



# Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is HPAC?

The [Health Professions Advisory Committee \(or HPAC\)](#) consists of 18 UH faculty members from across campus. The committee is tasked with evaluating the academic and application materials of all UH applicants to medical and dental school each year and providing a committee recommendation letter that will accompany each student's application. The committee letter will outline how competitive the committee believes the applicant's materials to be compared with other UH applicants and how strongly the committee can recommend the applicant for medical or dental school.

### Do I need to complete the HPAC evaluation? Am I required to have a committee letter?

While it is not required to apply, most Texas medical and dental schools recommend the inclusion of a committee letter. The HPAC evaluation also provides the opportunity to begin preparing application materials earlier and receive feedback on these materials. Students interested in all other healthcare fields (e.g., physician assistant, physical therapy, nursing, etc.) will not be evaluated by HPAC nor need a committee letter.

### When do I begin the HPAC evaluation process?

UH students planning to apply to medical or dental school in the upcoming application cycle should begin preparing materials for HPAC during the Spring semester prior to their anticipated application year. Prospective applicants are expected to meet with a Pre-Health advisor or attend a group HPAC orientation session in order to discuss the process for completing the HPAC evaluation.

All HPAC applicants **must** meet the following minimum requirements to be eligible for evaluation:

- Minimum overall and science (BCPM) GPA of 3.0
- Completion of science-major level Biology, Chemistry, and Physics (including labs)
- Completion of Organic Chemistry I and completion of or current enrollment in Biochemistry
- Completion of at least 3-credit hours of advanced Biology coursework (e.g., Genetics, Microbiology, etc.)

### What documents are required for the HPAC evaluation?

Instructions and HPAC application materials can be found on the Pre-Health Advising Center website: <https://uh.edu/pre-health>. Your HPAC file will include: biographical information, transcripts, overview of your extracurricular engagement, a draft of your personal statement, and at least 3 letters of evaluation.

### Do I have to include the HPAC committee letter in my application?

No—all applicants have the option to substitute the HPAC committee letter with a general HPAC cover letter within their letter-packet. However, you must notify the Pre-Health Advising Center to have the HPAC recommendation replaced *before* submission of your letter-packet to the application services (e.g., TMDSAS, AADSAS).

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

Alumni of the University of Houston are eligible to undergo the HPAC evaluation for 1-year post-graduation. Contact the Pre-Health Advising Center for more information at [prehealth@uh.edu](mailto:prehealth@uh.edu).

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

Students reapplying to medical/dental school after an initial evaluation by HPAC must be evaluated again by HPAC—the original application materials and letter packet *cannot* be used. Re-applicants are required to update their file with any new information since the last application, including at least three current (or updated) letters of evaluation and an additional re-applicant statement outlining the steps that were taken to improve the application.