

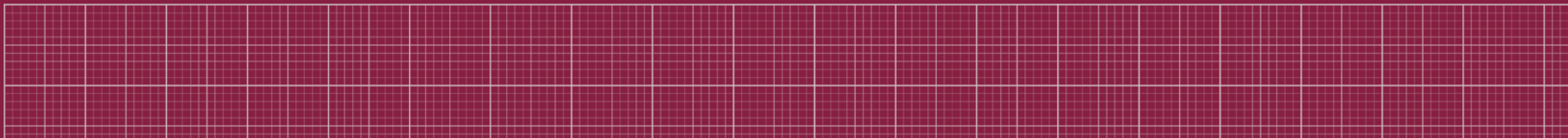


VIRGINIA TECH™



Thriving through changes on the pre-health journey

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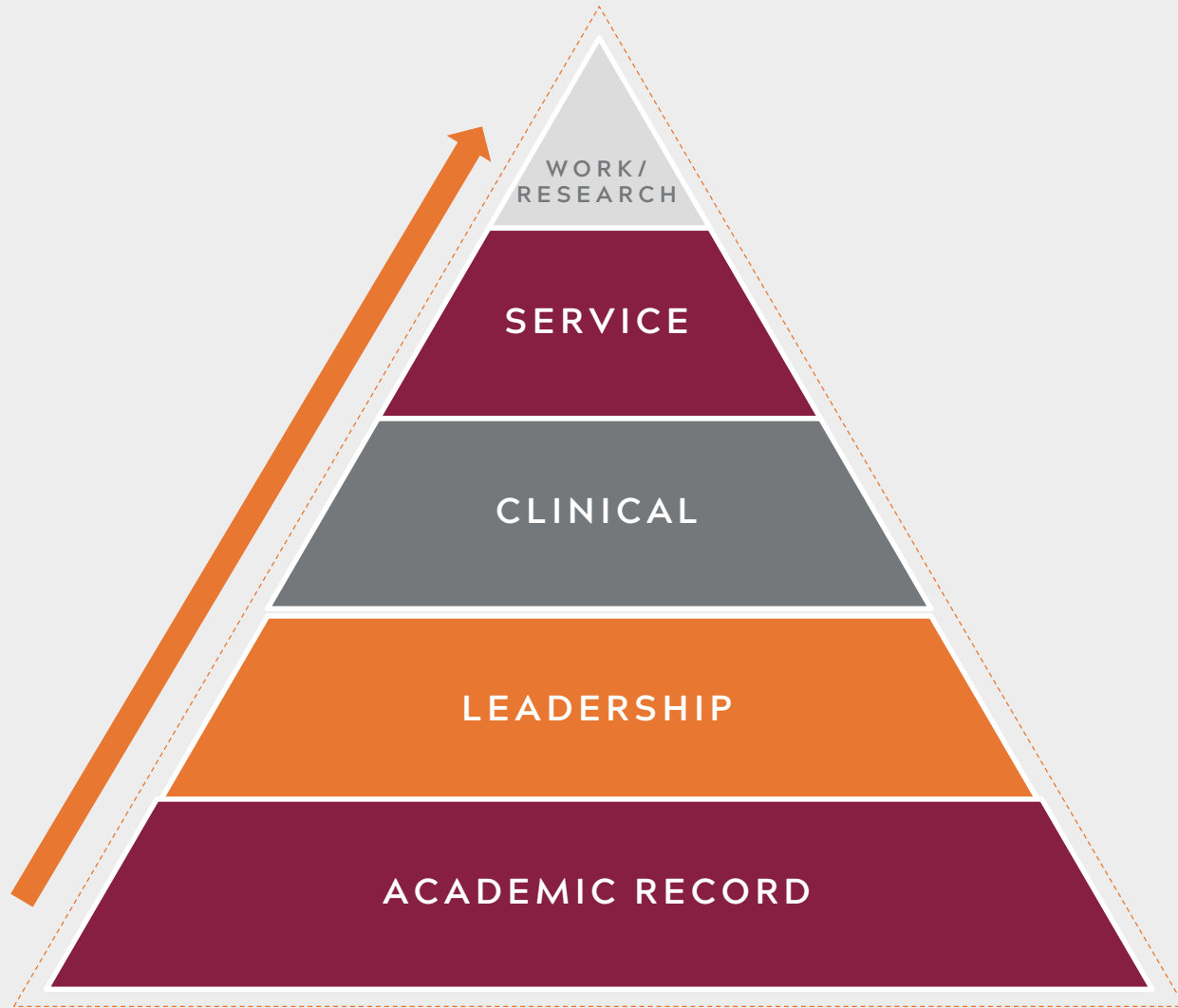




Outline

Goals and Roadblocks	Assess what's needed and where hurdles arise
Workarounds	Record enhancers and "the why behind the what"
Reframing Conversations	Navigating the dialogue
Pause for Questions	
Case Studies	Advising in action

Goals and Roadblocks

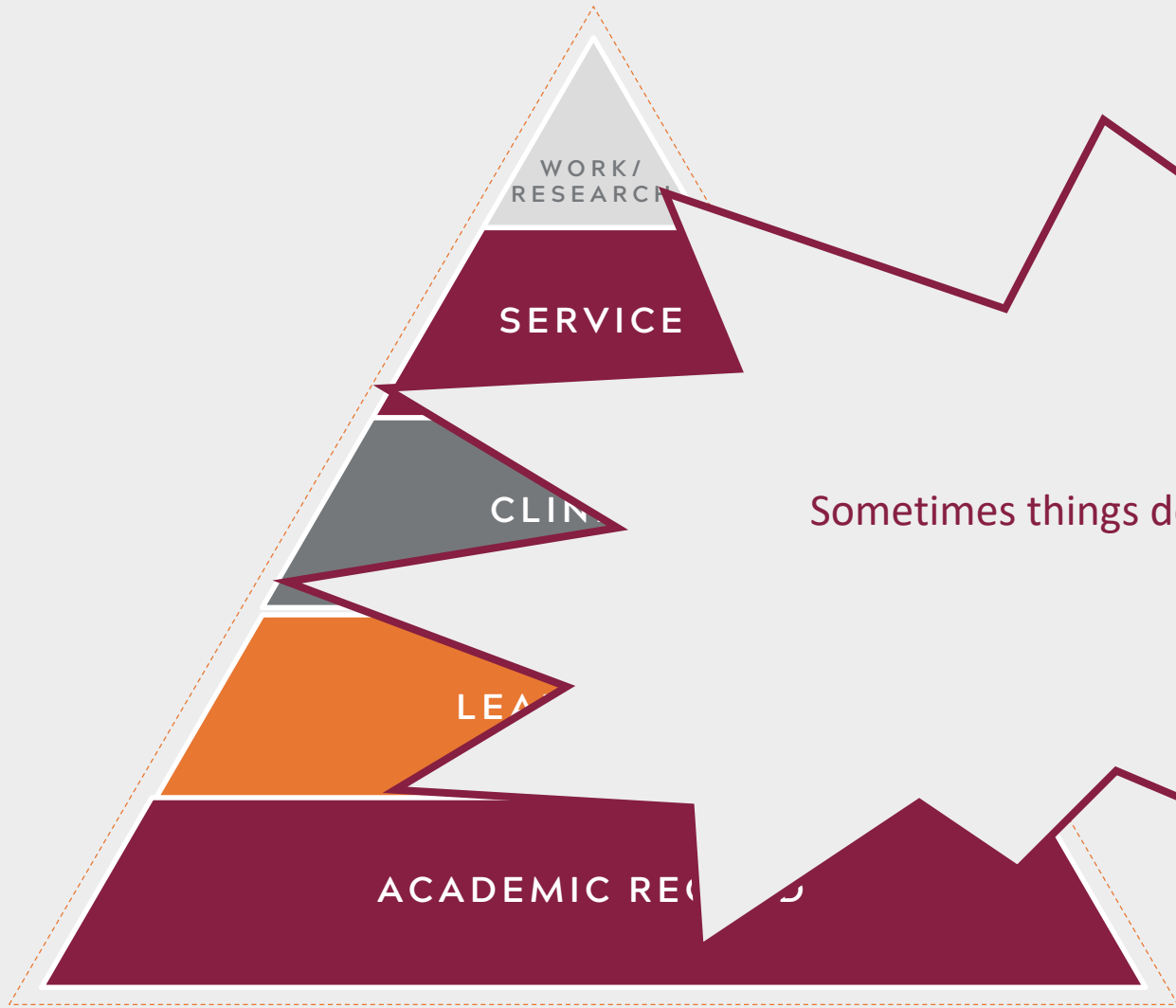


EXPERIENCES

Major in anything

But, need to take pre-reqs and do well

And, be involved!



Sometimes things don't go to plan

EXPERIENCES

Major in anything

and take pre-
and do well

be involved!



I think most of us have experienced some common concerns.

- Tough transition into college
- “I can’t get shadowing because COVID”
- Pre-reqs not going so well
- Senior who just decided on medicine
- Wrong major choice at first and grades suffered

Workarounds



Enhancing Academics



A-la-carte classes

Might involve extending time to degree or taking undergrad classes non-degree seeking.



Post-baccalaureate

Designed as a “stepping stone”



Traditional Grad School

The discipline matters.

Post-baccalaureates

- 1 vs. 2 years
- Graduate vs. undergraduate
- Structured vs. unstructured
- Full-time vs. part-time

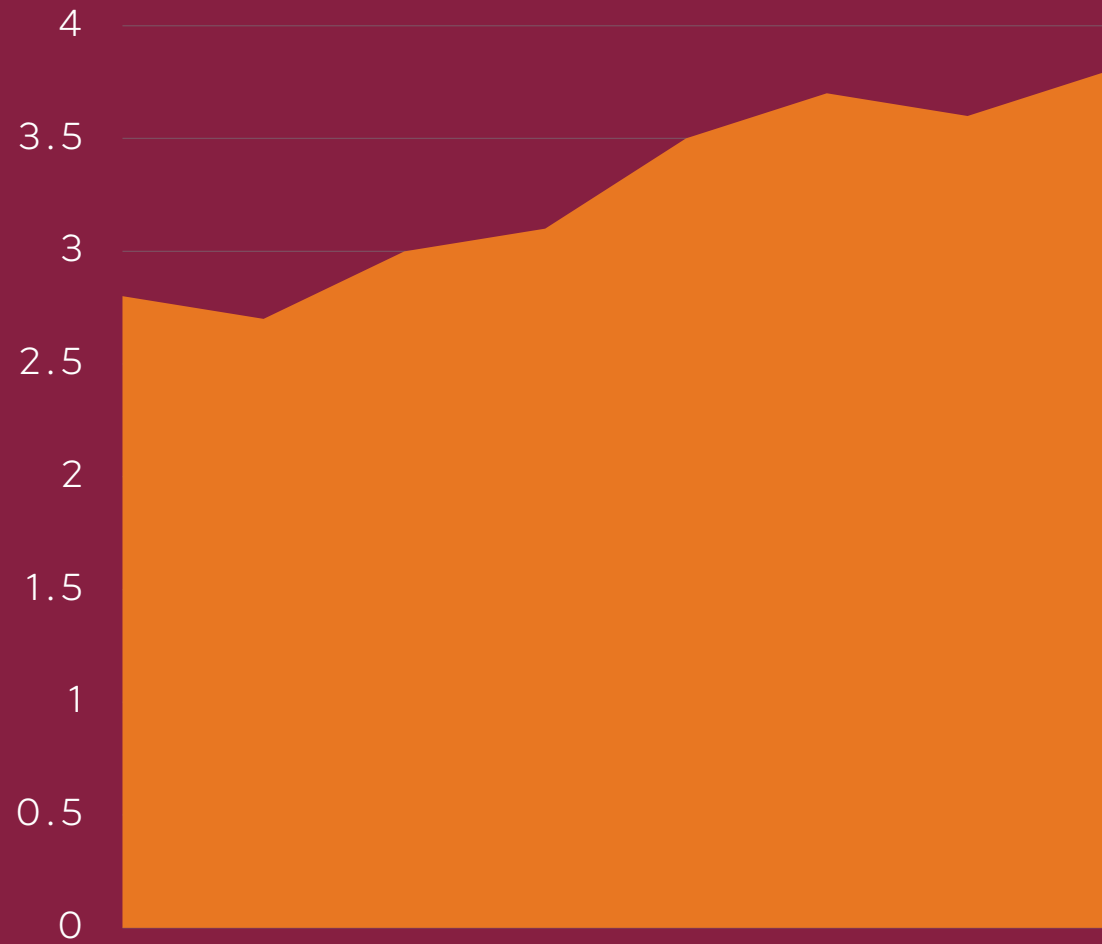
Did you know:

- Post-bac is an “umbrella term”?
- → includes academic record enhancers
- → includes career changers
- → includes research-focused programs that would be better suited for a pre-PhD student

Note - for an academic record enhancing post-bac to do its “job,” student must do well in the post-bac.

So current focus is HERE and NOW

A pre-med post-bac database:
<https://mec.aamc.org/postbac/#/index>



Key Considerations

Trending matters

If record enhancer is needed, enhance the record before applying

Does the profession/schools of interest *value* post-bacs?

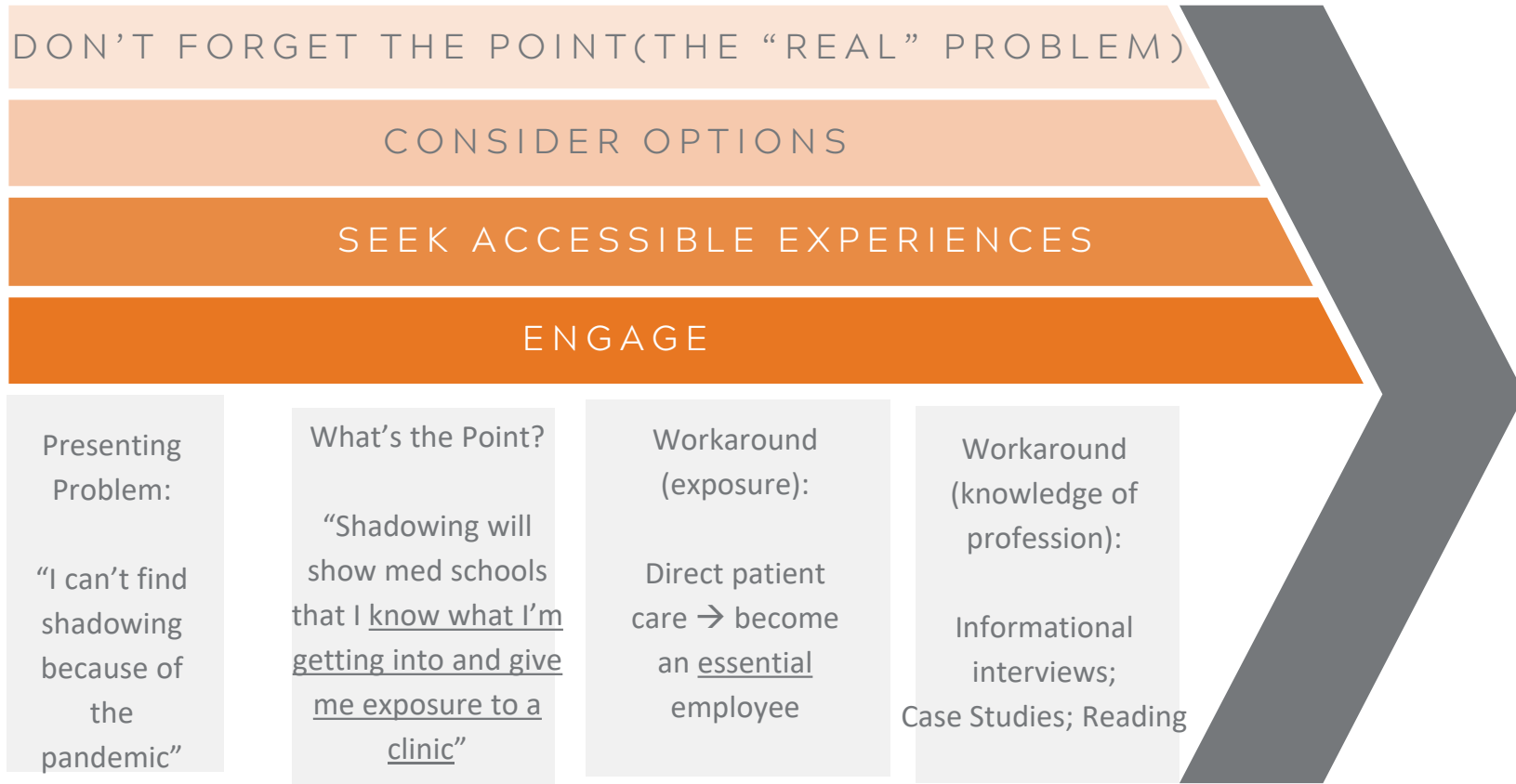
Are underlying problems addressed?

Let's discuss community college



Enhancing Experiences

THE PROCESS



Refocusing the Conversation



You are not their gatekeeper.

You are their guide

INSTEAD OF

You should consider other options.

You don't have a competitive GPA for medical school.

Your timeline doesn't seem reasonable.

TRY

What excites you about medicine? Did you know that there are a lot of healthcare careers that might fit that bill? Or, Have you heard of...?

Medical school sets a high academic bar, so we'll want to work on figuring out what it's going to take to start moving your academics in that direction. Let's discuss...

Most folks who go into health professions take 1 or more bridge years to become more competitive. That could be a great idea for you to consider to gain experience.

Questions?

Navigating Conversations



CASE STUDY 1 - ACADEMICS

Your second-year student is coming off of academic probation and wants to go to medical school



Step-by-step



Ask them a direct question

“What is your current overall GPA”

Gauge the response

- Correct answer?
- “Hedging” answer?
- Incorrect answer?

Provide Information

Goal is [X]

To do that, we need to develop a clear plan for this semester and next.

Refer

- HPA
- But also academic support resources



CASE STUDY 2 - EXPERIENCE

Your senior finance major just had an “epiphany” over winter break that they want to become a doctor.



Step-by-step



Share in their excitement

This is an exciting decision for them! Be a part of that encouragement

Embrace the “marathon”

Remind the student that going to professional school and graduating undergrad are not inherently “linked”

Identify next steps

Experience?
Pre-reqs?

Refer

HPA
Career changer programs