

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, 187 DHSHP students have entered the program and 108 of 110 UH program graduates (98%) have matriculated into medical school. To date, 76 HPA graduates have earned their MD degrees, 73 at BCM. There are currently 22 students enrolled at UH and 22 at BCM.

DESCRIPTION

Up to 6 graduating DHSHP students are selected to attend the HPA each year. These students also receive provisional acceptance into BCM, but they are required to complete all baccalaureate degree requirements of UH 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 three applications**: 1) the UH Admission Application, 2) the UH Honors College Application, and 3) the HPA Application. HPA applicants must first be admitted to UH and also to 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 curriculum requirements and minor in the Medicine & Society Program offered by the Honors College. HPA students will also reside in Honors College Housing during their first year at UH. Regardless of major, program students need to take and complete at UH, prior to the 4th consecutive year of undergraduate study, all required BCM prerequisite courses including: 10 semester hours of Human Situation (Honors Freshman English sequence, HON 2301/2101, ENGL 1370/2361), 6 semester hours of Honors Freshman Biology (BIOL 1361/1362), 6

semester hours of Freshman Chemistry (Honors section preferred, CHEM 1331/1332), 6 semester hours of Organic Chemistry (CHEM 3331/3332), 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 1321/1322), 6 semester hours of Creative Arts/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.

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

Additional courses required (such as labs) as per University of Houston/Honors College curriculum.

Program students must maintain a semester and cumulative GPA average of at least 3.50 and a semester and cumulative science GPA average of at least 3.50 (on a 4.0 system). In addition, to gain admission into BCM, HPA students must obtain a Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) score of 501-507; 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.

All students selected for the program will receive scholarship support from UH. Additional financial aid may be available for eligible students (limited to citizens and permanent residents of the United States). All financial aid provided by UH is contingent upon students maintaining the minimum required grade point averages. Scholarship support at BCM is based on merit and financial need.

HPA SELECTION

Graduating DHSHP seniors wishing to participate in the HPA **must complete three applications**: 1) the UH Admission Application, 2) the UH Honors College Application, and 3) the HPA Application. Program selection criteria include: (1) SAT scores no less than 580 critical reading, 600 math and 520 writing

(students must take the SAT to be considered for entrance into the program); (2) 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; (3) **two letters of support from DHSHP teachers, counselors and/or administrators**; (4) **one letter of recommendation from Community Service supervisor**; (5) evidence of community service while at DHSHP; and (6) motivation and other attributes representative of exceptional achievement. Students from schools other than the DHSHP and students who already have graduated from DHSHP are not eligible for the program.

Applications for the Houston Premedical Academy are **due on February 3, 2017; by 5:00 p.m.** The Admissions Committee at BCM will review **ONLY** applications from students accepted by UH/UH Honors College. Semi-finalists will be invited to **BCM** for an **interview on Friday, March 10, 2017.** **Notification of acceptance** to the program will be made in **early April, 2017.**

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 40,750 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 bio-nanotechnology, 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 Minor bridges humanities with the hard sciences, promoting the effective practice of medicine by producing health professionals who are empathic, compassionate, and attentive. Additionally, The Honors Program in the Health Professions 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 (www.bcm.edu) in Houston is recognized as a premier academic health science center and is known for excellence in education, research and patient care. It is the only private medical school in the Greater Southwest and was ranked as one of the top 20 medical school for research in U.S News & World Report. Located in the Texas Medical Center, BCM has affiliations with eight teaching hospitals, each known for medical excellence.

The college has total research support of \$363 million, with \$280 million from federal sources, and more than 90 research and patient-care centers and units. Currently, BCM trains more than 3,000 medical, graduate, nurse anesthesia, and physician assistant students, as well as residents and post-doctoral fellows.

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

Additional information and program applications may be obtained from Bernice Ochoa-Shargay, Ph.D., Dean of Instruction at the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions (Telephone: 713-741-8923).