



April 9, 2020

Update from TMDSAS and Member Institutions on Changes to Policies and Procedures in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Medical

*Sam Houston State University
College of Osteopathic Medicine*

*Texas A&M Health Science Center
College of Medicine*

*Texas Tech University
Health Science Center El Paso
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine*

*Texas Tech Health Sciences Center
School of Medicine at Lubbock*

*University of North Texas
Health Science Center at Fort Worth
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
Health Science Center at Houston
McGovern Medical School*

*The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio
Long School of Medicine*

*The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine*

*The University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center*

*University of Houston
College of Medicine*

Dental

*Texas A&M Health Science Center
College of Dentistry*

*The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston
School of Dentistry*

*The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio
School of Dentistry*

*Texas Tech University
Health Science Center El Paso
Woody L. Hunt School of Dental
Medicine*

Veterinary

*Texas A&M University
College of Veterinary Medicine*

TMDSAS and its member institutions recognize the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the impact on family and health of our applicants and the pre-health community throughout the State of Texas. Given the unprecedented nature of this pandemic, our member institutions have come together to present the following accommodations and guidelines.

Making Exceptions for Courses Graded as P/F During the COVID-19 Pandemic

TMDSAS member institutions have agreed to accept all courses graded as pass/fail as equivalent to graded courses during the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically the spring 2020 academic term (including winter 2020 quarter term). Member institutions will continue to review candidates utilizing a holistic, individualized review process, considering candidates based on the totality of their academic career.

Regarding Online Pre-Requisite Courses

All prerequisite courses that were transitioned to an online format in the spring 2020 (including winter 2020 quarter term) and summer 2020 academic terms will be applied towards the education requirements for all TMDSAS member institutions.

Regarding MCAT/DAT Test Changes

TMDSAS does not require test scores to process applications, so applicants should not delay applying simply because a MCAT or DAT score is not yet available. TMDSAS member institutions understand that scores will be available later in the cycle and will evaluate applications as scores are submitted to TMDSAS. The schools will use the time allotted from the new timeline to review applications and extend interview invites, ensuring that applicants are not adversely affected.

Immediate Changes to the Application Cycle Timeline

To further support applicants during this time, TMDSAS has elected to extend the application deadline to October 30th, 2020. The deadline will remain September 15th for Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. The deadline for test scores and letters of evaluation has been extended to November 13th, 2020.

Rest assured, we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and assess its impact on the pre-health community and the application cycle moving forward. Please continue to follow updates on the TXHES website: www.txhes.com/newsroom/updates.

On behalf of TMDSAS and our member institutions, our goal is to support our applicants and the pre-health community in this challenging time. We remain committed to your success and encourage our applicants to remain steadfast in the pursuit of their goals.

Matthew C. Meeks, M.Ed.
Executive Director | Texas Health Education Service

Joint Statement from the Admissions Deans of California Medical Schools Regarding Academic Work and MCAT Tests that are Affected by the COVID-19 Outbreak

The purpose of this message is to address concerns from prospective applicants who are experiencing unprecedented educational upheaval during the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants for the upcoming application cycle can count on our common commitment to the following principles:

Pass/Fail Grades – Our schools will accept pass/fail grades, without prejudice, for courses taken during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has always been our practice to consider grades in the context of numerous other aspects of the application, and an international crisis certainly provides a unique and compelling context. In making this statement, we are cognizant of the fact that some undergraduate schools are providing an option for students to take courses either for grades or on a Pass/Fail basis. We therefore want to be explicit that applicants should not feel pressured by us to choose the graded option. Students and their families are facing many challenges at the moment – maybe even life and death challenges. The pressure for grades need not be one of them.

MCAT Tests – We will accept applications from individuals who were unable to take the MCAT due to COVID-related test cancellations. For these candidates, we will base secondary application decisions on the information that is available to us at the time of the application. Assuming that MCAT testing resumes prior to October, we will require applicants to have taken the MCAT before we make admissions decisions for the Class of 2025. Accordingly, applicants should not delay applying simply because an MCAT score is not yet available.

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