

MEDICINE

There are eight medical schools in Texas; seven allopathic medical schools award the M.D. degree and one osteopathic medical school awards the D.O. degree. Seven of the eight schools are state-supported with Baylor College of Medicine the only private medical school in the state. Baylor receives a subsidy from the Texas legislature that allows Texas residents to pay the same tuition to attend Baylor as to attend a state-supported medical school. Texas medical schools have a four-year professional curriculum, which is usually followed by a residency-training program lasting from three to as many as seven years, depending on the specialty. The core of basic sciences and clinical clerkships is similar at all of the medical schools with primary care (general practice, pediatrics, internal medicine, and obstetrics) emphasized. Medical students awarded the M.D. or D.O. degree chooses to enter either allopathic or osteopathic residencies, depending on their choice of specialty.

There are and will be changes in enrollment at Texas medical schools as a response to recent reports and studies on physician shortages in the U.S. (see website, www.aamc.org). Until 2005, enrollment at allopathic medical schools had remained unchanged for the past 20 years. In 2006, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) recommended that member schools increase their enrollment 30% by 2015 as a response to the predicted shortage. The entering class of 2007 is the nation's largest ever, with almost 17,800 students, a 2.3% increase over 2006. Osteopathic medical schools have also been increasing rapidly, but their enrollment is much less (for 2007 about 4000 first-year students).

In Texas, the response to the predicted physician shortage has been to increase class-size and to build new schools. The 4 University of Texas schools have been gradually moving their class size from 200 to 250. Over a 10 year period, Texas A&M will more than double their enrollment by gradual increasing class size, by having a four-year branch campus at College Station, and by establishing a four-year branch campus at Temple. Texas Tech has established a new medical school branch campus at El Paso, the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, with its first 4-year medical school class of 40 anticipated in August 2009. There are also discussions of a University of Houston medical school in Houston and another University of Texas medical school in Austin or in the Valley. The next few years will be an exciting time for medical education in the state of Texas.

For further information on medical programs in Texas contact:

Baylor College of Medicine (BCOM):

Office of Admissions
Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza, Mail Stop 110
Houston, TX 77030
713-798-4842
www.bcm.edu

Texas A&M University System Health Science Center (TAMU):

College of Medicine
Office of Student Affairs and Admissions
159 Reynolds Medical Bldg
College Station, TX 77843-1114
979-845-7743
<http://medicine.tamhsc.edu>

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine (TTSOM):

Office of Admissions
3601 4th St
Lubbock, TX 79430
806-743-2297
www.ttuhsc.edu

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

Paul L Foster School of Medicine at El Paso
Office of Admissions
4800 Alberta
El Paso, TX 79905
915-545-6600
www.ttuhsc.edu

University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth (TCOM):

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
Admissions and Outreach
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd
Fort Worth, TX 76107-2699
1-800-535-8266
TCOMAdmissions@hsc.unt.edu
www.hsc.unt.edu

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB):

Admissions Office
301 University Blvd
Galveston, TX 77555-1317
409-772-6958
www.som.utmb.edu

The University Texas Medical School at Houston (UTH):

Office of Admissions
6431 Fannin St, MSB G.420
Houston, TX 77030
713-500-5116
<http://med.uth.tmc.edu>

The University Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTSA):

School of Medicine
Medical Admissions
7703 Floyd Curl Dr
San Antonio, TX 78229-3900
210-567-2665
<http://som.uthscsa.edu/admissions>
<http://som.uthscsa.edu>

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW):

Admissions Office
5323 Harry Hines Blvd
Dallas, TX 75390-9162
214-648-5617
admissions@utsouthwestern.edu
www.utsouthwestern.edu

Summary Information and Preprofessional Course Requirements for Medical Schools in Texas ^a								
Medical Schools	BCOM	TAMU	TCOM	TTSOM	UTMB	UTH	UTSA	UTSW
Class of 2007	172	100	165	140	230	230	220	240
Application Deadline	Nov 1 ^b	Oct 1 ^c	Oct 1 ^c	Oct 1 ^c	Oct 1 ^c	Oct 1 ^c	Oct 1 ^c	Oct 1 ^c
Secondary Application	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes
Minimum Semester Hours Required ^d	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Biology ^e	8	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Inorganic Chemistry with Laboratory ^f	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Organic Chemistry with Laboratory ^f	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Physics with Laboratory	-	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Calculus/Statistics ^g	-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
English ^h	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

^a NOTE: Please be aware that these requirements can change. Check with your health professions advisor or the director of admissions of the professional school for any changes or additional requirements. **ALL** prerequisites must be passed with at least a “C” grade. Advanced Placement credit can be used to meet the prescribed coursework.

^b Through AMCAS.

^c Through TMSAS.

^d Baccalaureate degree highly desirable.

^e 14 semester hrs (12 semester hrs of lecture and 2 semester hrs of formal lab) or 21 quarter hrs (18 quarter lecture hrs & 3 quarter lab hrs) of Biology are required. Includes all Biology courses applied toward Baccalaureate degree in traditional science fields, such as General Biology, Zoology, Botany, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Ecology, Immunology, Parasitology, Ornithology, Anatomy & Physiology, Entomology, Pathophysiology, Marine Biology and Herpetology. **The UT Medical School at Houston** will accept Biochemistry taught in either the Biology, Biochemistry or Chemistry Department to satisfy the 14 hr Biology requirement. Beginning with the entering class of 2007 at **UT Medical School at San Antonio** 3 of the 14 hrs of required Biology coursework **MUST BE** Biochemistry (taught in either a Biology or Chemistry Department).

^f Must be a course that is applied toward a baccalaureate degree in any traditional science field. Should include familiarity with analytic and volumetric techniques. Courses for non-science majors or for health career majors (Nursing, Pharmacy, or Allied Health Sciences) **ARE NOT ACCEPTED**.

^g 3 semester hrs or 4 quarter hrs of college Calculus or Statistics is required. The calculus course can be any calculus course taught by a Math or Physics Department. Business Calculus or any Pre-Calculus courses **ARE NOT ACCEPTED**. The Statistics course should be taught in the Math Department. Individual medical schools **may** consider statistics courses taught in other departments on an individual basis.

^h 6 semester hrs or 9 quarter hrs of college English are required. Any course accredited by the English Department that fulfills a general education English requirement of a baccalaureate degree will be accepted. Remedial or developmental courses or “English As a Second Language” courses **ARE NOT ACCEPTED**.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING TO TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Medical schools will usually assess six basic factors to judge performance in college and other qualifications for admission. These factors are residence status (preference given to Texas residents), cumulative grade point average (GPA), Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) scores, a completed application form, the evaluation(s) submitted by the health professions advisor or advisory committee, and a personal interview.

State Residence

By Texas State law, the enrollment of non-Texas resident applicants is limited to 10% of the entering class of Medical and Dental schools which receive state funding. Consequently, Texas residents are given preference in admissions and pay the more favorable resident tuition. You must be a resident of Texas at the time of application to be eligible for the Texas resident applicant pool. The *Residency Status Rules and Regulations* for determining residency published by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may be found at:

www.utexas.edu/student/admissions/residency

Academic Performance

The GPA is the major factor in evaluating academic performance. Also considered are consistency of grades, performance in required courses, course load per semester, number and academic rigor of colleges attended, discrepancies between GPA and MCAT scores, and social, economic and/or educational background.

Transcripts of all coursework and grades must be submitted to TMDSAS directly from each academic institution attended. In addition, a complete set of official transcripts must be provided, prior to enrollment, to the medical school to which you were accepted. The GPA will be a composite of all college work at all colleges attended and will be calculated by year, overall courses, and science courses. All grades will be used in the calculations, regardless of whether courses were repeated. The grades will be converted to a simple A, B, C, D, F-system for purposes of calculating the GPA.

Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)

Most of the following information comes from the *2007 MCAT Essentials*. This document can be accessed through the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) website at www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm and is required reading for MCAT examination candidates. In addition, students may do a MCAT practice online at www.e-mcat.com.

Beginning in January 2007, the MCAT is a fully computerized exam. In 2007, the AAMC will administer the MCAT 22 times over 19 days in the months of January, April, May, June, July, August, and September. The MCAT is a secure, non-disclosed standardized test, which essentially means that the test questions, answers, and all related test materials are copyright protected by the AAMC. Today, all U.S. and most Canadian medical schools require applicants to submit recent MCAT scores during the application process.

The MCAT is an half-day test of approximately five and one-half hours (including breaks) that assesses mastery of basic concepts in biology, general and organic chemistry, and physics; facility with scientific problem solving and critical thinking; and writing skills. It is administered in four sections: Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, the Writing Sample, and Biological Sciences.

The Physical Science (PS) section assesses problem solving in general chemistry and physics. The Biological Sciences (BS) section assesses problem solving in biology and organic chemistry. Each of these sections consists of 7 to 9 passages, each about 250 words in length that describe a situation or problem. Each passage is followed by 4 to 7 questions.

The Verbal Reasoning (VR) section assesses the student's ability to understand, evaluate, and apply arguments presented in prose passages. This section consists of seven passages, each about 600 words long, taken from the humanities and social sciences, and from areas of the natural sciences.

The Writing Sample (WS) section assesses skill in developing a central idea; synthesizing concepts and ideas; presenting ideas cohesively and logically; and writing clearly using accepted practices of grammar, syntax, and punctuation consistent with timed, first-draft composition. It consists of writing two 30-minute essays on a specific topic that requires an expository response.

The numerical scaled scores used for reporting MCAT exam performance range from a low of 1 to a high of 15 for each of the three multiple-choice sections of the test. Although frequently done, referring to the total points on the MCAT is less than meaningful. As an example, consider two students with total MCAT scores of 28. One has a 9 in both PS and BS and a 10 in VR. The other has a 12 in both PS and BS and a 4 in VR. An admissions committee, with respect to their MCAT scores, would undoubtedly view these two applicants differently.

The Writing Sample is scored on an alphabetic scale ranging from J (lowest) to T (highest). Each letter represents the sum of the two raw scores on each of the two Writing Sample topics. The 50th-percentile alphabetic score is O.

Scaled score means and standard deviations for each section, percentages of students receiving each scaled score, and percentile rank ranges are provided to students with their MCAT score reports so they may compare their performance to that of other students.

The mean total MCAT score for those students accepted to medical schools in Texas during the last several years has been well above the national mean of applicants. Your health professions advisor can counsel you regarding your MCAT score and whether you should retake the MCAT. Applicants with high total MCAT scores and GPAs have a high likelihood of being interviewed by medical school admissions committees.

THE APPLICATION

There is a common electronic application for the state-supported medical and dental schools in Texas. Application is made to the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) at www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas . Application to Baylor College of Medicine is made to the American Medical Colleges Application Service (AMCAS) at www.aamc.org/amcas . Poorly or incorrectly prepared application forms can cause delays in action on the application and may influence initial screening or later consideration of the application. Following these hints can reduce the likelihood of a sloppy or inaccurate form.

Budget sufficient time. Underestimating the amount of time required to prepare applications is almost inevitable. It is a tedious and time-consuming process.

Use transcripts. Obtain an unofficial transcript from each college or university attended. Use these transcripts when recording your course information on the application; this will help to ensure accuracy of information. Also, be sure to request that official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended be sent to the application service.

Photograph. The filing fee for the web application is mailed with photographs to TMDSAS via return receipt mail. Although the photographs need not be studio portraits, they should be appropriate and professional in nature. For example, an informal snapshot taken at a costume party would not be appropriate; its selection might be interpreted as immature or unprofessional.

Be honest. Do not "pad" the list of extracurricular activities and avocational interests in an effort to create an image. For example, if you list accomplishments in chess on an application but cannot discuss the pros and cons of basic opening moves during an interview, you may make an impression, but probably not the intended one.

Personal statement. The personal statement of the application is **EXTREMELY** important. It should contain a logical, coherent statement that demonstrates maturity, good judgment, sincerity, and a realistic view of a medical career. This is also a good place to indicate motivation about a long-standing commitment, career goals, etc. Any previous work or volunteer experience with people, such as in a hospital, clinic, or research laboratory, shows an interest in and knowledge of medicine as a career and should be included. It is here that you can express your individuality and you should not be unduly modest.

Classifying courses as science or nonscience. When decisions must be made as to whether a specific course is science or nonscience, courses such as engineering or pharmacy courses, medicine-related courses, and professional courses in nursing and the allied health sciences are generally considered sciences. Physical anthropology, psychobiology, and similar courses are more difficult to assign, but the way they are viewed on the campus where they are taken may serve as a guide. Are they considered science or nonscience courses in the liberal arts degree program, for example?

Proofread carefully. Print a copy of the completed application and any secondary applications and review them for accuracy before submitting them to the application service. Spelling, grammatical, and typographical errors should obviously be corrected. Even with an electronic application, if you do not take care to see that your application is in good form, it may be assumed that you might not be concerned about details associated with good patient care. Further, more than one applicant has been embarrassed by having expressed a strong interest in professional school "A" on professional school "B's" supplemental application.

Keep a copy of the completed application. It is a good idea to print a copy of the application before submitting it. Such copies are helpful in completing other applications but also in refreshing your memory before an interview.

Check your eligibility for an application fee waiver. Although TMDSAS does not grant application fee waivers, the professional school may. If you are receiving financial aid at your undergraduate school, you may be eligible for a waiver of part or the entire professional school application fee. A letter from a financial aid officer may be needed to document sufficient financial need.

Periodically check on the status of your application. Make sure that the application service has received all of the required information. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that his/her application is complete.

Health Professions Evaluation

In addition to your MCAT scores and college transcript(s), your TMDSAS application will request a written evaluation submitted by your health professions advisor or advisory committee. A written evaluation from the Health Professions Advisory Committee at the applicant's school is preferred. If an applicant's institution does not have a Committee, 2 or 3 individual faculty letters are usually acceptable.

Interview

An interview is required prior to a student's acceptance into medical school. An applicant may be invited (from August through December) to interview with the Admissions Committee. Interview invitations are usually based on your GPA, MCAT score, and personal statement. The Committee will assess noncognitive factors such as communication skills, extracurricular activities, volunteerism, undergraduate research, and motivation for a career in medicine. After your interview, the admissions committee will consider your acceptance based on the above information in addition to the results of the interview and the letter of evaluation.

Timeline for Application

- A. Junior year.
 - 1. Take MCAT.
 - 2. Complete information, if required, for the Health Professions Advisory Committee at your school.
 - 3. Submission of on-line application to TMDSAS and BCOM starting June 1.
- B. Summer between Junior and Senior years.
 - 1. Request your health professions advisor mail evaluation to TMDSAS and BCOM.
 - 2. If necessary, retake the MCAT.
- C. Fall of Senior year.
 - 1. Interview at medical schools.

Suggested Reading

Following is a short list of reading materials that may be useful in preparing to enter medical school. Please realize that this is a selected list and that new books and other materials are continuously being published. Ask your advisor about any recent volumes, which may be helpful.

Medical School Catalogs. These may be available in your health professions advisor's office or you can access a catalog by visiting a medical school's web site.

The following publications are available from the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions at NAAHP, PO Box 1518, Champaign, IL 61824-1518; (217) 355-0063. www.naahp.org

Health Professions Admission Guide: Strategy for Success. \$25.00.

Interviewing for Health Professions Schools. \$6.00.

Meeting the Challenge of the MCAT: A Test Preparation Guide, Evelyn W. Jackson, Shirley McGlinn, and Linda Herrold. \$21.00.

Write for Success: Preparing a Successful Professional School Application, Evelyn W. Jackson and Harold R. Bardo. \$13.00.

There are a large number of useful publications including MCAT Practice Tests available from the Association of American Medical Colleges website www.aamc.org . Two worth mentioning are:

Medical School Admissions Requirements United States and Canada (revised annually).

Minority Student Opportunities in United States Medical Schools. Provides information to underrepresented minorities (Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans) applying to medical school.

Revised 02/08 by:
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