**Admissions Requirements**

***Personal Statement***

The personal statement is an important part of your application for public health school. Each school will have different requirements about what they would like to see in your statement, so make sure to tailor your statements as necessary. Some schools will ask for responses to a series of short answer questions in lieu or in addition to a personal statement. This is why it is key to make sure you pay attention to specific schools’ requirements. If you are applying in your senior year, make use of Oxy’s resources and ask someone from the CDC or an academic advisor to look over your personal statement. You can set up appointments through the CDC’s website to have them review personal statements, as well as resumes.

***Resume/Curriculum Vitae***

In most cases, submitting a resume with suffices; however, if a school does require a CV instead, the CDC can also translate your resume into a CV format. Keep in mind when writing your resume to include only relevant information to the program you are applying for, schools are looking for your accomplishments, not just your responsibilities. It is also important to keep formatting consist and make sure that it is concise.

***Letters of Recommendation***

Both the SOPHAS and HAMPCAS applications require three letters of recommendation. Make sure to ask a variety of recommenders who can attest to different strengthens and have worked with you in different settings. Please share your goals and dreams with people you like and respect long before you are in need of their support. Focus on building good relationships, stay in touch, and then ask for their support when you need it. Whenever possible, ask in person. It is vital to give your recommenders ample background information and time for them to prepare these letters for you. Provide your recommenders with an introduction to the program you are applying to, share a short biographical sketch, and allow 4 to 6 weeks for them to compose their letters.

**Who should you ask?**

* Faculty members who taught you at Oxy and know you well including, quality of your academic work, your personal character, your background, and future goals.
* Other members of the Oxy community with whom you have had frequent and positive interactions: clubs, special projects, campus employment, community engagement activities etc.
* Others with whom you had good working relationship, for example your internship supervisor, supervisor of a community program where you volunteered, or a supervisor from any other employment.

Please do NOT obtain letters from anyone with whom you do not have or have not had any working relationships, for example, your relatives and family friends, etc.

***Admissions Tests***

All schools require the submission of one graduate level admissions test. The GRE, Graduate Records Examinations, is the most widely accepted test. Additionally, depending upon the program, some schools will accept MCAT, Medical College Admission Test, or GMAT, Graduate Management Admission Test, scores in place of GRE scores. Please check with your specific schools of interest.

***Undergraduate Course Requirements and Transcripts***

As is the case with any graduate admissions process, you need to submit an official transcript. You can submit these online through the registrar’s website or fill out the form and submit it to the office. Undergraduate course requirements vary depend upon the program you are interested in pursuing. Public health is interdisciplinary so students come from a variety of academic backgrounds. Some schools require undergraduate classes in statistics and biology, but most schools will allow students to take these courses within their first year of the graduate program if necessary. This is why it is important to review individual graduate program requirements, and important to know your intended course of study.