TMDSAS APPLICATION ESSAY PROMPTS

The public Texas medical, dental, and veterinary schools require three application essays.

PERSONAL STATEMENT ESSAY - Limited to 5000 characters, including spaces.

DENTAL SCHOOLS - Explain your motivation to seek a career in dentistry. You are asked to discuss your philosophy of the dental profession and indicate your goals relevant to the profession.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS - Explain your motivation to seek a career in medicine. Be sure to include the value of your experiences that prepare you to be a physician.

VETERINARY SCHOOL - The personal narrative asks you to discuss your personal understanding of the roles of a veterinarian as it relates to your career goals. What do you have to offer the profession?

❖ HPO recommendation: Write primarily about your experiences since high school in the personal statement. Earlier life experiences that are relevant to your application can be described in detail in the next two essays.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS ESSAY - Limited to 2500 characters, including spaces.

Learning from others is enhanced in educational settings that include individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Please describe your personal characteristics (background, talents, skills, etc.) or experiences that would add to the educational experience of others.

❖ HPO recommendation: Describe what you will bring to your professional school class that will benefit your peers. The prompt is referring to diversity in a broad sense such as special skills, interests, insights, as well as the knowledge and experience you bring from your own culture and your immersion in the cultures of others.

OPTIONAL ESSAY - Limited to 2500 characters, including spaces.

The optional essay is an opportunity to provide the admissions committee(s) with a broader picture of who you are as an applicant. This essay is optional; however, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Briefly state any unique circumstances or life experiences that are relevant to your application. This is not an area to continue your essay or reiterate what you have previously stated - this area is provided to address any issues which have not previously been addressed.

❖ HPO recommendation: Treat this as a required essay. What you write about only needs to be unique for you rather than something that is different than the other applicants. This is an appropriate place to write about academic difficulties, legal problems, and other special circumstances. It is also the place to write about special and rewarding experiences you did not have the opportunity to write about elsewhere.

The prompts above are from the TMDSAS Application Handbook on the TMDSAS Starting My Application webpage.

❖ For more guidance on what to write about, see “Recommendations on Personal Statement Content” on the HPO’s Application Resources page.