autobiography to the HPAS Office before March 15, a meeting will be schedule for the student with the Committee Letter writer.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

- The personal statement will include three main sections, which are described on page 2.
- The entire personal statement must comprise not less than 8 and not more than 20 pages.
- Use double spacing, left and right margins of 1 inch, and number the pages.
- Utilize correct English grammar and spelling.
- Place the following information at the top of page 1 of your statement:

Name (last, first) _________________________   Student ID Number __________________

Phone(s) ______________________________________________________________

Email Address ___________________________________________________________
CONTENTS OF THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

A. AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Please submit two passport size photos with your Personal Statement.

- Help us get to know you. Include aspects that you consider important, relevant and interesting about yourself. Suggestions include, but are not restricted to: your family history; your personal history; your choice of undergraduate major; your experiences in and outside the realms of science and medicine; travels you have taken; books you have read; hobbies you enjoy; events which have influenced your career choice. Remember, no topic is mandatory, and there are probably some that are not mentioned here that you may wish to include.

B. PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

Keep a personal journal for at least three weeks. At the end of each day, quietly reflect upon the following three questions: What surprised me today? What moved me, or touched me, today? What inspired me today? Ask the questions one at a time and move backward through your day to find the answer to the question you are asking. When you find the answer, write it down. Then go on to the next question. Repeat this each day for as long as you keep the journal.

- In at least three full pages, describe your response to this exercise and discuss what you have discovered or learned by doing it.

C. BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

- Please select an article from one of the following publications: Journal of Veterinary Medical Education (JVME), Preventive Veterinary Medicine (PVM) or the Journal of the American veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA). The article should explore the medical ethics issue on one of the following topics: position of PETA, cloning animals, euthanasia, or painful drug testing on animals.

- When you have selected one of these topics from the JVME, JAVMA or PVM, please read the article. Based upon the reading, formulate an opinion and be prepared to write your opinion of the issue by including the usual academic source and citations.

- In your writing: summarize the article, analyze medical ethics issues; take a medical ethics position; and reference sources which agree or disagree with your medical ethics point of view.

- List at least four relevant references so as to become more familiar with both the topic and the ethical issue(s) involved in. Include a summary of each reference article.

- Attach the article you selected to your Personal Statement.

Be prepared to discuss the article and your references in detail during your final pre-application meeting.