Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)

Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) Admissions Requirements

Information about specific admission requirements is detailed online under Admissions at the UT School of Medicine at San Antonio website. Applicants must have at least 90 semester hour credits from a United States or Canadian college or university with no grade lower than a C in required course work (see http://som.uthscsa.edu/Admissions/prerequisites.asp). Applicants must take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) no later than the first week of September the year preceding anticipated matriculation. Web-based applications are available through the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) in Austin. Starting with the entering class of 2014, applicants will be able to apply to both the San Antonio Clinical Education Campus and the South Texas Clinical Education Campus through the TMDSAS website. MCAT scores should be forwarded no later than October 15 of the year preceding matriculation. All MCAT scores must be reported to the TMDSAS through the AAMC. MCAT scores are not automatically forwarded to TMDSAS. Applicants must release their MCAT scores to TMDSAS as soon as they are known to the applicant. Scores from later administrations of the MCAT may be considered for purposes of selecting students from the alternate pool.

Acceptance Considerations

The Admissions Committee evaluates each candidate’s application to make an assessment of the individual’s academic background, performance on the MCAT, the recommendation of the premedical advisor, and the nonacademic achievements. Preparation for medical school as reflected in clinical experiences and demonstration of integrity, maturity, motivation, judgment, and resourcefulness are also evaluated. Further evaluation of the most promising candidates is made by means of personal interviews, invitations for which are issued by the Admissions Committee. Only applicants who are permanent U.S. residents or American citizens will be considered for interview and acceptance. The same criteria for evaluation are applied to all candidates. Applicants are encouraged to read the Factors Considered for Applicant Interview and Acceptance. Although certain disabilities or combination of disabilities might prevent a candidate from meeting required technical standards, this institution is committed to avoiding discrimination against an otherwise qualified individual with disabilities (see Essential Abilities for Completion of the Medical Curriculum). The UT School of Medicine at San Antonio will announce its initial acceptances on November 15. Acceptances will continue on a rolling basis until December 31. Those interviewed applicants not accepted may be offered positions in the entering class through the TMDSAS medical school match, the results of which are available on February 1. Candidates whose applications are rejected by the Admissions Committee with or without personal interviews shall be notified as soon as possible after the committee’s action. An applicant receiving an acceptance of admission will be requested to file a letter of intent to enroll within two weeks of receipt of acceptance. The acceptance is contingent upon clearance through a criminal background check (see Student Background Check Policy) and satisfying all coursework prerequisites.

Because some of the medical schools in Texas begin their academic year earlier than September, all LCME-accredited medical schools in Texas have agreed not to offer acceptances to candidates already enrolled at another medical school in the state after July 1.

Essential Abilities for Completion of the Medical Curriculum

Essential abilities are academic performance requirements that refer to those physical, cognitive, and behavioral abilities required for satisfactory completion of all aspects of the medical curriculum and the development of personal attributes required by the student at graduation.

The essential abilities required by the curriculum are in the following areas: intellectual (conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities for problem solving and diagnosis), behavioral and social, communication, motor, and sensory. These essential abilities are represented by the SOM’s three educational competencies: altruism, knowledge, and skills.

In addition, the medical student must demonstrate ethical standards and a professional demeanor in dealing with peers, faculty, staff, and patients.

Intellectual Abilities (Knowledge)
The medical student must be able to comprehend and learn factual knowledge from readings and didactic presentations, gather information independently, analyze and synthesize learned material, and apply information to clinical situations.

Behavioral, Social, and Professional Abilities (Altruism)
The medical student must possess the emotional maturity and stability to function effectively under the stress that is inherent in medicine and to
adapt to circumstances that are unpredictable or that change rapidly. He or she must exhibit compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, responsibility, and tolerance, as well as demonstrate the ability to exercise the requisite judgment in the practice of medicine.

**Communication Skills (Skills)**
The medical student must be able to communicate effectively with patients orally and in writing, including gathering information appropriately; explaining medical information in a patient-centered manner; listening effectively; recognizing, acknowledging, and responding to emotions; and exhibiting sensitivity to social and cultural differences. He or she must be able to communicate effectively and work cooperatively with all other health care team members.

**Motor Skills (Skills)**
The medical student must have sufficient physical dexterity to master technical and procedural aspects of patient care. He or she must have sufficient strength to perform the essential duties and must have adequate physical stamina and energy to carry out taxing duties over long hours.

**Sensory Abilities (Skills)**
The medical student should have sufficient sensory abilities of sight, hearing, smell, and touch in order to obtain a medical history, perform a physical examination, and to diagnose and deliver patient care.

**Facilitated Acceptance to Medical Education (FAME) Program**
As a result of the UT System Transformation in Medical Education (TIME) initiative, the UT at San Antonio (UTSA) and UT School of Medicine at San Antonio (SOM), have partnered to create the Facilitated Acceptance to Medical Education (FAME) Program. The FAME Program is an educationally innovative dual degree (B.S./M.D.) program designed to train and graduate primary care physicians. To meet degree requirements set for all college graduates in Texas, core courses have been interwoven into a collaborative seven-year curriculum. This shared project uses traditional lectures, small group sessions, team taught courses, and innovative seminars structured on disease-related experiences. The FAME Program recruits and admits highly qualified students. These students benefit from an accelerated degree program, an innovative curriculum, early immersion into medical education and professional identity formation, and a decreased overall student debt. The FAME Program will play a positive role in helping address the healthcare needs of Texas.

To apply for the FAME Program, student will apply to UTSA online at applytexas.org and complete the UTSA and FAME application process. Applications for the FAME Program will be accepted August 15 – December 1, and invited interviews will be held in January and February of each academic year.

Once accepted in the FAME program the student must:

- Achieve a minimum overall GPA of 3.5 and a minimum science GPA of 3.5 in pre-determined course work
- Complete a minimum of 12 hours per semester at UTSA
- Complete a minimum of 72 hours within 3 years at UTSA
- Meet with his/her FAME Program coordinator every semester for academic and career advising
- Take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) at the program-designated time during the third year at UTSA. Students scoring less than a 10 on Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems will be required to complete additional biology coursework which may extend time on the undergraduate campus.
- Demonstrate satisfactory performance on all UT System TIME initiative competencies in the areas of:
  - Communication Skills and Collaboration
  - Professionalism
  - Medical Knowledge and Scholarship
  - Patient Care
  - Practice-based Learning and Improvement
  - Systems-based Practice and Management

Students who fulfill all program requirements will be guaranteed admission to the SOM. Upon successful completion of the first year of the SOM curriculum with minimum course grades of “C,” a Bachelor of Science in Biology from UTSA will be awarded.

Upon successful completion of SOM curriculum, a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree will be awarded.
Dual Degree Programs

Dual degree programs of study provide a mechanism for a medical student to obtain a Master’s in Public Health (M.P.H) or a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in addition to a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. The purpose of these programs is to offer students the opportunity to become trained as clinical scientists who have not only depth of knowledge in clinical medicine but also experience in research planning and execution.

M.D./Ph.D. Program

The goals of the M.D./Ph.D. Program are:

- to prepare physician-scientists to become accomplished health care providers and investigators with problem-solving knowledge and skills
- to train physician-scientists in the conduct of clinical and translational research in culturally diverse settings
- to develop future leaders in academic health care and biomedical research

To apply for the M.D./Ph.D. program, applicants must use the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) website. Applicants who seek the M.D. program at UT School of Medicine at San Antonio (SOM) must use the TMDSAS application system. The deadlines for these applications vary.

The M.D./Ph.D. Program is seven to eight years in length. Students usually begin with two years of the curriculum in the SOM. After successful completion of the USMLE Step 1, they enter a three to four year Ph.D. program in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS), following which they return to the SOM for two years of clinical rotations. With the guidance and approval of the M.D./Ph.D. Program Director and M.D./Ph.D. Program Advisory Committee, students select laboratory rotations, graduate program affiliation in one of many tracks, and Supervising Professors from a list of distinguished graduate faculty throughout the institution. Enrichment activities include a monthly “Bench-to-Bedside” course, and a 6-week clinical refresher course to provide smooth transition from graduate school into the remaining clinical years. Opportunities exist for student research during the fourth year of medical school. With completion of this program, M.D./Ph.D. graduates are well prepared for careers as dual-degree physician-scientists.

The GSBS provides oversight for M.D./Ph.D. students via the Committees on Graduate Students (COGS) and the Graduate Faculty Council. The COGS is responsible for supervising the didactic curriculum, and the academic and research progress of M.D./Ph.D. students enrolled in their respective tracks. COGS is responsible for assuring that meetings of the student's dissertation research supervising committee are held to monitor student progress, for approval of the dissertation proposal, and for final approval of the written dissertation and oral defense.

An independent M.D./Ph.D. Program Promotions Board reviews the progress of M.D./Ph.D. students every 6 months throughout medical and graduate school enrollment. Progress is assessed on the basis of academic performance, USMLE Step 1 and 2 scores, research rotation reports, research and scholarly activities, evaluations from the Supervising Professor (during Ph.D. portion), and student self-assessments (during Ph.D. portion).

The M.D./Ph.D. Program expects students who are pursuing the dual degree to maintain standards of academic excellence, to progress in a timely fashion toward both the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees, and to maintain professionalism. Students will be primarily subject to the academic guidelines of the medical school or graduate school in which they are primarily engaged at each stage of the M.D./Ph.D. Program. However, they will be subject to additional requirements as specified by the M.D./Ph.D. Program in order to remain members of that program.

Students in the M.D./Ph.D. Program are subject to satisfactory achievement of a series of milestones and criteria established by the M.D./Ph.D. Program Advisory Committee. Failure to meet or achieve the established standards will result in denial of advancement and dismissal from the M.D./Ph.D. Program. A student's academic standing with respect to either the medical school or the graduate school is administered through the appropriate dean's office. M.D./Ph.D. students shall have the right to appeal a decision of dismissal from the program. The appeal will be heard by the M.D./Ph.D. Program Advisory Committee. Solely on procedural concerns can a student appeal to a higher institutional administration.

M.D./M.P.H. Program

The M.D./M.P.H. Program prepares physicians to treat individuals and populations via training in biostatistics, epidemiology, behavioral science, public policy, and environmental health. This program allows for students to accomplish the M.D. and the M.P.H. in four years; however, students may decide to take 5 years to complete both degrees. Candidates must first be accepted to the SOM and then apply to the School of Public Health at the UT Health Science Center-Houston. If accepted into the dual degree program, students will begin coursework for the M.P.H. with online courses in the summer before starting medical school. The M.P.H. requires completion of 46 credit hours, some of which will be shared with the SOM credit hours.
M.D. with Distinction Degrees

M.D. Degree with Distinction in Research

The M.D. with Distinction in Research Program provides medical students with an opportunity to enrich their medical school career through sustained work in basic, clinical, translational or social sciences. This program exposes students to life as a physician-scientist. The distinction helps students shape their career goals by building an academic track record viewed favorably by residency selection committees. Students must apply for the M.D. with Distinction in Research Program before the start of the third year. M.D./Ph.D. students are not eligible to apply. Under the supervision of their research mentor, students engage in a research project culminating in a manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed medical journal. The application includes a project description, a timeline for project completion and a mentoring plan by the faculty mentor. Students commit a minimum of four months (640 hours) during medical school to the program. Students must present a poster at an annual UTHSCSA Student Research Day. Additional requirements for completion of the program include maintaining a research log and maintaining a minimum 3.25 grade point average through medical school. If the M.D. with Distinction in Research Committee deems the submission appropriate, and the student has completed all administrative requirements, he/she will be awarded the M.D. degree with Distinction in Research.

M.D. Degree with Distinction in Medical Education

The M.D. with Distinction in Medical Education Program provides medical students with an opportunity to spend part of their medical school career participating in activities focused on different components of teaching and educational research. The application for the M.D. with Distinction in Medical Education Program must be submitted by January 15th of the second year. The application includes a project description, a timeline for project completion and a mentoring plan by the faculty mentor. Requirements for completion of the program include working as a teaching assistant for a current course or preparation course, giving learning sessions to assess teaching style, presenting the project to the M.D. with Distinction in Medical Education Advisory Committee and submitting the project for publication to a medical educational journal or for presentation at a medical educational conference. An additional requirement includes maintaining a minimum 3.25 grade point average throughout the program. If the M.D. with Distinction in Medical Education Advisory Committee deems the project submission appropriate, and the student has completed all administrative requirements, he/she will be awarded the M.D. degree with Distinction in Medical Education.