Many rural communities across Texas and underserved areas of the state lack adequate access to health care and face physician shortages. If you are from a part of the state without adequate numbers of physicians and you’ve been considering a career in medicine, the Partnership for Primary Care (PPC) program may be for you.

The PPC program is designed to help qualified, dedicated and responsive young people get a solid start in the medical field. This will allow them to eventually contribute to improving health care in parts of Texas that need it most.

This brochure provides a description of the PPC program. For more information, contact the Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) College of Medicine Partnership for Primary Care program, or talk to your high school counselor or college health professions advisor by phone, mail or email at the numbers and address provided in this booklet.

We hope you will consider embarking on an exciting and meaningful career in medicine, which will benefit you as well as your neighbors, community and the state.

PARTNERSHIP UNIVERSITIES

The PPC program is a cooperative program between the TAMHSC-College of Medicine and the following partner universities:

- Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View)
- South Texas College (McAllen)
- Tarleton State University (Stephenville)
- Texas A&M University (College Station)
- Texas A&M University-Commerce
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- Texas A&M International University (Laredo)
- West Texas A&M University (Canyon)

The program is designed to recruit and jointly admit a select group of students with guaranteed admissions to the TAMHSC-College of Medicine.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center complies with Section 504 in its admissions, accessibility, treatment and employment of students in its programs and activities. The HSC provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to students with disabilities, as defined under the law, who are otherwise qualified to meet the institution’s academic requirements. The designated 504 Coordinator for The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center responsible for equal opportunity/affirmative action matters is the Human Resources Department at (979) 436-0073.
DO YOU QUALIFY?

High School Students

To be eligible for consideration as a high school student, you must:

• Have maintained a 3.50 overall GPA on a 4.00 scale at the time of application and through the end of high school;
• Have ranked in the top 10 percent of your high school graduating class at the time of application;
• Have achieved a minimum 1200 SAT or 26 ACT equivalent at the time of application;
• Have a legal residence in a rural, medically underserved or health professional shortage area as defined by the Health Professions Resource Center, Texas Department of Health;
• Be a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident; and
• Be a Texas resident.

College Students

To be eligible for consideration as a college student, you must:

• Be enrolled as a college freshman in one of our partner universities;
• Have maintained a 3.50 GPA or equivalent through the end of high school;
• Have maintained at least a 3.25 GPA through the freshman year of college;
• Have ranked in the top 10 percent of your high school graduating class;
• Have achieved a minimum 1200 SAT or 26 ACT equivalent;
• Have a legal residence in a rural, medically underserved or health professional shortage area as defined by the Health Professions Resource Center, Texas Department of Health;
• Be a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident; and
• Be a Texas resident.

While in college, you must achieve a 3.25 cumulative GPA on a 4.00 scale at the end of the first academic year. Thereafter, you will need to annually maintain a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA and complete the required prerequisite courses with no grade below a “C.”
How the program works

Once accepted into the PPC program, you will take the required college course work at one of our partner universities to earn your baccalaureate degree and to meet the prerequisite courses for medical school.

### Course Requirements

The following medical school prerequisite courses are required with at least a grade of "C" and must be completed before or by the time of enrollment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Biology (with labs)</td>
<td>8 semester</td>
<td>Advanced Biological Sciences</td>
<td>6 semester</td>
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<td></td>
<td>hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>or 9 quarter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>or 12 quarter</td>
<td></td>
<td>hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Chemistry (with labs)</td>
<td>8 semester</td>
<td>General Physics (with labs)</td>
<td>8 semester</td>
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<td></td>
<td>hours</td>
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<td>or 12 quarter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>or 12 quarter</td>
<td></td>
<td>hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry (with labs)</td>
<td>8 semester</td>
<td>Math-Based Statistics</td>
<td>3 semester</td>
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<td></td>
<td>hours</td>
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<td>or 5 quarter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>or 12 quarter</td>
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<td>hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Physics (with labs)</td>
<td>8 semester</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>6 semester</td>
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#### Total Credit Hours

- **47 semester hours**
- **71 quarter hours**

The statistics course should be taught in the math or statistics department. Statistics courses taught at other departments may be considered with appropriate documentation from faculty.

You are also required to:

- Remain in good standing at all times at your college or university;
- Participate in community service and medically-related activities;
- Demonstrate leadership through your student organizations or community service;
- Complete a baccalaureate degree within a standard time frame. (For most students, this will be four years.);
- Take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) in the spring of your junior year; and
- Achieve a minimum MCAT total score of a 25, with no section (verbal reasoning, physical sciences and biological sciences) lower than a 7.

If you meet the requirements listed above, your position in the TAMHSC-College of Medicine will be guaranteed.

While enrolled in the PPC program, you will have the opportunity to participate in several medical enrichment activities during your undergraduate years. These activities include workshops on success in medical school, seminars on topics ranging from medical ethics to medical research, and dialogue with other students in the program. You also will participate in summer academic enrichment programs and clinical observation experiences and visit the TAMHSC-College of Medicine campuses.
The following list outlines potential activities for PPC students during undergraduate training:

YEAR 1
- Clinical observation experience with community-based physicians
- Observation experiences with first- and second-year medical students
- Volunteer work at a community-based hospital or free clinic
- Volunteer community service
- Summer weeklong medically supervised experience at one of our clinical campuses or a clinical preceptorship in hometown
- Participation in the TAMHSC-College of Medicine’s Mini-Medical School health care seminar series

YEAR 2
- Clinical observation experience with community-based physicians
- Observation experiences with third- and fourth-year medical students
- Volunteer work at a community-based hospital or free clinic
- Volunteer community service
- Summer weeklong medically supervised experience at one of our clinical campuses or a clinical preceptorship in hometown
- Participation in the TAMHSC-College of Medicine’s Mini-Medical School health care seminar series
- Taking the MCAT
- Medical school interview

YEAR 3
- Clinical observation experience with community-based physicians
- Observation experiences with third- and fourth-year medical students
- Attending Humanities and Leadership in Medicine seminars
- Volunteer work at a community-based hospital or free clinic
- Continuing volunteer community service
- Summer weeklong medically supervised experience at one of our clinical campuses or a clinical preceptorship in hometown
- Summer undergraduate research fellowship (optional and competitive)
- Participation in the TAMHSC-College of Medicine’s Mini-Medical School health care seminar series
- Orientation and matriculation to the TAMHSC-College of Medicine

YEAR 4
- Clinical observation experience with community-based physicians
- Observation experiences with third- and fourth-year medical students
- Attending Humanities and Leadership in Medicine seminars
- Continuing volunteer community service
- Orientation and matriculation to the TAMHSC-College of Medicine

Once you begin medical school, you will spend your first two years studying the basic structure of the human body and basic principles of other medical science disciplines. You also will cover normal function and disease-related aspects of the specific organ systems including the treatment of these diseases. At the end of your first year, you will have the opportunity to participate in summer clinical preceptorships and experience the health care environment in a rural or medically underserved area of Texas.

Your third and fourth years of medical school are comprised of clinical training at one or more of the TAMHSC-College of Medicine’s clinical affiliates. Students receive clinical training in several different patient care venues including Austin, Bryan-College Station, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Houston, Round Rock and Temple. Arrangements will be made for you to complete selected experiences in a specific primary care or rural medicine track in or near your community, depending on facility availability.
OUR COMMITMENT

The Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine is committed to the health of Texans through integrated education, research and public service programs that emphasize accessibility and community health. The college remains committed to providing an environment that promotes integrity, compassion and excellence in its future physicians and scientists. An emphasis on organ-systems based instruction in the medical sciences produces individuals with the knowledge, expertise and vision to meet the challenges facing medicine in the 21st century.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

For a number of years, Texas has suffered from a shortage of primary care physicians, particularly in rural and underserved areas with a disproportionately low number of primary care physicians. Our hope is that your background, combined with our outstanding medical education, will help develop some of the best physicians available to respond to this need.

CONTACTS

For more information about the PPC program or the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, call or email the Office of Admissions at (979) 436-0237 ext. 0233, admissions@medicine.tamhsc.edu or visit our website at http://medicine.tamhsc.edu/admissions/index.html.

You may also contact your high school counselor or a college health professions advisor at any of the partner universities:

- Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View) (936) 261-3085
- South Texas College (McAllen) (956) 872-1952
- Tarleton State University (Stephenville) (254) 968-9162
- Texas A&M University (College Station) (979) 846-8938
- Texas A&M University-Commerce (903) 886-5368
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (361) 825-6022
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville (361) 593-3797
- Texas A&M International University (Laredo) (956) 326-2320
- West Texas A&M University (Canyon) (806) 651-2569
FILING OF APPLICATION AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

December
December 1—year preceding expected college enrollment
Earliest date to file

February
First Friday of February—year of expected college enrollment
Deadline date to file
Must be received by February 15

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

March
Late March—year preceding expected college enrollment
Applicants are invited for personal interviews based upon their competitiveness in the screening process. Interviews sessions are conducted on a Thursday in late March. Each applicant is given two individual 30-minute interviews by a combination of faculty admissions committee members, medical student admissions committee members, and faculty or administrator guest interviewers. An interview is required for selection, and the process of admitting applicants to the program is selective.

TENDER OF ACCEPTANCE

May
May for high school students—year of expected college enrollment
May for college students—during the spring term of the freshman year
Enrollment is limited to a total of 15 students per year