The purpose of an undergraduate education is to provide students with the opportunity to grow personally and intellectually; allowing them the time and resources to discover a breadth of new ideas and topics as well as to build and to explore their own interests and passions in depth. Therefore, students should seek a broad education during their undergraduate years. There is no required major for entrance to medical school. The following courses represent the minimum course requirements for entrance to a Texas medical school. Students are encouraged to incorporate these requirements into their semester by semester plans for completion of their baccalaureate degrees. It is further recommended that students learn directly from medical schools about their most current, available admissions information.

**Time Line**

Students who enter their undergraduate studies with the intention of beginning medical school just after graduation should plan to complete the premedical curriculum by the end of their junior year and apply to medical school shortly thereafter. The medical school application cycle, from application to matriculation, takes approximately fourteen months, so advanced planning is essential.

- The application typically becomes available May 1 and closes on October 1.
- Medical schools typically interview candidates between August and January.
- Admissions decisions for Texas medical schools are announced in October.
- Early Decision candidates, between November 15 and December 31.
- Pre-Match Texas Resident Applicants and February 1 for all others.
- Matriculation is in August.

**What major should I be?**

The purpose of an undergraduate education is to provide students with the opportunity to grow personally and intellectually. Therefore, students should seek a broad education during their undergraduate years. Suggested for major exploration: Public Health, Community Health and Preventive Services, Psychology and Anthropology among others.
Application Process:

- To apply to Texas medical schools, with the exception of Baylor College of Medicine, students who are Texas residents must utilize the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS).
- To apply to out-of-state allopathic schools of medicine as well as Baylor College of Medicine, students should utilize the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS).
- To apply to out-of-state osteopathic schools of medicine, students should utilize the American Association of College of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS).
- To apply to out-of-state podiatric schools of medicine, students should utilize the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMAS).

MCAT:

- Offered between January and September each year in a computer-based exam format.
- Comprised of four sections: Biological Sciences; Physical Sciences; Verbal Reasoning; and Writing Sample.
- The scoring for the first three sections is on a 1-15 scale; 10 or better is considered a strong score.
- The Writing Sample section is assigned a letter value of J to T.

When to take the MCAT?

To be an early applicant to medical school, it is extremely important to take the test between January and May. Disciplined review and preparation for the exam should be undertaken at least six months in advance of the test date.

UHPO Services:

Letters of Evaluation Collection Service:

Selection committees depend heavily on letters of evaluation to gain insight into applicants’ personal strengths, weaknesses, and accomplishments. Students should be sure to request letters from professors, work supervisors, and volunteer supervisors, who know them well. Approximately three to five letters can be useful. The UHPO can both collect and send letters of evaluation on a student’s behalf. To authorize the UHPO to do this, a student must first meet with a UHPO advisor.

UTSA Health Professions Committee Letter of Evaluation

The committee letter of evaluation is a form of support and advocacy which is meant to capture aspects of a student’s life, personality, and background that are not found in other parts of their application. To request a committee letter of evaluation, a student must first meet with a UHPO advisor during a Pre-Committee Assessment appointment to discuss his or her premedical preparation and to learn about all requirements for the committee process. Committee interviews, one of the requirements of the committee process, are only offered between mid-March and September 1 each year.

Personal Statement: The UHPO staff will read and provide feedback to students regarding their personal statements given sufficient time, preferably two weeks prior to when comments are needed. We also recommend that students visit The Writing Center at www.utsa.edu/twc for further review.

Interviews: The UHPO can offer some advice as students prepare for interviews and, after interviews, would like to debrief with students about their impressions. The University Career Center also facilitates interview workshops and conducts mock interviews to provide students with feedback.

Joint Admission Medical Program: The Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) 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 1 of their sophomore year. Contact the UHPO for additional information and advisement.

Facilitated Acceptance to Medical Education: In response to the University of Texas System request for proposals to develop innovative and fully integrated pilot programs that lead to the award of both Bachelor’s and Doctor of Medicine degrees, the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the University of Texas at San Antonio have partnered to implement an innovative program. Students who will be entering UTSA as first time freshmen in Fall 2013 may apply to the program. Contact the UHPO for additional information and advisement.

Advanced Biology Electives Relevant to Medical Education:

The following list of upper division biology courses encompasses subject areas that will be encountered in the medical school curriculum.

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

Additional Elective Courses to Consider:

Medical education is placing a greater emphasis upon coursework in the social and behavioral sciences. Below are some courses outside of basic science areas that may be of interest to pre-health professions students.

- ANT 3523 Medical Anthropology
- COU 3103 Helping Skills
- HIS 3453 History of Medicine in America
- HTH 4503 Human Disease and Epidemiology
- HTH 4533 Nutrition and Health
- MGT 4953 Introduction to Healthcare Management
- PSY 4253 Psychology and Health
- SOC 3213 Medical Sociology
- SPN 2513 Spanish for Health Careers