Preparation for 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 and Dentistry, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Respiratory Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, Cytogenetics, Podiatry, Chiropractic, 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 3.02.10). Advising is also available at the Downtown Campus on selected days and times throughout the academic year. 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 an undergraduate major field, allowing the student to choose a degree program suited to the student’s 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 are admitted to medical or dental school after completing 90 semester credit hours.

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). It is to a student’s advantage to take the test early—no later than June, preceding the senior year—and to begin preparation for the exam at least six months in advance. Similarly, applicants to dental school should take the Dental Admission Test (DAT) early—no later than June, preceding the senior year. The application cycle for both medical and dental schools begins in May for admission in August of the following year.

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 (TMDSAS), 702 Colorado Street, Suite 6.400, Austin, Texas 78701 (www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/ (http://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 other American nursing schools. A minimum of 62 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 which must include chemistry, anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and nutrition. Students interested in nursing must seek information about these prerequisites on a regular basis because they are subject to change.

Additional information and advisement may be obtained at the UHPO.

Early Admission Programs

Early Acceptance BSN: RN Program (EARN)

This 2+2 program offers outstanding UTSA students with an interest in nursing the opportunity to be granted early acceptance into the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio (UTHSCSA). Upon successful completion of the BSN program at UTHSCSA, students are eligible to take the Registered Nurse licensing examination. Admission to EARN is selective and limited. Students must meet with UHPO 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)

This 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 must complete no more than 30 semester credit hours of coursework to apply to the program. 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 throughout 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 by which time they 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/ (http://www.utsystem.edu/JAMP) for additional details.