Getting Started

Admission to medical school involves rigorous academic preparation and student involvement in healthcare related activities - volunteering and community service outside the classroom. Together, each contributes to the development of the individual student and serves in providing the academic foundation, insight and perspective into what it means to practice medicine, an understanding of the health care needs of our society, and finally toward each students professional development. Combined, these elements of premedical preparation are part of a process of a holistic review of applicants.

This guide should be used in conjunction with the following websites that will be a part of your future as a student and as an applicant. All Texas residents apply to medical school through the website of the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS): www.tmdsas.com. The website for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), www.aamc.org, is an excellent source of information for premedical students and should become a part of your everyday resources on all things premedical and medical. The American Medical Colleges Application Service, (AMCAS) is a part of the AAMC website and is used for applying to the Baylor College of Medicine, and out-of-state programs, if appropriate. Information on osteopathic medicine (D.O.) and applying to out-of-state osteopathic medical colleges is found at the website of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM): www.aacom.org.

Pathways to Medical School

Course work in the basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and the humanities all contribute to becoming a well-rounded applicant, and each has relevance to the practice of medicine and to prepare for the MCAT. Therefore, students should seek a broad education during their undergraduate years. Students should choose a major that reflects their personal interests, but also be guided by what will be helpful in preparing for medical school. This should include course work that provides insight into the practice of medicine, health care and society more broadly. All applicants to medical school, however, must complete a minimum set of prerequisite courses, described below, in addition to the course work for the major they choose. There is no required major for entrance to medical school programs. All undergraduate majors at UTSA can be found in the university catalog at: www.utsa.edu/academics/ugrad-degree-programs.html

UTSA Course Prerequisites:

Program Prerequisites Must Receive C or better

BIO 1404  Biosciences I
BIO 1122  Biosciences Lab
BIO 1413  Biosciences II
BIO 2313  Genetics
3 hours Upper Division (UD) Biology**

CHE 1103  General Chemistry I
CHE 1121  General Chemistry I Laboratory
CHE 1113  General Chemistry II
CHE 1131  General Chemistry II Laboratory
CHE 2603  Organic Chemistry I
CHE 2612  Organic Chemistry I Laboratory
CHE 3643  Organic Chemistry II

BIO 3513  Biochemistry
or
CHE 4303  Biochemistry

PHY 1603  Algebra-based Physics I
PHY 1611  Algebra-based Physics I Laboratory
PHY 1623  Algebra-based Physics II
PHY 1631  Algebra-based Physics II Laboratory

WRC 1013  Composition I
WRC 1023  Composition II

STA 1053  Basic Statistics
or
STA 1403  Probability and Statistics for Biosciences

or

PSY 2073  Statistics for Psychology

Tracking your Grades:

Program Prerequisites Must Receive C or better

BCPM (Biology/Chemistry/Physics/Math) GPA:

BIO 1404  BIO 1404
BIO 1122  BIO 1122
BIO 1413  BIO 1413
BIO 2313  BIO 2313
UD BIO  UD BIO

CHE 1103  CHE 1103
CHE 1121  CHE 1121
CHE 1113  CHE 1113
CHE 1131  CHE 1131
CHE 2603  CHE 2603
CHE 2612  CHE 2612
CHE 3643  CHE 3643

BIO 3513  BIO 3513
or
CHE 4303  CHE 4303

or

PHY 1603  PHY 1603
PHY 1611  PHY 1611
PHY 1623  PHY 1623
PHY 1631  PHY 1631

WRC 1013  WRC 1013
WRC 1023  WRC 1023

STA 1053  STA 1053
or
STA 1403  STA 1403

or

PSY 2073  PSY 2073

VT UTSA Medical School Residency

Time Line For Applying to Medical School

For traditional undergraduate students the first three years of university studies is when the premedical courses are completed. These prerequisite courses are also foundational for the MCAT, which should be taken, ideally, during the spring semester of junior year, January - May. The application process through TMDSAS begins May 1st and closes October 1st. It is more favorable to apply during the first half of the application cycle, but is not always possible. During the fall of senior year competitive applicants are invited to interview at medical schools, and during the final year complete undergraduate requirements. All premedical requirements should be completed prior to the MCAT and the application. Performance in the premedical courses and MCAT exam determines an applicants’ academic competitiveness.

UTSA Prerequisites:

Program Prerequisites Must Receive C or better

BIO 1404  BIO 1404
BIO 1122  BIO 1122
BIO 1413  BIO 1413
BIO 2313  BIO 2313

BIO 3513  BIO 3513
or
CHE 4303  CHE 4303

or

PHY 1603  PHY 1603
PHY 1611  PHY 1611
PHY 1623  PHY 1623
PHY 1631  PHY 1631

WRC 1013  WRC 1013
WRC 1023  WRC 1023

STA 1053  STA 1053
or
STA 1403  STA 1403

or

PSY 2073  PSY 2073

*All UTSA course requirement prerequisites can be found in the online UTSA Undergraduate Catalog. Click on “Course Descriptions” within your assigned catalog. UTSA Undergraduate online catalog at: utsa.edu/ucat/index.html

Developmental Courses

Students who are not academically prepared to go directly into required prerequisite courses may need to enroll first in developmental courses. These include mathematics or writing courses which are designed to build your collegiate academic foundation. Placement tests in math and chemistry are available through UTSA Testing Services: http://www.utsa.edu/testing/

The University Health Professions Office (UHPO)

University of Texas at San Antonio Multidisciplinary Studies Building (MS), Room 3.02.10 (Main Campus)

www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions

(210) 458-5185

hpoffice@utsa.edu
An integral part of preparation for medical school entails involvement in community service projects and volunteer work in a hospital or clinical setting. These activities serve to familiarize prospective medical students with the realities of everyday clinical practice as well as to underscore the role of physicians and healthcare in relation to broader community level concerns and issues. Students must exercise personal initiative and develop professional relationships that would allow them to have this experience.

Schools also highly value letters from physicians whom students have shadowed. Referees may submit either electronic letters of evaluation or paper letters of evaluation directly to Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP): The program was created by the Texas Legislature as Senate Bill 940 to provide support and services to "highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students" who want to become physicians. Admission to JAMP is selective and limited. Students must meet with the JAMP Faculty Director during freshman year to review coursework and eligibility, submit a formal "Intent to Apply," and formally apply online by October 1st of their sophomore year. For more information, please review the website at: http://www.texasjamp.org/ and contact the UHPO for additional information and advisement.

Additional Information/Resources
The UHPO keeps and maintains resources that will be available to students in our office. These include books, journals, handouts, and other resources. Useful information about medicine as a profession and other M.D. and D.O. program can be found on the following websites:
- Association of American Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine - www.aacom.org (See "Aspiring Docs" section)
- AAMC Core Competencies for Entering Medical Students - www.aamc.org/initiatives/admissionsinitiative/competencies/
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine - www.aacom.org (See "About Osteopathic Medicine" section)

Advanced Biology Electives Relevant to Medical Education:
The following subjects in biology have relevance to health professions education. Thus, taking courses such as those below during your pre-medical studies preparation is recommended.

- BIO 3013 Introduction to Clinical Medicine
- BIO 3163 Histology & Cytology
- BIO 3433 Neurobiology
- BIO 3663 Human Embryology
- BIO 3813 Cellular Biology
- BIO 4143 Developmental Biology
- BIO 4743 Immunology
- BIO 3123 Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
- BIO 3413 Advanced Physiology
- BIO 3623 Neuroscience and Pharmacology
- BIO 3713 Microbiology
- BIO 3913 Molecular Biology
- BIO 4453 Endocrinology
- BIO 3913 Molecular Biology
- BIO 4453 Endocrinology

Advanced Elective Courses to Consider:
Health professions education is placing a greater emphasis upon course work in the social and behavioral sciences. Thus, an understanding of the broader contexts within which medicine and health education is practiced on an everyday basis can be beneficial to students.

- BIO 3013 Introduction to Clinical Medicine
- BIO 3163 Histology & Cytology
- BIO 3433 Neurobiology
- BIO 3663 Human Embryology
- BIO 3813 Cellular Biology
- BIO 4143 Developmental Biology
- BIO 4743 Immunology
- BIO 3123 Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
- BIO 3413 Advanced Physiology
- BIO 3623 Neuroscience and Pharmacology
- BIO 3713 Microbiology
- BIO 3913 Molecular Biology
- BIO 4453 Endocrinology

Letters of Evaluation
Letters of selection are an essential part of the application to most medical schools. Because selection committees depend heavily on these letters to gain insight into applicants' personal strengths, character, and accomplishments, students should be sure to request letters of evaluation from individuals, such as professors, work supervisors, and volunteer supervisors, who know them from various perspectives and know them well. Many medical schools also highly value letters from physicians whom students have shadowed. Referees may submit either electronic letters of evaluation or paper letters of evaluation directly to TMDSAS. For further information, refer to the TMDSAS website: www.tmdsas.com

Interviews
The UHPO can offer advice as students prepare for interviews and, after interviews, would like to debrief with students about their impressions. The UTSA University Career Center facilitates interview workshops and conducts mock interviews to provide students with feedback. Not sure what to wear for your interview or don’t have a suit? They also provide access to their “Career Closet” to check out a suit from their “Career Closet.” For more information about University Career Center services, please check out their website and contact them for more information.

Health Professions Advising
Undergraduate students receive advising upon entrance to UTSA from a placement advisor, and then from the advisor whom they are assigned once they have chosen a major. Advising for health professions is a separate process. It should be utilized early in a student's education and throughout the application process and beyond. The services of the University Health Professions Office include careful advising for course selection and the timing of prerequisite course work, choice of appropriate majors, and guidance with preparation for the MCAT and the application to medical school. UHPO also works with UTSA postbaccalaureate students, non-degree seeking students, and alumni.

MCAT Information
AAMC also provides full information including test format, preparation materials, registration and is the primary source of information to begin preparing for the exam. It can be found at: www.aamc.org & www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/

When do I take the MCAT?
To be an early applicant to medical school, it is extremely important to take the test with adequate preparation. Disciplined review and preparation for the exam should begin a minimum of six months prior to testing.

Additional Resources:

- MedEdPath: www.mededpath.org
- AAMC: www.aamc.org
- TMDSAS: www.tmdsas.com
- AMCAS: www.aamc.org/applying/amcas/
- AACOM: www.aacom.org
- DO Schools - Utilize the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOMAS) www.aacom.org

University Health Professions Office (UHPO)
University of Texas at San Antonio
Multidisciplinary Studies Building (MS), Room 3.02.10 (Main Campus)
www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions
(210) 458-5185
hpoffice@utsa.edu
Revised June 2014