Applying to Medical Doctor (M.D.) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) Degree Programs

Application Information

UTSA does not offer advanced degrees in medicine. However, students are able to take pre-requisite coursework while completing any major at UTSA. Students are encouraged to take coursework in the basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities to prepare for their medical education. Students should choose a major of their interest and purposefully take coursework in preparation for medical education.

A common timeline for students attending medical school is shown below:

This timeline is subject to change based on student competitiveness and readiness to apply.

Students will use various application services when applying to the M.D. or D.O. programs. Below are the websites and timelines for each application service:

Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) serves all in-state M.D. and D.O. schools except for Baylor College of Medicine
- Website: www.tmdsas.com
- Application cycle: May 1 – Oct 1 for entry in the following year

American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) serves out-of-state Allopathic (M.D.) Medical Schools and Baylor College of Medicine
- Website: www.aamc.org/students/applying/amcas
- Application opens: May 1st with ability to submit beginning June 1st
- Application closes: Varies based on schools

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOMAS) serves D.O. schools throughout the U.S.
- Website: www.aacom.org/
- Application opens: Early May, varies per year
- Application closes: Varies based on schools

Students are encouraged to research institutions of their interest via these websites to determine differences in academic requirements.

Medical School Pre-requisites

Requirements vary, please refer to the admission website for your school of interest for specific prerequisite information. You may also contact the University Health Professions Office to discuss which UTSA courses fulfill medical school prerequisites. Common education requirements for Texas medical schools can be found on the TMDSAS website: https://www.tmdsas.com/medical/education_Requirements.html

Health Professions Advising

Newly-admitted UTSA students are assigned an advisor (called a primary advisor) based on their major. For students pursuing medical pre-requisites, this advisor will be assigned in one of UTSA’s Advising Centers but students will also meet with Health Professions Advisors to determine requirements related to medical school admission.

Students are encouraged to meet with a Health Professions Advisor throughout their tenure at UTSA.

When to meet with a Health Professions Advisor:
• Orientation
• At least once per academic year to discuss holistic admissions, MCAT preparation, academic standing
• In the semester prior to application

What to expect from a Health Professions meeting:
• Discussion of GPA competitiveness
• Testing and Application timeline
• Health Professions Pathways
• Holistic applicant assessment

Application Process

The application process also requires students to complete a personal statement on their desire to pursue medicine, seek recommendation letters from qualified medical professionals and professors, and complete an admissions interview, if invited. Further, the UHPO completes committee letters for students during the application process. More information about the committee letter process is available in the UHPO.
**Medical Colleges Admission Test (MCAT)**

The MCAT is one of the measures required by M.D. and D.O. programs to determine a student’s academic ability in relation to medical education. The newest version of the MCAT was released in 2015.

Some general information about the MCAT:

- Four sections:
  - Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
  - Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems
  - Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior
  - Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills
- Each section has a score range of 118-132, with 125 being at the 50th percentile in scores.
- The content length of the MCAT is 6 hours and 20 minutes.
- The MCAT is offered throughout the year, primarily during the medical school application cycle.

**Shadowing/Volunteering/On-Campus Involvement**

Admission to medical schools is becoming increasingly holistic. As such, students are strongly encouraged to participate in medically-related activities, community service and on-campus leadership experiences. Additionally, experience in these areas contributes to a students understanding of and commitment to the profession of medicine and facilitates personal development prior to the application process.

Ways to get involved:

- UHPO keeps a list of volunteer opportunities in the San Antonio area in our office and on our website, located here: [http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.html](http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.html).
- UTSA student organizations participate in service and medically-related activities. Information about getting involved on-campus can be found on RowdyLink: [https://utsa.collegiatelink.net/](https://utsa.collegiatelink.net/).
- Students are encouraged to volunteer or shadow doctors in various settings to gain an understanding of the profession.
- Pre-med students are encouraged to apply for leadership roles in their community and/or on-campus to develop necessary communication and teamwork skills.
- Attend UTSA’s Health Professions Day, to meet with representatives from various medical schools.

**Special Program: Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP)**

This program is intended for highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students. There are many benefits for students admitted to JAMP, including summer internship experiences, an MCAT preparation program and support through undergraduate scholarships, among others. JAMP students are guaranteed admission to a Texas Medical School, pending the completion of academic and testing requirements. More information on JAMP can be found at [www.texasjamp.org](http://www.texasjamp.org).

Students apply to JAMP during the first semester of their sophomore year.

**Students who meet eligibility requirements for JAMP are recommended to meet with the JAMP Coordinator in the Health Professions Office as early as possible at UTSA.**