



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

College of Pharmacy



SOUTH TEXAS  
COLLEGE

**Texas A&M University  
Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy  
and  
South Texas College  
Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program  
TAMU-STC PCOP**

Texas A&M University (TAMU), on behalf of Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy (TAMU COP), in cooperation with South Texas College (STC), offers the Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program (PCOP). The purpose of the TAMU-STC PCOP is to facilitate access to the TAMU College of Pharmacy by providing opportunities to fulfill prerequisite courses at STC. Students can be admitted into the TAMU College of Pharmacy either through the TAMU STC PCOP or by application directly to the Texas A&M University Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy after completion of the pre-pharmacy requirements. STC faculty members are available to assist students with either application.

Under the TAMU-STC PCOP, TAMU agrees to grant admissions interviews to participating students selected into the program who comply with the criteria outlined in this agreement. Additionally, TAMU agrees to reserve a minimum of 10 seats per year for South Texas College students.

**Criteria for Acceptance into the TAMU/STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program (TAMU-STC PCOP)**

- a. Admission to South Texas College as an incoming freshman.
- b. In order for South Texas College students to apply to the TAMU-STC PCOP, they must meet the following requirements:
  - Completion of a minimum of 12 and no more than 45 semester hours at South Texas College, including one math and one science course during their entering fall semester.
  - A 3.4 grade point average overall and 3.4 grade point average in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math (BCPM) courses is recommended. Admission is competitive; therefore, preference will be given to those achieving higher scores. Grades from all courses completed before final selection meeting will be considered.
  - A composite SAT or ACT score not less than the mean for the state of Texas, with no section score on either the SAT or ACT below the mean attained in the state, unless other evidence of academic achievement exists.
- c. High school juniors from Starr and Hidalgo Counties with little to no college credits may apply for the

TAMU-STC PCOP through the Dual Enrollment Pharmacy Academy (DEPA) should the academy be available at South Texas College and provided they have:

- An overall high school grade point greater than or equal to 85% or a grade point average (GPA) greater than or equal to 3.4 on a 4.0 scale in the math and science courses.
- A composite SAT or ACT score not less than the mean for the state of Texas, with no section score on either the SAT or ACT below the mean attained in the state, unless other evidence of academic achievement exists

As previously mentioned, TAMU College of Pharmacy agrees to reserve a minimum of 10 seats per year for South Texas College students. South Texas College will recommend how to best allocate those seats each year. TAMU College of Pharmacy, however, will accept no more than 15 DEPA for any given cohort while the number of traditional STC students will remain open to the discretion of TAMU College of Pharmacy Admissions Office.

- d. Non-academic, personal factors such as motivation, maturity, integrity, interpersonal communication, service to others and a demonstrated commitment to study pharmacy will be considered.
- e. Letters of recommendation from three sources. Students may choose from among a high school teacher/counselor, a college professor/advisor, a pharmacist, and a personal reference.
- f. Submission of a copy of official high school transcript.
- g. Submission of a personal statement.
- h. A completed TAMU-STC Pre-Pharmacy Co-op web application submitted by January 15 of the first year that they participate in DEPA. Traditional students attending South Texas College must apply after completion of a minimum of 12 and no more than 45 semester hours at South Texas College including one math and one science course during their entering fall semester.
- i. Official transcripts reflecting grades from all course work completed through the preceding spring semester (and/or mini semester) must be postmarked by January 15 and sent to the following address  
Dr. Ravindra Nandigam  
Physical Science Department Chair  
South Texas College  
3201 W. Pecan  
McAllen, TX 78501
- j. Grades from courses completed after January 15, but prior to final selection meeting must be submitted immediately following completion of the courses.
- k. Interview with TAMU-STC PCOP Director of Admissions or a designee from the Admissions Committee upon invitation.
- l. A signed letter of intent with TAMU-STC PCOP specifying requirements of the program.

**After Acceptance into the TAMU-STC PCOP, Good Standing requires the following:**

- a. Continue attending South Texas College and work toward completing an Associate of Science

Degree at South Texas College.

- b. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4 and a BCPM GPA of 3.4 or higher. GPA will be reviewed annually at the end of the spring semester. Any grade of a D or an F will automatically make a student ineligible to continue in this program.
- c. Continue completing TAMU prerequisite courses.
- d. Take the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) no later than November of the year prior to a student's expected entrance into pharmacy school.
- e. Score a minimum of 60% on the composite section of the PCAT.
- f. Meet with the TAMU-STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Faculty Director at South Texas College at least twice per semester during the academic year.
- ~~g.~~ Make an organized visit to the TAMU College of Pharmacy once during the academic year. Travel arrangements for this visit will not be provided.
- h. Meet with the TAMU College of Pharmacy Director of Admissions at least once per semester during the academic year.
- i. Show proof of volunteer work, community service, and leadership per semester to the TAMU-STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Faculty Director at South Texas College.
- j. Provide updated transcripts of all undergraduate courses and grades each semester to the TAMU College of Pharmacy via a signed FERPA release form submitted to the TAMU-STC Pre- Pharmacy Cooperative Faculty Director at South Texas College.
- k. Remain in good standing at South Texas College. This includes complying with STC's student code of conduct ([https://www.southtexascollege.edu/pdf/student\\_code\\_of\\_conduct.pdf](https://www.southtexascollege.edu/pdf/student_code_of_conduct.pdf))

#### **Criteria for Entrance into TAMU Pharmacy School as a TAMU-STC Pre-Pharmacy Co-Op student**

- a. Enroll in at least 6 credit hours per Fall and Spring terms while attending STC including a minimum of one (1) science course unless the student has completed all of the science courses required for the program.
- b. Earn an Associate of Science Degree from South Texas College prior to matriculation to the TAMU College of Pharmacy.
- c. Attained a minimum score of 60% or greater on the composite section of the PCAT, and submit score officially to TAMU College of Pharmacy through the PharmCas application portal prior to the deadline.
- d. Complete an official TAMU College of Pharmacy **Early Decision Application** and submit supporting documents to the PharmCas application portal prior to the posted deadline(s).
- e. Admission will be reviewed on an individual basis, but students must begin TAMU-STC PCOP coursework within 5 years of their initial enrollment at STC.

- f. Evaluation of additional factors including aptitude, integrity, professionalism, personal and emotional characteristics that are considered necessary for the student to become an effective pharmacist.
- g. Meet all TAMU College of Pharmacy admissions requirements including an interview with the TAMU COP Admissions Committee.

### **Probation and Dismissal**

For purposes of probation and dismissal, compliance with academic standards will be evaluated at the end of the fall and spring semesters only. Summer course work will be evaluated the following fall semester. Evaluation will begin with the spring semester of the freshman year.

A student admitted to the TAMU/STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program who fails to meet the above academic or conduct standards may be:

1. Placed on probation within the TAMU-STC PCOP with appropriate counseling and academic assistance required, or
2. Terminated from the TAMU-STC PCOP at the end of the semester during which the student failed to meet the requirements.

A student's participation in the program is automatically terminated if for two consecutive semesters the student fails to meet the above requirements without good cause as determined by the TAMU-STC PCOP.

Students terminated from the program will receive a letter from the STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Faculty Director indicating that this action has been taken.

### **Common Student Questions about TAMU/STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program**

#### **What is the TAMU/STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program?**

A program developed by the Texas A&M University Kingsville Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy and South Texas College to create a pipeline of highly qualified students who ultimately graduate from TAMU College of Pharmacy with a doctor of pharmacy degree.

#### **What does a student accepted to the TAMU/STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program receive?**

- Mentoring and personal assistance to prepare for TAMU COP while completing the pre-pharmacy curriculum.
- Organized visits to the TAMU COP once a year during the academic year
- Career Counseling
- Mentoring and networking with local alumni;
- Meetings with TAMU COP admissions staff each semester to enhance student preparation for the TAMU COP;
- Admission to TAMU COP if all TAMU-STC PCOP program & college admission requirements are met

#### **How does a student become part of the TAMU/STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program?**

- Have earned an SAT or ACT score at or higher than the mean score for the state of Texas.
- Complete a minimum of 12 hours of undergraduate credit at South Texas College with a minimum of 3.4

Cumulative GPA and a 3.4 or higher BCPM course GPA.

- Apply to the TAMU/STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program no later than January 15 of the freshman year.
- Interview with TAMU-STC PCOP Faculty Director at South Texas College upon invitation and subsequent to receiving a completed application packet.

### **What are the steps a student must take to apply for admission to the TAMU-STC PCOP?**

1. Complete the TAMU/STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program application available at the STC Pecan Campus Room G-156 with Dr. Ravindra Nandigam and return to the Physical Science Department Chair, Dr. Nandigam, no later than January 15.
2. Submit official transcripts from all colleges and universities that the student has attended.
3. Submit an official high school transcript
4. Provide three letters of reference from three of the following sources: a high school teacher/counselor, a college professor/academic advisor, a pharmacist, a personal reference.
5. Submit Personal Statement that should be 1-2 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, about why the student chose pharmacy as a career and what distinguishes them from other students.

### **What is required of a student who is accepted to the TAMU/STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program?**

- Sign a letter of intent with TAMU College of Pharmacy which specifies the requirements of the program.
- Attend South Texas College full-time and earn an Associate of Science Degree from South Texas College.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4 and a minimum cumulative Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Math (BCPM) GPA of 3.4 with all math and science courses taken at South Texas College.
- Take the PCAT no later than November of the year prior and earn a minimum score of 60%
- Meet with the South Texas College pre-pharmacy advisor (Dr. Reginald Gonzales, Dr. Khalid Salmani or Dr. Ravindra Nandigam) at least twice per semester.

### **What is the coursework required for the program?**

- See <https://pharmacy.tamhsc.edu/future/prereqs.html>

Approvals:

**Texas A&M University Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy**

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**South Texas College**

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