

UH/STC Cooperative Pre-Pharmacy Program

The University of Houston (UH) on behalf of its College of Pharmacy, in cooperation with South Texas College (STC), offers a curriculum leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree. The purpose of the UH/STC Cooperative Pre-Pharmacy Program is to facilitate access to the UH College of Pharmacy (UHCOP) by providing opportunities to fulfill prerequisite courses at South Texas College. Students can be admitted into the UH College of Pharmacy either through the UH/STC Pre-Pharmacy Cooperative Program or by application directly to the University of Houston after completion of pre-pharmacy requirements. STC faculty members are available to assist students with either application.

Criteria for Acceptance into the UH/STC Cooperative Pre-Pharmacy Program

- a. Admission to South Texas College as an incoming freshman.
- b. Completion of a minimum of 12 and no more than 30 semester hours at South Texas College, including one math and one science course during the fall semester. A 3.2 grade point average overall and a 3.2 grade point average in math/science courses is recommended. Preference will be given to those achieving higher scores. Grades from all courses completed before final selection meeting will be considered.
- c. Non-academic, personal factors such as motivation, maturity, integrity, interpersonal communication, service to others and a demonstrated commitment to study pharmacy.
- d. 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.
- e. Submission of a copy of official high school transcript.
- f. Submission of a personal statement.
- g. 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.
- h. A completed UH/STC Pre-Pharmacy Co-op web application submitted by January 15th of the freshman year.
- i. Official transcripts reflecting grades from all coursework completed through the preceding spring semester (and/or mini semester) must be postmarked by January 15 and sent to the following address:

Dr. Enriqueta Cortez
South Texas College
3201 W. Pecan
Pecan G-258
McAllen, TX 78501
- j. Grades from courses completed after January 15 but prior to final selection meeting must be submitted immediately following completion of course.
- k. Interview with UHCOP upon invitation.
- l. A signed contract with UHCOP specifying requirements of the program.

1. After acceptance into the UH/STC Co-op Good Standing requires the following:

- a. Continue attending South Texas College and work toward an Associate of Science Degree at South Texas College
- b. Maintain a minimum cumulative UH prerequisite GPA of 3.2 and UH prerequisite GPA of 3.2 and UH prerequisite math/science GPA of 3.2. 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 UH prerequisite courses.
- d. Notify the UHCOP Director of Pharmacy Admissions in writing prior to each registration for the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT).
- e. Take the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) no later than November of the year prior to a student's entrance into pharmacy school.
- f. Score a minimum of 60% on the composite section of the PCAT.
- g. Meet with the UH/STC Pharmacy Cooperative Faculty Director at South Texas College at least twice per semester during the academic year.
- h. Make a personal visit to the UHCOP once a semester during the academic year.
- i. Meet with the UHCOP Director of Pharmacy Admissions at least once per semester during the academic year.
- j. Shadow a current Pharm. D. student once a semester at the UHCOP during the academic year.
- k. Provide updated transcripts of all undergraduate courses and grades each semester to the UH College of Pharmacy via a signed release form submitted to the UH/STC Pharmacy Cooperative Faculty Director at South Texas College.
- l. Remain in good standing at South Texas College. This includes complying with STC's student code of conduct (http://www.southtexascollege.edu/pdf/Student_Code_Of_Conduct.pdf)

2. Criteria for Entrance into Pharmacy School as a Pharmacy Co-op Student

- a. Maintain a full time Fall and Spring student status (minimum of 12 credit hours) including a minimum of one (1) science course each semester unless the student has completed all of the science courses required of the program. The student may have one semester of less than full time status while completing pre-requisite courses.
- b. Earn an Associate of Science Degree from South Texas College.
- c. Attained a minimum score of 60% or greater on the composite section of the PCAT and submit score officially to UHCOP.
- d. Provide official transcripts of all undergraduate courses and grades.
- e. Complete an official PharmCAS application and supporting documents to the UH College of Pharmacy prior to posted deadlines.
- f. Admission will be looked at on an individual basis, but students must begin UHCOP coursework within 5 years of their initial enrollment at STC.
- g. Evaluation of additional factors including aptitude, integrity, personal and emotional characteristics that are considered necessary for the student to become an effective pharmacist.
- h. Summer internship may be required in future years.

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 UH/STC Pharmacy Cooperative Program who fails to meet the above academic criteria or conduct standards may be:

- (1) Placed on probation with appropriate counseling and academic assistance required, or
- (2) Terminated from program at the end of the semester during which 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 UHCOP.

Students terminated from the program will receive a letter indicating that this action has been taken.

Common Student Questions about UH/STC Cooperative Pharmacy Program

What is the UH/STC Pharmacy Cooperative Program?

A program developed by the University of Houston and South Texas College to create a pipeline of highly qualified students who ultimately graduate from UHCOP with a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D.) degree. The program provides for the admission of those students who satisfy both academic and non-academic requirements.

What does a student accepted into the UH/STC Pharmacy Cooperative Program receive?

- Mentoring and personal assistance to prepare for UHCOP while completing the pre-pharmacy curriculum
- Personal visits to the UHCOP once a semester during the academic year.
- Shadow current Pharm D. students at the UHCOP during the academic year.
- Career counselling
- Mentoring and networking with local alumni
- Meetings with UHCOP admissions staff each semester to enhance student preparation for UHCOP
- Admission to UHCOP if all programs requirements are met.

How does a student become a part of the UH/STC 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 3.2 UH Pre-Pharmacy GPA and a 3.2 or higher UH Pre-Pharmacy Math/Science GPA.
- Apply to the UH/STC Pharmacy Cooperative Program no later than January 15 of the freshman year.
- Interview with UHCOP upon invitation by the Pharmacy Director of Admissions subsequent to receiving a completed application packet.

What are the students a student must take to apply for admission to the program?

1. Complete the UH/STC Pharmacy Cooperative Program application available in STC Pecan Campus Room G 146 with Mrs. Karina Cantu and return it to the Physical Science Department Chair, Dr. Enriqueta Cortez, 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, on why you chose pharmacy as a career and what distinguishes you from other students.

What is required of a student who is accepted to the UH/STC Pharmacy Cooperative Program?

- Sign a contract with UHCOP 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 UH Pre-Pharmacy GPA of 3.2 and a minimum cumulative UH Pre-Pharmacy Math/Science GPA of 3.2 with all math and science courses taken at South Texas College.
- Take the PCAT no later than November of the year prior to starting the UHCOP program.
- Attendance at a summer internship may be required in the future; students will be given a minimum of one-year notice for internship requirement.
- Meet with South Texas College pre-health advisor at least twice per semester.

What is the required coursework for this program?

- See <http://www.uh.edu/pharmacy/prospective-students/pharmd/prerequisites/>

Approvals:

University of Houston

Dr. Bruce A. Jones
Vice Provost, Academic Programs
And Interim Vice President

Dr. F. Lamar Pritchard
Dean, College of Pharmacy

Dr. Andrea Smesny
Executive Associate Dean, College of Pharmacy

South Texas College

Dr. Shirley A. Reed
President

Dr. Anahid Petrosian
Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Ali Esmaili
Dean of Math, Science and Bachelors Programs