

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

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.



HPAC

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING COMMITTEE

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**

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.

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation

February of Junior year

- Attend the on campus essay workshop

Summer/Fall of Senior year

- Take PCAT (\$210)

October

- Contact Dr. Gonzales to schedule a HPAC appointment, if desired.

OPTOMETRY SCHOOL APPLICANTS

Pre-Optometry students do not have to go through HPAC. However, students can schedule an appointment with the committee for advice on their application, including their essays.

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation

February of Junior year

- Attend the on campus essay workshop

Summer/Fall of Senior year

- Take Optometry Admissions Test (OAT - \$390) Must wait 90 days to retake the test.

October

- Contact Dr. Gonzales to schedule a HPAC appointment, if desired.

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 (\$195); retake has to wait one month

VETERINARY SCHOOL APPLICANTS

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 interview, if desired

April

- Take GRE (\$195); retake has to wait one month
- Solicit letters of evaluation from faculty member and at least one practicing veterinarian; complete the top section of the TMDAS evaluation form and give a copy to each person you ask for a letter
- Attend on campus TMDAS application workshop

May

- Order all college transcripts sent to TMDAS
- Begin completing the application

June

- Submit your application to TMDAS
<http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/>

MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCHOOL APPLICANTS

Medical and dental school applicants are interviewed in the spring of their junior year. Students are urged to take the MCAT or DAT in **April** of their junior year to have sufficient time to retake the test, if necessary. A student has to wait a month before retaking the DAT.

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation

November/December

- Pre-Meds: Register for the Kaplan MCAT Prep Course

February

- Attend the on campus essay workshop
- Complete the top section of the TMDAS Evaluation form and give a copy to each person you're asking for a letter

March

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

April

- Complete MCAT prep course
- Complete the top section of the TMDAS Evaluation Form and give a copy to each person you ask for a letter
- Take MCAT (\$310) or DAT (\$415)
 - MCAT retake has to wait one month
 - DAT retake has to wait three months

May

- Order all college transcripts sent to TMDAS
- Begin completing the application

June

- Submit your application to TMDAS
<http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/>