Physician Assistant School Application Timeline

**Factors to Consider Before Applying**

1. **Competitive GPAs**: Cumulative GPA and science/BCPM GPA both at or above 3.5? If not, may consider post-bacc. programs.
2. **Competitive GRE Score**: Composite score at or above the national average (301-Combined QR and VR)? If not, retake?
3. **Extracurricular Involvement**
   - **Shadowing**: Able to shadow a variety of professionals in various settings?
   - **Clinical Experience**: Work or volunteer experience, ideally with direct patient contact?
   - **Volunteering (Non-Medical)**: Any service or volunteer work in the local community or your hometown?
   - **Research**: Did you participate in undergraduate research?
   - **Other** (Student org. involvement, non-medical work, athletics, study/travel abroad, etc.)
4. **Personal Statement**: Draft or Final Draft completed?
5. **Letters of Recommendation**: Requested and tentative date of application has been communicated to writers?

*Remember, quality is always better than quantity, and long-term involvement is usually more meaningful than short stints.*

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**Application Year: Winter - Spring - (Fall may be in either final year at UCSB or First Gap Year)**

**Fall prior to App. Year**

1. **By this time, you should have reached out to individuals regarding letters of recommendation.**
2. **Late April: CASPA goes LIVE; Start Interviewing at PA Schools.**
3. **Applications sent to programs once paid for and submitted. Programs choose when to review. Remember that programs can set their own deadlines as to when application materials must be received, so make sure you know these deadlines for EACH program.**
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**Application Year**

1. **Spring**: Submitting applications to programs.
2. **Late April**: CASPA goes LIVE; Start Interviewing at PA Schools.
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**GRE test dates run year-round, but be mindful of individual program deadlines.**

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UC Santa Barbara
Health Professions Advising