



Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is HPAC?

The Health Professions Advisory Committee (or HPAC) consists of 15-18 UH faculty members from across campus. The committee is responsible for evaluating the academic and biographical records of all UH applicants to medical and dental school each year and providing a recommendation letter that will accompany each student's application to medical or dental school. HPAC's recommendation categories are: *Highest Recommendation*, *Highly Recommend*, *Recommend*, *Recommend with Reservations*, and *Unable to Recommend*.

Do I need to complete the HPAC review?

All UH students preparing to apply to medical and dental school are required to complete the HPAC review. Students interested in all other healthcare fields (e.g., optometry, physician assistant, nursing, pharmacy, etc.) will not undergo an HPAC review.

When do I begin the HPAC review process?

Junior/senior pre-medical and pre-dental students preparing to apply for medical or dental school in the upcoming application cycle should begin preparing materials for HPAC during the Fall semester prior to application year. Advisors within the Pre-Health Advising Center will meet with all prospective applicants to provide HPAC application forms and advise the next steps for the HPAC review.

All HPAC participants **must** meet the following minimum requirements to be eligible for review:

- Completion of science-major level Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
- Completion of Organic Chemistry I and completion of or current enrollment in Organic Chemistry II
- Completion of at least 3-credit hours of Biology coursework above freshman-level.
- Minimum overall and science (BCPM) GPA of 3.0

What documents are required for the HPAC review?

If you are applying to medical or dental school and meet HPAC eligibility requirements, you should schedule an appointment with an advisor within Pre-Health Advising Center. During that meeting, you will discuss the application process and be provided the necessary HPAC forms. Generally speaking, your HPAC application will include biographical information, transcripts, a resume, a personal statement, and letters of evaluation.

Do I have to include the HPAC recommendation in my application?

No, all applicants have the option to submit their application and letter packet without the HPAC cover letter and recommendation. However, you must notify the Pre-Health Advising Center to have the HPAC recommendation removed from your letter packet before submission.

I have already graduated from UH—do I need to complete an HPAC review?

Students that have recently graduated from UH are encouraged to still complete an HPAC review, but are not required. Alumni may contact the Pre-Health Advising Center to schedule an appointment.

I am reapplying—do I need to complete an HPAC review again?

Students who reapply to medical/dental school after an initial review by HPAC must be reviewed again by HPAC. The original recommendation letter will not be forwarded again. HPAC will evaluate re-applicant files but the re-applicant must update their file and include at least three current (or updated) letters of evaluation in order to be reviewed again.