

**UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON SYSTEM
TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
ADMISSIONS POLICY**

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- A. To inform the Fertitta Family College of Medicine applicants, students, staff, faculty and the general public of the admissions process.
- B. To ensure the Fertitta Family College of Medicine complies with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) standards for medical student selection, as stipulated in LCME Standard 10.

II. BACKGROUND

The Mission of the Fertitta Family College of Medicine (FFCOM) is to improve the overall health and healthcare of the population of Greater Houston, Texas, and beyond by educating compassionate physicians, conducting interdisciplinary research, providing high-value care, and empowering patient populations. The FFCOM Vision is to educate and graduate physicians who have a deep understanding of social determinants of health and who choose to practice primary care and other needed physician specialties in underserved communities. The FFCOM will do so by utilizing an admissions process designed to identify applicants that are both prepared academically for the rigors of medical school and have demonstrated a commitment to the elements described in the Mission and Vision.

III. POLICY

A. Admissions Requirements

1. To apply, the following criteria must be met:
 - a) Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident in order to be considered for an interview.
 - b) 90 undergraduate hours at an accredited university in the United States or Canada.
 - c) All pre-medical requirements listed below must have been completed at a United States or Canadian University. Courses that do not conform to this requirement will not be accepted, even if transferred credit has been given for them by a U.S. or Canadian school.
 - d) Advanced placement credit is accepted only if the school granting the credit lists the specific course(s) and number of units granted per course on an official transcript.
 - e) It is required that applicants take the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) within five (5) years of applying to medical school.
 - f) While there is no minimum GPA required for application, the UH College of Medicine will consider applicants for admission who have demonstrated academic excellence.
2. Prerequisite Coursework for Admission
 - a) Required
 - General Biology (8 credit hours, 2 hours must be lab)
 - Advanced Biology (3 credit hours)
 - General (Inorganic) Chemistry (8 credit hours, 2 hours must be lab)
 - Organic Chemistry (8 credit hours, 2 hours must be lab)
 - Biochemistry (3 credit hours)
 - Physics, for science majors (8 credit hours, 2 hours must be lab)
 - Statistics, taught in math/statistics/psychology departments (3 credit hours)
 - English Composition (6 credit hours)
 - b) Recommended
 - Foreign language
 - Other biology courses: molecular, genetics, human physiology,

immunology

- c) Prerequisite course requirements are reviewed annually by the FFCOM Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee will solicit input from the Curriculum Committee to inform the discussion. The admissions committee has final authority to approve or reject any proposed revisions

B. Application Process

1. Primary Application

- a) Interested students must complete an application via the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS), during which the applicant will submit official transcripts of all post-secondary academic work, complete required essays, submit a minimum of three (3) letters of recommendation, and list professional work and job-shadowing experiences. Only applications submitted via TMDSAS will be accepted.
 - Applicants cannot apply to the M.D. program through The American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS).
- b) Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scores are required.
- c) Applications for admission are accepted according to the TMDSAS timeline.
- d) COVID-19 Application Modifications
 - The FFCOM is fully aware of disruptions to normal studies due to COVID-19. The FFCOM will accept pass/fail (P/F) or satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) class grades for the terms impacted by COVID-19.

2. Secondary Application

- a) Initial screening of completed primary applications is conducted based upon AAMC data for predicted five-year graduation rates based on MCAT and GPA. The AAMC tables are reviewed annually to update the score ranges based on the most current data. This is the only time MCAT and GPA are considered in the admissions process. Qualified applicants will receive an email invitation to submit a secondary application via email. The email will contain a link to the submission portal along with instructions and additional information.
- b) Successful submission of the secondary application is contingent upon applicant signed attestation to having received the FFCOM Technical Standards (<https://www.uh.edu/medicine/current-students/files/policies/technical-standards-essential-abilities-and-characteristics-required-for-completion-of-the-md-degree.pdf>)
- c) Applications will be reviewed for alignment with the FFCOM mission and the following attributes (as determined by the applicants' activities and reflections):
 - Commitment to service and to community engagement
 - A history of performing effectively in diverse teams
 - Cultural and academic humility
 - Capacity for academic excellence and innovative problem-solving
 - Evidence of maturity, conscientiousness, and resiliency
- d) Applicants who successfully demonstrate an inclination to pursue careers in primary care will be prioritized.

3. Interviews

- a) Interviews are conducted virtually.
- b) Qualified applicants will be invited to interview as a final stage in the application process. Interviews will begin in August.
- c) An interview is required for an applicant to be eligible for an offer of admission.

C. Offers of Admission

1. The FFCOM Admissions Committee is solely responsible for the final review and selection of applicants for offers of admission and shall not be influenced in any way by individuals who do not have voting privileges on the committee.
 - a) Admissions committee members are expected to declare any real or perceived conflict of interest, at any stage of the admissions process, when the person becomes aware of the conflict.

- b) Committee members with a conflict of interest are not eligible to engage in discussion of said applicant and must abstain from voting on that applicant.
 - 2. The final rank list is submitted to TMDSAS for the Match at the conclusion of the interview season.
 - a) The admissions committee has final authority on the composition of the list.
 - b) Once submitted, the list cannot be changed. Offers must be extended in the order of rank.
 - c) TMDSAS is responsible for disseminating Match results to applicants and institutions. All offers will be made according to the TMDSAS Match timeline.
 - 3. Criminal Background Checks:
 - a) The FFCOM requires that newly admitted applicants to the M.D. program, complete and successfully pass a Criminal Background Check (CBC) prior to matriculation.
 - b) Offers of admission are contingent upon the outcome of the CBC, which will be reviewed by the admissions committee.
 - 4. Immunization Requirements:
 - a) Please view the FFCOM Student Handbook for details.
- D. Transfer Students:
 - 1. The FFCOM does not consider transfer requests at this time.

IV. SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- A. Currently, the FFCOM participates in two special programs through which individuals may be offered admittance to the FFCOM outside the traditional admissions processes described.
- B. JAMP (Joint Admission Medical Program)
 - 1. JAMP is an undergraduate pipeline program created by the Texas Legislature designed to close the gaps between participation and success for economically disadvantaged Texans pursuing a degree in medicine. Texas medical schools host undergraduate student summer programs to help prepare JAMP participants for medical school admissions. JAMP participants who successfully complete the program and satisfy admissions requirements are guaranteed matriculation into a Texas medical school.
 - 2. More information regarding JAMP: <https://www.texasjamp.org/index.html>
- C. HMed (HonorsMed)
 - 1. The baccalaureate/medical doctorate program HMed is a collaboration between the FFCOM and the Honors College (HC) at the University of Houston in which up to six HC students are conditionally accepted to the college of medicine, based upon criteria agreed upon by the HC and the FFCOM.
 - 2. More information regarding HMed: <https://www.uh.edu/honors/Programs-Minors/curricular-programs/honors-med/>

V. MONITORING OF THIS POLICY

- A. The FFCOM Office of Admissions is responsible for monitoring this policy.

Approval History		
<i>Approver</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Date</i>
Transitional Admissions Committee	Approved	July 2019
Admissions Committee	Approved	October 2019
Review by UH Office of General Counsel	N/A	

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