

Health Profession Office and COVID-19 FAQs

I. Will I still be able to “meet” with Health Professions Advisors?

Beginning March 23, 2020 until May 29, 2020, the health professions office will be working remotely. This means we will suspend drop-in hours and face-to-face appointments in accordance with physical and social distancing policies of the university. Advisors will still be scheduling appointments and meeting with students through virtual means.

To schedule an appointment please contact your advisor by email.

- Last Names beginning with 'A' - 'L' email Bradley.Hamlin@utsa.edu
- Last names beginning with 'M' - 'Z' email Tracy.Hunt@utsa.edu.

If you already have an advisor you regularly work with, you may email them directly to schedule an appointment.

Phone calls to 210-458-5185 will continue to be answered during normal business hours 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

II. I originally was taking a face-to-face course and/or lab; it is now taking place online. Will schools still accept these courses as meeting pre-requisite policies?

Most schools will take courses as long as you receive a letter grade from your school that will appear on your transcript. The individual schools that have confirmed their acceptance of online/virtual course format due to university restructuring due to COVID-19 are as follows

- Texas Tech HSC Lubbock
- Long School of Medicine
- UNT HSC Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM)
- McGovern Medical School
- UTRGV (review case by case) but should not be a problem
- Baylor College of Medicine

Students should check individual school websites regarding their policies for accepting online coursework.

If in doubt, please contact a Health Profession Advisor for further guidance

III. What happens if my scheduled entrance exam was cancelled?

Please be advised that most exams have been cancelled at this time. Please check your email for further instructions from your testing center. The best practice is to reschedule your exam for the next available time based on testing center and exam availability. Please know that the health profession schools are aware of the testing delays that may occur due to social distancing policies set by Local, State, or Federal governments which have impacted students; all efforts will be made to ensure applicants will not be adversely affected by these changes.

IV. What happens if my 'Volunteer Placements, Internships, Shadowing' opportunities are temporarily suspended?

If you are in an internship, speak with your site supervisors now and find out how contracted internship hours can be fulfilled, if a worst-case scenario takes place. Will they allow you to work remotely? Also, please reach out to your college department or The Career Center for additional assistance 210.458.4589 or email career.services@utsa.edu

Keep in mind there are likely to be other opportunities to serve your communities – delivering food to the quarantined or ill. Volunteer to cover childcare needs for a family member or to check in on the elderly. If you are part of a religious community, see if there are ways that you can provide support through them. If you have volunteered with a particular organization in the past, check to see if you can step back into previous roles.

Consider volunteermatch.org and the UTSA engaged volunteer opportunity databases utsa.edu/engaged to seek other local options. Be ready for slower response times and understanding if opportunities do not arise immediately, as often adding 'a volunteer helper' could create an added burden for community organizations trying to handle multiple priorities or provide adequate measures of social distancing to protect vulnerable populations.

Additionally, there are some virtual volunteer opportunities that can be done from home, including www.crisistextline.org/, www.thetrevorproject.org/get-involved/volunteer/, and www.unv.org/. Additional virtual opportunities can be found at Translators without Borders <https://translatorswithoutborders.org/> or UN volunteers www.onlinevolunteering.org/en

While in-person activities may be the preference, keep in mind this is also a good opportunity to read books, websites, or listen to podcasts that provide insight about your chosen health career interest area. Please check out the resources on the [HPO website](#) in each of our health profession guides.

V. What happens to workshops and programming that were being offered by the Health Profession Office?

- UTHSA School of Nursing visit scheduled for April 22, 2020 has been cancelled.
- UTHSA School of Health Professions visit schedule for April 6, 2020 has been cancelled.
- Application Week Activities have been cancelled. We are looking for other options to provide this content in a virtual format. Further details will be made available, as we know more information.
- Committee Letter Process – Since students are not to return to campus for the remainder of the semester. We are working on a plan for the committee letter process. We will keep those students who have completed the 'Intent to Apply' form of any updates as we determine the best way to move forward.

Update to letters of recommendation submitted to the Health Professions Office for applicant letter files.

Now that the Health Professions Office has moved to a remote work environment for staff, we will not be able to accept letters in person or by USPS mail. Please request that all your letter writers submit their letter of recommendation to the Health Professions Office email, hpoffice@utsa.edu. If they have any questions, please contact our advisors Tracy Walton (tracy.hunt@utsa.edu) or Brad Hamlin (bradley.hamlin@utsa.edu) for additional guidance.

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