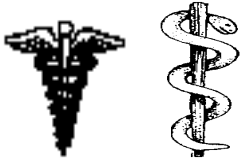


Worksheet for Premeds at Xavier University of Louisiana

# Career Essay/Personal Statement Workshop

This page is to be completed by freshmen and turned in before leaving the "Career Essay/Personal Statement Meeting" in the fall semester. (updated 7/30/09)



1. Above are two symbols frequently associated with medicine. What is the name of the symbol with one snake on it (figure on right)?

2. What is the name of the one with two snakes (figure on left)?

3. What is the origin of the two symbols? I.E. With what was each associated in ancient times?

Caduceus-

Staff of Asclepius-

4. Which of the above two symbols is used most WORLDWIDE (and probably the best to use in representing the field of medicine)?

5. In considering applications to MODVOP schools, the process usually proceeds in two stages during which time the Admissions Committee tries to answer two very different questions. If you do not pass the first stage, you never make it to the second. List the application stages below and then indicate what is used to answer the question.

\*? asked in Stage 1:

\*Items used to answer question in Stage 1:

\*? asked in Stage 2:

\*Items used to answer question in Stage 2:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

One of the first things that admissions committees read in Step #2 (above) is the career essay/personal statement. Answer the following regarding the career essay.

6.	<b>T or F</b>	The essay should simply list the activities in which you have been involved.
7.	<b>T or F</b>	You should never talk about medically-related experiences you have had.
8.	<b>T or F</b>	You should lie on your essay if it makes the essay sound good.
9.	<b>T or F</b>	It's okay to get help writing your essay.
10.	<b>T or F</b>	It's okay to turn in a handwritten essay.
11.	<b>T or F</b>	It's okay to use a font smaller than 10 point or larger than 12 point.
12.	<b>T or F</b>	Printing your essay in red or green ink is good because it makes you stand out.
13.	<b>T or F</b>	You should single space your essay and double space between paragraphs.
14.	<b>T or F</b>	The essay should stress your interest in medicine and qualities you possess which will make you a good doctor.
15.	<b>T or F</b>	It's okay to just say "I want to be a doctor because I want to help people" in your essay even though it's very "cliché" and does not set you apart from other applicants.
16.	<b>T or F</b>	The essay that you write as a Freshman should be the SAME essay you submit to medical or dental schools when you apply the summer between your junior and senior years.
17.	<b>T or F</b>	It's okay to plagiarize when writing your career essay.
18.	<b>T or F</b>	You should let someone who is objective read your essay (i.e. someone who is willing to give honest and constructive criticism which is not influenced by personal thoughts or feelings about you).

19. What set of questions (available on the PM Office's website) should XU students THOROUGHLY AND THOUGHTFULLY answer BEFORE writing their draft career essays?

20. According to the "Guide for Writing a Med/Dent essay" document, what are the eight (8) characteristics that admissions committees look for in your essay?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.

21. Why is it important to start working on your career essay NOW and to continually revise it while at XU?

22. When is the first draft of your career essay due?

23. What should you do with your draft career essay after you get it back from the Premed Office?