



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, 209 DHSHP students have entered the program and 127 of 133 UH program graduates (95%) have matriculated into medical school. To date, 95 HPA graduates have earned their MD degrees, 91 at BCM. There are currently 24 students enrolled at UH and 25 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 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 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 must complete all BCM prerequisites at UH, 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, or 1301/1302), 6 semester hours of Creative Arts/Social & Behavioral Sciences (ex: psychology, sociology, anthropology, art history, philosophy), prior to the fourth consecutive year of undergraduate study.

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 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). 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. *(A total MCAT score and each required section score must be met in one test administration. Super scores are not permitted).*

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) 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; (6) motivation and other attributes representative of exceptional achievement; and (7) 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> and submit the form in full by **5pm on Monday, February 8, 2021**. The Admissions Committee at BCM will review **ONLY** applications from students accepted by UH **AND** the UH Honors College **AND** with a complete FAFSA. Semi-finalists will be invited to **BCM** for an **interview on Friday, March 12, 2021**. **Notification of acceptance** to the program will be made in **early April, 2021**.

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 47,090 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 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

At Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu), philanthropy speeds innovations in healthcare, research and education to our local and global communities and improves awareness about diseases that affect us all. We receive and steward about 9,500 gifts every year. More than 1,000 alumni from the College's four schools participate in events or giving every year. The Partnership for Baylor College of Medicine is our largest volunteer organization with more than 700 members. Other donors support Baylor activities to fight breast cancer, to learn more about aging comfortably, to consider medical ethics and health policy and more.

Baylor College of Medicine is the only private medical school in the Greater Southwest and was ranked 16th medical school for research in U.S News & World Report. Located in the Texas Medical Center, BCM has affiliations with seven teaching hospitals, each known for medical excellence.

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).