



## HOUSTON PREMEDICAL ACADEMY

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Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions | University of Houston | Baylor College of Medicine

### PHILOSOPHY

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The Houston Premedical Academy (HPA) is a partnership between the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions (DHSHP), the University of Houston (UH) and Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). It is a special undergraduate program at UH for DHSHP graduates interested in becoming physicians. Through an academically rich and supportive environment, the HPA program enables students to make their career choices and medical school selection at the same time. Since the HPA began in 1996, 127 students have entered the program, and 64 of 74 program graduates (87%) have matriculated into medical school. To date, 29 HPA graduates have earned their MD degrees, 27 at BCM. There are currently 29 students enrolled at UH and 29 at BCM.

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- Biology
  - Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences
  - Chemistry
  - Computer Science
  - Earth Science
  - Geology
  - Interdisciplinary Sciences
  - Mathematics
  - Physics
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Regardless of major, program students must take and pass all BCM prerequisites from an approved course listing while at UH. These prerequisites are: one year of biology (with lab); one year of general chemistry (with lab); one year of organic chemistry (with lab); one year of physics (with lab); and one year of English. No grade lower than a “C” for these classes will count toward matriculation into BCM. Program students must maintain a semester and cumulative GPA average of at least 3.4 and a semester and cumulative science GPA average of at least 3.2 (on a 4.0 system). In addition, to gain admission into BCM, HPA students must obtain a Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) score of at least 28, with no section score (verbal reasoning, physical sciences, biological sciences) less than 8.0. Support programs at UH and BCM include tutoring and counseling.

All students selected for the program will receive scholarship support from UH. Additional financial aid may be available for eligible students (limited to citizens and permanent residents of the United States). All financial aid provided by UH and BCM is contingent upon students’ maintaining the minimum required grade point averages, participating in summer activities and achieving minimum MCAT scores. Scholarship support at BCM is based upon financial need.

### DESCRIPTION

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Up to 10 graduating DHSHP students are selected to attend the HPA each year. These students also receive provisional acceptance into BCM, but they are required to complete all baccalaureate degree requirements of UH and meet other criteria (outlined below) before being accepted by the medical school. The entire program lasts eight years, from entrance into the HPA at UH through graduation from BCM. During their four years in the HPA, students participate in summer activities designed to increase their awareness and understanding of issues related to medical education and the practice of medicine.

While there is no single prescribed curriculum for the program, all HPA students must major in one of the disciplines within the UH College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, as follows.

## HPA SELECTION

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Graduating DHSHP seniors wishing to participate in the HPA must complete two applications: one for the University of Houston and one for the Houston Premedical Academy. Program selection criteria include: (1) SAT scores no less than 580 critical reading, 600 math and 520 writing (students must take the SAT to be considered for entrance into the program); (2) strong DHSHP academic performance, as evidenced by a minimum overall GPA of 3.2 and core GPA of 3.0 (especially in science, mathematics and English); (3) two letters of support from DHSHP teachers, counselors and/or administrators; (4) one letter of recommendation from Community Service supervisor; (5) evidence of community service while at DHSHP; and (6) motivation and other attributes representative of exceptional achievement. Students from schools other than the DHSHP and students who already have graduated from DHSHP are not eligible for the program.

Applications for the Houston Premedical Academy are due on February 1, 2010, by 5:00 p.m.

Applications of students accepted by UH will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee at BCM. Semi-finalists will be invited to BCM for an interview on Friday, March 5, 2010. Notification of acceptance to the program will be made in early April, 2010.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

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The University of Houston (UH), the state's premier urban teaching and research university, stands at the forefront of education, research and service. The UH campus serves more than 36,000 students in 12 academic colleges and in its interdisciplinary Honors College. The university offers 300 undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs, and awards more than 6,500 degrees annually. It is the most ethnically diverse research university in the U.S. The innovative curriculum, nationally ranked programs, and dynamic learning and mentoring environment bring students face-to-face with award-winning faculty.

UH operates more than 40 research centers and institutes and maintains more than 300 creative partnerships with corporate, civic, and governmental entities. Inter-disciplinary research at UH includes groundbreaking areas such as bionanotechnology, superconductivity, space commercialization, biomedical engineering, economics, education, petroleum exploration, and virtual technology. The UH libraries are Houston's largest, and they house one of the most up-to-date networked electronic publication centers in the nation. Grants and research awards to the university in 2009 exceeded \$100 million.

## BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, the only private medical school in the Greater Southwest, is recognized as a premier academic health science center and is known for excellence in education, research and patient care.

For 2010, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked BCM 17th overall among the nation's top medical schools for research and for primary care. BCM is listed 13th among all U.S. medical schools for National Institutes of Health funding, and No. 2 in the nation in federal funding for research and development in the biological sciences at universities and colleges by the National Science Foundation.

Located in the Texas Medical Center, Baylor College of Medicine has affiliations with eight teaching hospitals, each known for medical excellence. The college has total research support of \$302 million, with \$241 million from federal sources, and more than 90 research and patient-care centers and units. Currently, BCM trains more than 3,000 medical, graduate, nurse anesthesia, and physician assistant students, as well as residents and post-doctoral fellows.

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Additional information and program applications may be obtained from Bernice Ochoa-Shargey, Ph.D., Dean of Instruction at the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions (telephone: 713-741-8923).