Health Professions Advisors’ Guide

A collaborative guide brought together by a special team from: TAAHP, TXHES, TMDSAS, & JAMP

version 1 (2021)
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The Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) is the centralized application processing service for applicants to the first-year entering classes at all of the public medical, dental, and veterinary schools in the State of Texas.

TMDSAS simplifies the application process for both the applicants and the participating schools. We provide one standardized application, relieving students of the need to complete a separate application for each of the participating schools.

The TMDSAS participating schools benefit by receiving uniform information on all applicants and by designing the questions on the application. TMDSAS is housed within the Texas Health Education Service in Austin, Texas.

**Member Institutions**

**Dental**
- Texas A&M University College of Dentistry
- Texas Tech University Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine
- The University of Texas Health San Antonio School of Dentistry
- The University of Texas Health School of Dentistry at Houston

**Medical**
- Baylor College of Medicine School of Medicine
- Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio
- McGovern Medical School at UT Health Science Center Houston
- Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine
- Texas Tech University Health Science Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at El Paso
- Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Medicine at Lubbock
- University of Houston College of Medicine
- University of North Texas Health Science Center Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
- The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School
- The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine
- The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

**Veterinary**
- Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine

**Resources**

**Application Handbook**  

**Timeline**  
https://www.tmdsas.com/PLAN/references/deadlines.html

**Application Statistics**  
https://www.tmdsas.com/PLAN/references/statistics

**Determining Texas Residency**  
https://www.tmdsas.com/PLAN/references/residency.html

**Applicant User Agreement**  
https://www.tmdsas.com/PLAN/references/policies.html

**TMDSAS Match**  
https://www.tmdsas.com/PLAN/medical/medical-admissions/match.html

**COVID-19 Updates**  
Joint Admission Medical Program

The Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) is a unique program, created by the Texas Legislature to provide support and encouragement for economically disadvantaged students from across the state of Texas to successfully matriculate into medical school and pursue a career in medicine.

JAMP Criteria

- **Apply to a Texas college or university** to enroll for the fall semester immediately following graduation from high school or a home-school program.
- **Take the SAT or ACT.** You must earn a score not less than the mean for the state of Texas.
- **Apply for Financial Aid.** You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) up to 8000.
- **Complete at least 27 hours of undergraduate credit.**
  - *Early Admission:* Earn at least 27 hours of college credit during Senior year of high school as a full-time student (Dual Credit or Early College high school) including two semesters of General Chemistry with associated labs with a grade of "C" or better. (No more than 3 hours of AP credit can be counted toward the 27-hour requirement). [COVID-19 Update]
  - *Regular Admission:* Complete at least 27 hours of college credit during first year of college after graduation from high school as a full-time student including two semesters of General Chemistry with associated labs with a grade of "C" or better. (No more than 3 hours of AP credit can be counted toward the 27-hour requirement). [COVID-19 Update]
- **Earn a 3.25 GPA or higher and 3.25 BCPM GPA** in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math courses
- **Meet with the JAMP Faculty Director (JFD).** The JFD at your school will provide academic advising and assistance in applying to JAMP. Contact your JFD prior to beginning your application to JAMP.
- **Apply to JAMP.** Click on the ‘Applicants Log In’ link at the top of any page of our website.
- **Be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident** and be a Texas Resident. Please refer to the TMDSAS Texas residency page for more information.

Admission Criteria & Guidelines

Amplified Efforts

Since 2003, JAMP has been helping Texas students achieve their dreams, providing:

- Undergraduate scholarships & summer stipends
- JAMP Summer Internship experiences
- Clinical enrichment opportunities
- Comprehensive MCAT preparation program
- Personal & professional development mentoring
- Admission to a participating Texas medical school
- Scholarships to attend medical school

Resources

**Application Handbook**

- [https://www.texasjamp.org/prospective-students/application/index.html](https://www.texasjamp.org/prospective-students/application/index.html)

**Timeline**

Students should start learning about this program as soon as they enter into the institution as there are specific guidelines for when a student must apply. Any student interested in JAMP should absolutely meet with their JAMP Faculty Director for guidance.

**Participating Universities & JAMP Faculty Directory List**

- [https://www.texasjamp.org/about/participating-schools.html](https://www.texasjamp.org/about/participating-schools.html)

**Application Statistics**

- [https://www.texasjamp.org/facultyofficials/index.html](https://www.texasjamp.org/facultyofficials/index.html)

**Featured JAMPers**

Visit our Featured Student Profiles to learn about how JAMP helps our students achieve their goals.

- [https://texasjamp.org/outreach/featuredstudents/index.html](https://texasjamp.org/outreach/featuredstudents/index.html)

*COVID-19 Updates*

The Texas Health Education Service amplifies TMDSAS and JAMP's missions to serve students, collegiate advisors, and professional schools in Texas.

### Goals for TXHES

**Students**
Providing students with accurate educational resources to enhance their preparation for a career in the health professions.

**Advisors**
Supporting efforts by advisors and professional schools to reach students and enrich the applicant pool.

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### Resources

**Inside Health Education**
One-stop-shop for applicants to TMDSAS schools with resources and guidance from TMDSAS, JAMP, and TXHES as well as member institutions and health professions advisors.

- [insidehealtheducation.com](http://insidehealtheducation.com)

**IHE Podcast**
Explore episodes tailored to focus on different parts of the application and preparation process to help you build a competitive application to professional school.

- [Apple Podcasts](https://www.apple.com/cn/podcasts) • [Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/)

**COURAGE SESSION**
Watch live Q&A sessions that address how preparation to dental, medical, or veterinary school has been affected by changes caused by COVID-19.

- "Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."
  - Winston Churchill

- [https://www.youtube.com/texashealtheducationservice](https://www.youtube.com/texashealtheducationservice)

**Newsletter**
The Inside Health Education Newsletter is for current and prospective applicants to receive updates and resources from TXHES and TMDSAS. Please encourage your students to register!

The Advisors’ Newsletter connects you with TMDSAS, TXHES and our member institutions to receive the latest news and updates to support your students. Sign up at:
Preparing for Dental School

Resources for Pre-Dental Students

How DAT Registration Works

Students must obtain a DENTPIN to take the DAT (Dental Admissions Test)


Students are required to read the DAT guide before applying to take the exam.


The cost of the DAT is $475 and includes score reports to all dental schools selected at the time of the exam.

Fee Assistance Program: available for eligible first-time examinees experiencing documented financial hardship.


DAT Structure/Scoring

The DAT is composed of multiple-choice test questions (items). It consists of four sections: Survey of the Natural Sciences, Perceptual Ability, Reading Comprehension, and Quantitative Reasoning.

Scores for the DAT range from 1 to 30. Official passing or failing scores are not published; a scale score of 19 typically signifies average performance nationally.

Competitive scores are unique to each program; however scores of 21 or higher in each section (Academic Average, Perceptual Ability, Total Science) are considered competitive for many programs. Students should review the websites of individual programs to learn more about school-specific competitive scores.

Dental School Explorer (ADEA)

The online ADEA Dental School Explorer is a companion product to the Official Guide printed book. The Dental School Explorer expands on the printed edition's two-page basic profiles of the U.S. and Canadian dental schools.

Improving DAT Scores

Preparation for the DAT can begin as early as the summer after the second year of college (with the completion of Organic Chemistry I & II). The DAT program offers practice tests with questions written by actual DAT test constructors.

How to Prepare for DAT

Preparation for the DAT can begin as early as the summer after the second year of college (with the completion of Organic Chemistry I & II). The DAT program offers practice tests with questions written by actual DAT test constructors.
**ADEA & AADSAS**

**ADEA**  
American Dental Education Association is the national organization which represents dental education.

**AADSAS**  
Associated American Dental Schools Application Service is the centralized application service for non-Texas dental schools, including programs in Canada.

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<tr>
<th>Application Handbook</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<td>The ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (ADEA AADSAS®) simplifies the process of applying to dental programs nationally. To get started, visit the website below for a Quick Start Guide, FAQs, and guidance for completing the application.</td>
<td>The ADEA AADSAS application opens in mid-May and closes in mid-February; however, deadlines to apply are set by each school. Students begin receiving notifications of acceptances in early December.</td>
<td>The cost to apply to AADSAS dental programs varies based on the number of schools selected. The primary application fee ($259) includes application to ONE dental school. The cost to apply to each additional school is $112. Fees are subject to change each application cycle. A fee assistance program (FAP) is available to eligible applicants.</td>
<td>AACOMAS Applicant and Matriculant Profile Summary Report</td>
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Resources for Pre-Medical Students

Preparing for Medical School (AAMC)

Medical students share their perspectives on taking anatomy lab, seeing a patient for the first time, participating in a white coat ceremony, and more.

Pre-Med Navigator Newsletter (AAMC)

Get important information, resources, and tips to help you on your path to medical school—delivered right to your inbox each month.

Anatomy of an Applicant (AAMC)

Medical students share their perspectives on taking anatomy lab, seeing a patient for the first time, participating in a white coat ceremony, and more.

FIRST Financial Information, Resources, Services and Tools (AAMC)

Whether you’re thinking about how to pay for medical school, manage your finances during medical school, or determine your loan repayment options after medical school, with AAMC’s FIRST (Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools) program you’ll find unbiased, reliable guidance along your pathway to medical school and beyond.

MSAR Medical School Admission Requirements (AAMC)

Get important information, resources, and tips to help you on your path to medical school—delivered right to your inbox each month.

Choose DO Explorer

The Choose DO Explorer is AACOM’s fully searchable database that allows students to explore all accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the US. Users can easily navigate application deadlines, tuition rates, letters of recommendation requirements, GPA and MCAT data, and more with just a few clicks. Registration for the Explorer is free of charge.

Universal Advisor Portal

The UAP is a cloud-based platform that provides our health professions advisors with a centralized location to access, query, and report on individuals applying to many health professions programs.

Fee Assistance Program (AAMC)

The AAMC Fee Assistance Program assists those who, without financial assistance, would be unable to take the Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®), apply to medical schools that use the American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®), and more.
Medical College Admission Test

How Registration Works

The MCAT exam is offered multiple times in 2021 from January and March through September at hundreds of test sites in the United States, Canada, and around the world.

How to Prepare

Four sections:
- Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems Section
- Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems Section
- Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior Section
- Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills Section

Scoring:
The AAMC does multiple things when we score your exam:
- MCAT scores are scaled ranging from 118 (lowest) to 132 (highest) per section, and for a total score from 472 to 528.

Strategies For Improving Score

Have I mastered the content tested on the exam?
The MCAT exam tests content found in introductory-level courses at most undergraduate institutions, including biology, general and organic chemistry, and physics, as well as first-semester biochemistry, psychology, and sociology. While there aren't specific courses you have to take to be able to register and take the exam, it's important to feel comfortable with the content and skills tested. If you feel that additional coursework or studying is needed to help you prepare, think about testing after you've had time to complete that coursework and study.

Also keep in mind, medical schools will be able to see all of your scored exams, and there are limits on the number of times you can take the exam. See the MCAT Essentials for more information about viewing your scores, releasing your scores to programs and lifetime limits.

Most importantly, take the exam when you're ready, not when you think you should be.

Create a Study Plan:
Get a six-step guide, developed by the MCAT team at the AAMC, to help you create your own study plan.
Medical School Application Services

AAMCOMAS

Application Handbook
The AACOMAS Applicant Help Center functions as the application handbook for AACOMAS. The Quick Start Guide and FAQs is a great jumping off point for applicants who are just starting the process of opening their application with AACOMAS. Advisors can refer to the AACOM webpage Resources for Health Professions Advisors to learn more about the application service.

Timeline
AACOMAS opens the first week in May each year for entrance into medical school in the fall of the following year. It is important to note that while applicants can submit at any time, colleges of osteopathic medicine do not begin receiving and processing applications in mid-June. While AACOMAS suggests that students submit when ready, they do encourage students to submit by August to ensure that their application is reviewed before priority interview slots are filled. All individual college application deadlines range from October through April of the following year; however, most AACOMAS programs maintain deadlines prior to Feb 1.

Fee Structure
The AACOMAS Fee Waiver Program covers 1) funds for the initial application fee and 2) access to ACOM's Big Interview Platform free of charge. For the 2021-2022 Application cycle, the initial application fee is $197 and each additional designation is $48. ACOM also provides a list of eligible fee waiver program applicants to the individual colleges of osteopathic medicine, because many of the individual colleges will then waive their secondary application fees.

Statistics
AACOMAS Applicant and Matriculant Profile Summary Report

AMCAS

Application Handbook
These pages outline the sections of the AMCAS® application. Full details can be found in the AMCAS® Applicant Guide. Visit the FAQ page for answers to your questions.

Timeline
Use the AAMC American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®) Medical Schools and Deadlines search tool to find application deadlines at participating regular MD programs.

Fee Structure
AMCAS® Processing Fee: $170 (includes one medical school designation). Additional medical school designations: $41 each. Tax, where applicable, will be calculated at checkout.

Statistics
Applicant and Matriculant Data available by institution, legal residency and sex, race and ethnicity, MCAT Scores and GPAs, and summary formats.

Participating Texas Institutions:
University of the Incarnate Word, School of Osteopathic Medicine
TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine
## Preparing for Veterinary School

**What to Know Before You Apply** (AAVMC)
[https://www.aavmc.org/becoming-a-veterinarian/what-to-know-before-you-apply/](https://www.aavmc.org/becoming-a-veterinarian/what-to-know-before-you-apply/)

**My Vet Life** (AVMA)
[https://myvetlife.avma.org/current-student/your-career](https://myvetlife.avma.org/current-student/your-career)

## Pre-Vet Webinars and Events (AAVMC)
Get important information, resources, and tips to help you on your path to vet school.

## Funding your DVM Degree (AAVMC)
Find out more on financial information using the school cost comparison tool, scholarship information, and the Veterinary Debt Initiative (VDI) which is focused on helping veterinarians thrive in financially sustainable and rewarding careers.

## Veterinary Medicine Admissions 101 (AAVMC)
Get important information, resources, and tips to help you on your path to vet school.

## Admitted Student Statistics (AAVMC)
This data is gathered on an annual basis from AAVMC member institutions.

## Texas Vet Schools Admission
- Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine
The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) is sponsored by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). The VMCAS simplifies the process of applying to veterinary programs nationally. To get started, visit the website below for a Quick Start Guide, FAQs, and guidance for completing the application.

The VMCAS application cycle opens in January, but applicants cannot select programs until May. The application closes in September.

Application fees are calculated based on the number of colleges to which you are applying. VMCAS has implemented a fee reimbursement program for those that qualify. The program will open in May when applicants have the ability to submit applications to schools. A limited number of VMCAS fee reimbursements are available through this program.

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges has developed the Profile of Admitted Students (PAS) tool to help prospective students understand the admissions landscape at each college of veterinary medicine to which they are applying. This tool, as a guideline, provides data from the veterinary schools on individual applicant pool size, GPA averages, GRE scores, and more.
TAAHP is a state network of health professions advisors and staff of health professions schools working to promote excellence in pre-health professions advising. Our reach stretches across the state of Texas to promote excellence in pre-health professions advising.

**Mission:**
The purpose of TAAHP is to advance undergraduate education for all the health professions, further the development of health science curricula, facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information and conduct educational meetings.

**Conference:**
At the annual TAAHP conference, advisors and schools learn from each other to improve the training of Texas undergraduates to enter health professions schools. The state-wide conference is held yearly in early February in various locations around the state. The conference is held in the location of the medical school hosting the event.

**Fees:**
Annual membership dues: $40 (due October each year)

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**SAAHP**

The Southeastern Association of Advisors for the Health Professions is comprised of colleges and universities in the Southeastern U.S. concerned with the preparation of students for further study in a wide variety of health-related professions.

**Conference:**
The regional conference is held every other year (opposite of NAAHP's conference) in the city of the medical school hosting the event.

**Fees:**
SAAHP Dues: $20 (due October each year)

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**NAAHP**

The National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions is an organization of health professions advisors at colleges and universities throughout the United States, and abroad.

**Conference:**
The regional conference is held every other year (opposite of SAAHP's conference) in the city of the medical school hosting the event.

**Fees:**
NAAHP Dues (for southeast region): $160
We’re excited to hear from you!

Share your questions or concerns

We want to continue improving this resource, please reach out using the form below and we will bring feedback from the TMDSAS member institutions in the next newsletter.

Feedback Form