

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA) 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 (TBD). Research each school, and write essays with mission in mind
- Essays due by the end of February

March

- Contact Dr. Liu via prehealth_education email 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
- The HPAC letter counts as **one** individual letter, and does not substitute for individual letters needed from science faculty.

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.)
- HPAC letter counts as one individual letter, and does not substitute for individual letters needed from science faculty.

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 as well as interviewing and advising students prior to their application for professional schools. Texas and other US dental and medical schools prefer HPAC letters. Other professional programs accept the HPAC letter as an individual letter.

Procedure

Dental, medical, and physician assistant school applicants are interviewed in the spring of their junior year. Contact the HPAC committee prehealth_education@tamucc.edu to schedule an HPAC appointment. At least two weeks prior to the meeting, the student submits the following documents to the committee via email:

- Personal statement essay, including the prompt (**Essays should be ready by April**)
- 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 the committee directly from the evaluator. These letters will be quoted in the HPAC letter. Keep in mind there is a **3.5 minimum BCPM GPA requirement for HPAC interview**. Students can request an appeal form from Dr. Nusayr 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. PT, PA, PharmD, DVM and OD applicants must have

1-2 letters from a practitioner in that field.

Students who receive letters and interviews but do not apply will not be allowed assistance from HPAC in subsequent years.



HPAC

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tesneem Nusayr, Ph.D., (Chair)--
Professional Assistant Professor

Gregory Buck, Ph.D. (Asst. Chair)--
Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences

Riccardo Mozzachiodi, Ph.D.--
Professor of Neurobiology

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

Qianqian Liu, Ph.D. (Secretary)--
Professional Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences

Nicole Bloomer, PharmD--
Adjunct in Life Sciences

Dominique Cuellar--
Career and Professional Development Center-College of
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 (TBD)
- **Summer/Fall of Senior year**
- Take PCAT (\$210)

October

- Contact Dr. Liu via prehealth_education email to schedule a HPAC appointment, if desired.

OPTOMETRY SCHOOL (OD) 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. HPAC letter counts as **one** individual letter, and does not substitute for individual letters needed from science faculty.

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation
February of Junior year

- Attend the on campus essay workshop (TBD)
- **Summer/Fall of Senior year**
- Take Optometry Admissions Test (OAT - \$390) Must wait 90 days to retake the test.

October

- Contact Dr. Liu via prehealth_education email to schedule a HPAC appointment, if desired.

PHYSICAL THERAPY (PT) 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 (TBD).

March

- Contact Dr. Liu via prehealth_education email to schedule your HPAC interview, if desired.
- The HPAC letter counts as **one** individual letter, and does not substitute for individual letters needed from science faculty.

April

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

VETERINARY SCHOOL (DMV) 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. The HPAC letter counts as **one** individual letter, and does not substitute for individual letters needed from science faculty.

Timeline: Year Prior to Matriculation

February

- Attend the on campus essay workshop (TBD).

March

- Contact Dr. Liu via prehealth_education email 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 TMDSAS application workshop (TBD).

May

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

June

- Submit your application to TMDSAS <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 (TBD)
- Complete the top section of the TMDSAS Evaluation form and give a copy to each person you're asking for a letter

March

- Contact Dr. Liu via prehealth_education email to schedule your HPAC interview

- Attend the on campus interview workshop (TBD).

April

- Complete MCAT prep course
- Complete the top section of the TMDSAS 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 TMDSAS
- Begin completing the application **June**
- Submit your application to TMDSAS <http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas/>