Preparation for Health Professions Programs

While UTSA does not provide any specific health professions programs, the University Health Professions Office (UHPO) provides advising and support to students interested in pursuing careers in the health professions. This includes academic preparation at the undergraduate level, as well as information about health careers, application procedures, and entrance exams. UTSA offers courses that fulfill entrance requirements to most health professions fields, including Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Respiratory Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, Podiatry, and Optometry. Admission to professional schools is highly competitive and involves a separate application process. Admission to UTSA does not guarantee admission into health professions programs at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA).

Students are encouraged to seek advice and consult with the UHPO advising staff early in and throughout their college career. The UHPO is located at the Main Campus (Multidisciplinary Studies Building, Room 3.03.14). For more information about the UHPO, including appointment and walk-in schedules, call 210-458-5185, or visit the website at http://utsa.edu/healthprofessions/.

Medical and Dental Schools

In general, medical and dental school admissions committees do not state a preference about a student’s choice of undergraduate major, allowing students to choose a degree program suited to their special abilities and interests. The vast majority of entrants have completed four years of college with a baccalaureate degree. In exceptional cases, students with outstanding records and a high degree of maturity can be admitted to dental school without a degree.

Admission requirements for Texas medical and dental schools are representative of admission requirements for most American medical schools. These requirements typically include one year of college English; two years of biology as required for college science majors (one year must include laboratory work); one year of physics as required for college science majors, including laboratory; one year of general chemistry and one year of organic chemistry as required for college science majors, including the corresponding laboratories; and one semester of college statistics.

Applicants to medical school must take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), while dental applicants must take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). The application cycle for both medical and dental schools in Texas begins in May for admission in August of the following year. While many students take their MCAT or DAT during or immediately after their junior year, the UHPO encourages students to take their exams after completion of their program prerequisites and approximately six months of preparation. Additionally, students are encouraged to meet with a Health Professions Advisor regularly to determine the best time for their individual application and testing.

Applications for all Texas medical and dental schools, with the exception of Baylor College of Medicine, are processed by the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMD SAS), 702 Colorado Street, Suite 6.400, Austin, Texas 78701 (www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/). Application services for other health professions schools as well as out-of-state medical and dental schools are: Osteopathic Medicine – American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS); Podiatric Medicine – American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine Application Service (AACPMAS); Dentistry – Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS); and Allopathic Medicine – American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS), which includes Baylor College of Medicine.

Nursing School

Admission requirements for The University of Texas Schools of Nursing are representative of admission requirements of most nursing schools in Texas and across the United States. A minimum of 60 semester credit hours is required, including 6 semester credit hours of college English, 9 hours of behavioral sciences, 6 hours of each history and government, 3 hours of college mathematics, 3 hours of statistics, 3 hours of humanities, 3 hours of visual and performing arts, and 23 hours of natural sciences, including chemistry, anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and nutrition. Students interested in nursing should seek information about these prerequisites on a regular basis, as they are subject to change. Additional information and advisement may be obtained at the UHPO.

Special Programs

Facilitated Acceptance to Nursing School (FANS)

This 2+2 program offers outstanding UTSA students with an interest in nursing the opportunity to be granted guaranteed acceptance into the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio (UTHSCSA), pending grade point average and test scores. Upon successful completion of the BSN program at UTHSCSA, students are eligible to take the Registered Nurse licensing examination. Admission to FANS is selective and limited. Students must meet with a health professions advisor throughout their time at UTSA to review coursework and eligibility. Information about program requirements is available at the UHPO.

3-4 Dental Early Admission Program (DEAP)

DEAP is a joint program between The University of Texas at San Antonio and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental School. This program offers students with an interest in dentistry the opportunity to receive early conditional acceptance to the dental school and to earn both a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at UTSA and a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at UTHSCSA within seven years. Students apply during the second semester of their freshman year at UTSA and must have completed at least 12 hours at UTSA during their first freshman semester. Students with more than 30 total hours, including advanced placement and dual credit coursework, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A list of the requirements for acceptance into the program and for its completion, as well as application forms and procedures, are available in the UHPO.

Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP)

The Joint Admission Medical Program was created by the Texas Legislature (Texas Education Code, § 51.821 et seq.) to provide services to “highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students” who want to be physicians. If selected for JAMP, a student will receive numerous benefits throughout college and into medical school: a scholarship each semester of college (beginning in the spring of the sophomore
year); a stipend each summer to attend two medical school enrichment (internship) programs; mentoring during college and into medical school; and admission into a Texas medical school (if all requirements are met). Students must apply by September 1 of their sophomore year and must have completed 27 hours of undergraduate credit during their freshman year and earned no less than a 3.25 grade point average. Contact the UHPO for more information and advisement and visit the JAMP website at www.utsystem.edu/JAMP/ for additional details.