



HOUSTON PREMEDICAL ACADEMY

Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions | University of Houston | Baylor College of Medicine

PHILOSOPHY

The Houston Premedical Academy (HPA) is a partnership between the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions (DHSHP), the Honors College at the University of Houston (UH) and Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). It is a special undergraduate program at UH for DHSHP graduates interested in becoming physicians. Through an academically rich and supportive environment, the HPA program enables students to make their career choices and medical school selection at the same time. Since the HPA began in 1996, 227 DHSHP students have entered the program and 139 UH program graduates have matriculated into medical school. To date, 112 HPA graduates have earned their MD degrees, 104 at BCM. There are currently 24 students enrolled at UH and 23 at BCM.

DESCRIPTION

Up to 6 graduating DHSHP students are selected to attend the HPA each year. These students receive provisional acceptance to BCM and are required to complete all baccalaureate degree requirements of UH Honors College and meet other criteria (outlined below) before being accepted by BCM. The entire program lasts eight years, from entrance into the HPA at UH through graduation from BCM. **Applicants to the HPA must complete four applications:** 1) the UH Admission Application, 2) the UH Honors College Application, 3) the HPA Application and 4) the Free Application Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) – the University of Houston Federal School Code is 003652). HPA applicants must be admitted to UH and the UH Honors College, prior to review by BCM. Applicants selected for the HPA, through the BCM medical school admissions process are allowed to major in any of the undergraduate degree programs offered by UH. However, they must complete the Honors College University Honors curriculum requirements as well as minor in the Medicine & Society offered by the Honors College.

Regardless of major, students must complete all BCM prerequisites at UH, prior to the fourth consecutive year of undergraduate study to include:

- 10 semester hours of Human Situation (Honors Freshman English sequence, HON 2301/2101, ENGL 1370/2361),
- 6 semester hours of Honors Freshman Biology (BIOL 1306/1307),
- 6 semester hours of Freshman Chemistry (Honors section preferred, CHEM 1311/1312),

- 6 semester hours of Organic Chemistry (CHEM 2323/2325)
- 3 semester hours of Genetics (BIOL 3301)
- 3 semester hours of Biochemistry (BCHS 3304),
- 3 semester hours of Quantitative Math (MATH 3339 preferred),
- 6 semester hours of Physics (PHYS 2325/2326, or 1301/1302),
- 12 semester hours of Creative Arts/Humanities/Social & Behavioral Sciences (ex: psychology, sociology, anthropology, art history, philosophy).

RECOMMENDED: Spanish.

No grade lower than a "C" for these classes will count toward matriculation into BCM.

Note: AP credit may not be applied towards required BCM prerequisite courses.

Additional courses are required as per the University of Houston/Honors College curriculum, such as labs.

Program students must maintain a semester and cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 and a semester and cumulative science GPA average of at least 3.50 (on a 4.0 system). HPA students must obtain a Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) score minimum of 508; with no section score (biological and biochemical foundations of living systems, chemical and physical foundations of biological systems, psychological, social and biological foundations of behavior, and critical analysis and reasoning skills) less than 125. *(A total MCAT score and each required section score must be met in one test administration. Super scores are not permitted).*

MCAT exam must be taken no later than September 30 and the CASPer test taken no later than November 1 of the fourth consecutive year of undergraduate study at UH. Based on eligibility, students selected for the program will receive some scholarship support from UH (aid is limited to citizens and permanent residents of the United States); however, all candidates must fill out the FAFSA. All financial aid provided by UH is contingent upon students maintaining the minimum required grade point averages and well as annual submission of the FAFSA. Scholarship support at BCM is based on merit and financial need.

HPA SELECTION

Graduating DHSHP seniors wishing to participate in the HPA **must complete four applications**: 1) the UH Admission Application, 2) the UH Honors College Application, 3) the HPA Application, and 4) the Free Application Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA—the University of Houston Federal School Code is 003652). Program selection criteria include: (1) strong DHSHP academic performance, as evidenced by a minimum overall GPA of 3.5 and core GPA of 3.2 (especially in science, mathematics and English) at DHSHP; (2) **two letters of support from DHSHP teachers, counselors and/or administrators**; (3) **one letter of recommendation from a Community Service supervisor**; (4) evidence of community service while at DHSHP; (5) motivation and other attributes representative of exceptional achievement; and (6) financial need, as determined by the FAFSA. Students from schools other than the DHSHP and students who already have graduated from DHSHP are not eligible for the program.

To apply for the Houston Premedical Academy, follow the link <https://www.houstonisd.org/domain/3328>. **The deadline for the application is 5pm on Monday, January 20, 2025, and the deadline for the letters of recommendation is Monday, January 27, 2025.** The Admissions Committee at BCM will review **ONLY** applications from students accepted by UH **AND** the UH Honors College **AND** with a complete FAFSA. Semifinalists will be invited to **BCM** for an **interview on Friday, February 21, 2025. Notification of acceptance** to the program will be made on week of **April 15, 2025.**

THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

The University of Houston (UH) (www.uh.edu), the state's premier research university, stands at the forefront of education, research and service. The UH campus serves more than 47,000 students in 13 academic colleges and in its interdisciplinary Honors College, including over 500 student organizations. The university offers 300 undergraduate and graduate programs, and awards more than 8,000 degrees annually. It is the most ethnically diverse research university in the U.S. The innovative curriculum, nationally ranked programs, and dynamic learning and mentoring environment bring students face-to-face with award-winning faculty. UH operates more than 25 research centers and institutes and maintains more than 300 creative partnerships with corporate, civic, and governmental entities. Inter-disciplinary research at UH includes groundbreaking areas such as bionanotechnology, superconductivity, space commercialization, biomedical engineering, economics, education, petroleum exploration, and virtual technology. The UH libraries are Houston's largest, and they house one of the most up-to-date networked electronic publication centers in the nation. Grants and research awards to the university exceed \$100 million.

THE HONORS COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

The Honors College (www.thehonorscollege.com) provides the University of Houston's finest students with the **best of both worlds**—the support and close-knit community of a small college together with the resources and diversity of a large research institution. Open to all majors, the Honors curriculum coordinates with and complements all degree plans. Honors students enjoy: small classes, priority course registration, personalized advising, accessible faculty/staff, reserved facilities, travel and research opportunities, student community, and graduation with special distinction.

Housed in the Honors College, the [Medicine & Society Program](#) bridges humanities with the hard sciences, promoting the effective practice of medicine by producing health professionals who are empathic, compassionate, and attentive. Additionally, the Medicine & Society Program unites all studies of health, providing students with resources, such as feedback on professional/graduate school applications and connections with health experts.

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Baylor College of Medicine is a health sciences university dedicated to training the next generation of leaders in the biomedical field. Ranked first in Texas and among the top in the country by U.S. News & World Report, Baylor College of Medicine's School of Medicine is the least expensive private medical school in the U.S. We are committed to transforming healthcare both locally and globally, which is reflected in our focus on inquiry, service and innovation. Exceptionally diverse clinical affiliates and a collaborative, supportive culture set Baylor apart as a leader among the world's best medical schools. As a part of our commitment to caring for Texans across the state, we now have a regional campus located in Temple, Texas. We welcomed the inaugural class in summer 2023, which expanded our medical student class size to 226, our largest ever. Baylor Scott & White Health serves as the home of the Baylor College of Medicine, School of Medicine, Temple campus. Students at both campuses have the opportunity to train in Texas's top healthcare institutions, while training under Baylor's curriculum, faculty, and mission.

Follow Baylor College of Medicine on Facebook: (<http://www.facebook.com/BaylorCollegeofMedicine>) and twitter (<http://twitter.com/BCMHouston>).

Additional information may be obtained from Bernice Ochoa-Shargey, Ph.D., Dean of Instruction at the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions (Telephone: 713-556-4902). 09/2024