Preparing for the Health Professions

medicine, dentistry, podiatry, optometry, chiropractic, physician assistant, physical therapy, and others
How to Find Out About Health Careers

- Career Center on campus
- Explorehealthcareers.org, healthprofessions.org
- Professional organizations’ websites:
  - American Association of Medical Colleges (aamc.org)
  - American Dental Association (ada.org)
  - American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (aacp.org)
- Counselors, instructors, health professionals
Timeline

- Cerritos College
  - Investigate careers
  - Take challenging courses for preparation
  - Experience with career; research
  - Autobiography

- Transfer Institution
  - Find advisor for health professions and learn about services - letters, test preparation
  - Advisor or counselor - courses for graduation
  - Admission exam, like MCAT, DAT, OAT
  - Application
Medical Schools and the Application Process

- Allopathic and Osteopathic medical schools
  - Ten schools in California – where are they?
  - Which schools for your application?
- MCAT (fee) spring of junior year, serious prep all year
- Application Service AMCAS (fee), summer before senior year
  - Transcript (fee)
  - Personal Statement
- Secondary application (fee) – letters of recommendation (fee?), more information
- Interview during senior year
- Cost of application?
  - About $900, or $100 with AAMC Fee Assistance
Your Autobiography

- Prepares you for:
  - Personal statement in transfer application
  - Personal statement in medical school application
  - Personal statements in applications for scholarships, research programs, volunteer positions
  - Interviews
- Include family background, professional goals, experiences in health care, academic choices, research or other scholarly activities, work experience, extracurricular activities, community service, leadership
MCAT

- Four sections:
  - Physical Sciences – general chemistry and physics
  - Verbal Reasoning – reading passages and multiple choice questions
  - Biological Sciences – biology and organic chemistry
  - Writing Samples – two essays
- Scoring: 3-15 on PS, VR, BS and L-M-N-O-P-Q-R on WS
- National averages of accepted applicants: 11, 10, 11, (32), Q