

PREMEDICAL HONORS COLLEGE

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley | Baylor College of Medicine

PHILOSOPHY

The Premedical Honors College (PHC) is a partnership between the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) and Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). The PHC was implemented in 1994 to address health disparities in the South Texas Region where UTRGV is located. Since the PHC began in 1994, 312 DHSHP students have entered the program and 195 of 213 PHC program graduates (92%) have matriculated into medical school. To date, 146 PHC graduates have earned their MD degrees, 118 at BCM. There are currently 24 students enrolled at UTRGV and 24 at BCM.

DESCRIPTION

The PHC is an eight year BS/MD program. Students will complete undergraduate requirements at UTRGV, and earn their MD degrees from Baylor College of Medicine. Up to 6 students will be accepted to the PHC as high school seniors. The conditions for maintaining acceptance to medical school at BCM are that students must maintain a semester and cumulative GPA average of at least 3.50 and a semester and cumulative science GPA average of at least 3.50 (on a 4.0 system). In addition, to gain admission into BCM, PHC students must obtain a Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) score of 501-507; with no section score (biological and biochemical foundations of living systems, chemical and physical foundations of biological systems, psychological, social and biological foundations of behavior, and critical analysis and reasoning skills) less than 125.

PHC students are required to major in biology, biochemistry, and/or chemistry. Regardless of major, program students need to take and complete at UTRGV, prior to the 4th consecutive year of undergraduate study, all required BCM prerequisite courses including: Math (3-4 semester hours) – Biostatistics (preferred), but any course with quantitative math (*examples: statistics, physics, calculus.*) Expository Writing (3-4 semester hours; *examples: English, philosophy, history, public policy, political science, religion.*) Humanities-Social/Behavioral Sciences (12 semester hours; *examples: psychology, sociology, anthropology, foreign languages, ethics, philosophy, theology, literature, art history.*) Organic Chemistry (6-8 semester hours) – lab is not required.

Biochemistry (3-4 semester hours) – lab is not required.
Advanced Biology (3-4 semester hours) – lab is not required (*examples: genetics, cell/molecular biology.*)
RECOMMENDED: Spanish

No grade lower than a “C” for these classes will count toward matriculation into BCM.

**AP credit may not be applied towards prerequisite courses.*

Some of the support features of the PHC that have made it successful are: (1) enrolling students as a cohort, (2) providing tutoring services for those challenging premedical courses, (3) academic and career advising, (4) summer programs and opportunities, and (5) providing a Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) course for those students who are preparing for the exam.

Applicants to the PHC must:

1. Complete the Apply Texas common application and include UTRGV as a choice;
2. Complete the PHC application (<https://webapps.utrgv.edu/aa/phc>). Students will need to send all requested supporting documentation for each of the applications;
3. Students should also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application can be completed online at www.fafsa.gov. The priority deadline for FAFSA at UTRGV is March 15.

Students can also apply to the UTRGV scholarship fund: <http://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/admissions/paying-for-college/financial-aid/scholarships/index.htm>. Application **deadline** is in **January**. Scholarship support at BCM is based on merit and financial need.

PHC SELECTION

Applications are accepted from the 13 southernmost counties in Texas (Brooks, Cameron, Duval, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Hidalgo, Kenedy, Kleberg, Nueces, Starr, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata). The application, letters of recommendation, high school transcripts and other supporting documents will all be evaluated.

The application/admission process is competitive. Selection decisions are made based on: Essays/personal statements, SAT scores – critical reading and math scores combined must be greater than 1150, strong high school academic performance – courses taken, grades earned, class rank, clinical experience/exposure, volunteer experience, letters of recommendation, and language mastery. All applications will be screened and students will be selected to interview at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Applications for the Premedical Honors College are **due on January 26, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.** The Admissions Committee at BCM will review applications from students and semi-finalists will be invited to **BCM for an interview in Friday, March 3, 2017. Notification of acceptance** to the program will be made in **early April, 2017.**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY (UTRGV)

The University of Texas Rio Grande (UTRGV) was created by the Texas Legislature in 2013, and opened its doors to students Fall 2015. The move combined the assets and resources of UT Brownsville and UT Pan American (UTPA), located in Edinburg, TX. The history of UTPA goes back to 1927 when Edinburg College opened its doors. Edinburg College grew and evolved into a four year university, and became Pan American University, and in 1991 became part of the UT System as UT Pan American. The Brownsville campus started as a satellite campus, and became an independent entity in 1991, as UT Brownsville. The PHC was implemented in 1994 as a partnership between UTPA and Baylor College of Medicine, and continues with the opening of UTRGV.

<http://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/>

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Baylor College of Medicine is a health sciences university that creates knowledge and applies science and discoveries to further education, healthcare and community service locally and globally. Located in Houston's Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world with 21 hospitals, 13 support organizations, eight academic and research institutions, six nursing programs, three public health organizations, three medical schools, two universities, two pharmacy schools, and a dental school.

Ranked as one of the top medical schools for research in [U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Graduate Schools](#).

Ranked first in Texas in funding from the National Institutes of Health.

The only free-standing medical school ranked among the top 50 U.S. colleges and universities for research expenditures by [BestColleges.com](#).

Ranked fourth among the nation's medical schools by [Studentdoc.com](#).

Has 26 departments and more than 90 research and patient-care centers.

Total research support:
\$38.9 million in total funding for sponsored projects in fiscal year 2014.

Over \$121 million in funding from CPRIT, the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, which was established in 2007 with a commitment of \$3 billion to fund groundbreaking cancer research prevention programs and services in Texas over the next 10 years. Ranked 20th for FY 2014 by NIH Funding Rank of U.S. Medical Schools. Baylor has ranked first in Texas since 2006, the first year the rankings were done by [Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research](#).

Currently, BCM trains more than 3,000 medical, graduate, nurse anesthesia, and physician assistant students, as well as residents and post-doctoral fellows.

Follow Baylor College of Medicine on Facebook: (<http://www.facebook.com/BaylorCollegeofMedicine>) and twitter (<http://twitter.com/BCMHouston>).

Additional information may be obtained from Cindy Wedig, PhD, at the University of Texas Rio Grande, Biology Department cindy.wedig@utrgv.edu ; telephone: 956-665-7025.
