Physician Assistant School Applicants

Applicants to physician assistant schools are interviewed by HPAC. Applications are submitted to the central application service for Physician Assistants (CASPA; https://portal.caspaonline.org/)

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation

January
❖ Study for GRE

February
❖ Attend the on campus essay workshop
❖ Research each school, and write essays with mission in mind
❖ Essays due by the end of February.

March
❖ Contact Dr. Gonzales to schedule your HPAC appointment
❖ Solicit letters of recommendation from two or more individuals, including at least one practicing physician assistant; these individuals will submit their letters directly to CASPA

April
❖ Take GRE ($195); you have to wait one month to retake

May
❖ Begin completing application on CASPA

June
❖ Submit application
❖ Note: CASPA may take 4-6 weeks to process your application before it is sent to your selected schools. (This is why you do not wait until a month before the October 1st deadline; your application must be received by the PA school, not CASPA, by that date.)

July – August
❖ Complete supplemental applications

Pharmacy School Applicants

Texas pharmacy schools prefer letters of evaluation, not HPAC letters. However, students can schedule an appointment with the committee for advice on their application, including their essays.

Optometry School Applicants

Pre-Optometry students do not have to go through HPAC. However, they can schedule an appointment, including their essays.

Committee Members

Xavier Fonz Gonzales, Ph.D., M.S.P.H. Professional Assistant Professor of Biomedical sciences

Gregory Buck, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Biology

Riccardo Mazzochiodi, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Neurobiology

Jean Sparks, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Clinical Lab Science

Various Community Health Professionals
**HPAC Instructions**

The Health Professions Advising Committee (HPAC) is charged with preparing committee letters of evaluation for students applying to professional schools. The HPAC interviews and advises students prior to their application for professional schools. Dental, medical, physical therapy and physician assistant schools prefer an HPAC letter.

**Procedure**

Dental, medical, and physician assistant school applicants are interviewed in the spring of their junior year. Contact Dr. Gonzales at prehealth_education@tamucc.edu to schedule an HPAC appointment. At least two weeks prior to the meeting, the student submits the following documents to Dr. Gonzales via email.
- Personal statement essay, including the prompt *(Essays due at the end of February)*
- Another essay required in the application, including the prompt
- Resume/CV
- The HPAC information form that includes the student’s personal identification number

In addition, each student should have at least three letters of evaluation emailed to Dr. Gonzales directly from the evaluator. These letters will be quoted in the HPAC letter. Keep in mind there is a 3.3 minimum GPA requirement for HPAC interview. Students can request an appeal form from Dr. Gonzales if they feel they should be considered for HPAC although not having met the requirement. Lastly, all students that undergo HPAC interviews are required to apply to their respective professional school. Students who receive letters and interviews that did not apply will not be allowed assistance from HPAC in subsequent years.

**Physical Therapy Applicants**

Applicants to PT schools are interviewed by HPAC. Only incarnate Word & UT Southwestern use the Physical Therapist Central Application Service *(http://ptcas.org/)* Application for all other Texas schools are on the school’s website.

**Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation**

**February**
- Attend the on campus essay workshop

**March**
- Contact Dr. Gonzales to schedule your HPAC interview, if desired.

**April**
- Take GRE, GRE retake has to wait one month

**Veterinary School applicant**

Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine prefers individual letters of evaluation, not HPAC letters of evaluation. However, pre-vet students can schedule an appointment with the committee for advice on their application, including their essays.

**Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation**

**February**
- Attend the on campus essay workshop

**March**
- Contact Dr. Gonzales to schedule your HPAC appointment
- Attend the on campus interview workshop

**April**
- Complete MCAT prep course
- Attend the on campus TMDSAS Evaluation Form and give a copy to each person you are asking for a letter
- Take MCAT ($300) OR DAT ($415)
  - MCAT retake has to wait one month
  - DAT retake has to wait three months

**May**
- Order all college transcripts sent to TMDSAS
- Begin completing the application

**June**
- Submit your application to TMDSAS
  - http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/
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