



College of Osteopathic Medicine  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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**Element 9.1: Admissions Policy**

- **9.1-1 Supporting Documentation**
  - Admission Requirements and Policies and Procedures for Osteopathic Medical Student Selection and Enrollment – [link](#)

## Admissions Requirements and Policies and Procedures for Osteopathic Medical Student Selection and Enrollment

The SHSU-COM Admissions Policy and Procedures are included below. These documents were reviewed and approved by the COM Admissions Committee on March 1, 2023 and the SHSU-COM Executive Committee on May 2, 2023. In the policy and procedure documents, osteopathic medical student selection for admission and enrollment, including demonstration of technical skills for admissions, is described. The COM Admission Policy ties directly to the COM mission and helps to identify qualified applicants, while complying with state law standards for admission to graduate and professional programs. (Texas Education Code § 51.842).

Through the website, the [SHSU-COM shall annually publish the national and state averages of both MCAT scores and GPAs of matriculated medical students as provided by TMDSAS](#). Additionally, the SHSU-COM's website will provide the average MCAT and GPAs of the most recently matriculated SHSU-COM students on an annual basis. With this information, prospective students may judge their individual level of competitiveness. For example, the current national averages for Osteopathic matriculants are 3.56 GPA and 504.64 MCAT (AACOMAS, 2021) and the current state averages for matriculants are 3.82 GPA and 511.7 MCAT (TMDSAS, 2022). SHSU-COM's most recent cohort (EY22) had a 3.73 overall GPA and 506 MCAT.

In training admissions personnel and approved file reviewers, SHSU-COM, as part of the holistic review process, considers all elements of each candidate's application. This process is outlined in the admissions procedures document.

Please note that with the exception of legislatively created pipeline programs, there are no minimums for MCAT and GPAs provided in the SHSU-COM Admissions Policy. In Texas, per Texas Education Code § 51.842 public medical schools are prohibited from using a minimum score as the sole or primary criterion to end consideration of an applicant.

## 1. GENERAL

1.01 The Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (SHSU-COM) is committed to training individuals who are prepared to participate in the continuum of medical training to become future doctors of osteopathic medicine. The SHSU-COM does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, national origin, age, disabilities, religion, creed, ancestry, marital status, citizenship, or veteran's status. The SHSU-COM expects that technical standards be met by all applicants and students, but will not discriminate against individuals who are otherwise qualified.

1.02 The SHSU-COM conducts a holistic review process, in compliance with the Texas Education Code Admission and Scholarship Factors for Graduate and Professional Programs. (Tex. Educ. Code § 51.842). In summary, the Office of Admissions and the SHSU-COM Admissions Committee considers the following:

- Motivation, dedication, and passion for the osteopathic medical profession
- Commitment to social accountability and alignment with SHSU-COM mission
- Academic achievement and scholarship
- Socioeconomic background
- Life experience

1.03 SHSU-COM shall annually publish the national and state average MCAT scores and GPAs of matriculated students. Additionally, the SHSU-COM shall annually publish the average MCAT, GPA, and demographic profile of the most recently matriculated student cohort.

## 2. ADMISSION PREREQUISITES AND MATRICULATION REQUIREMENTS

2.01 At least three years (90 semester hours or 134 quarter hours) towards a bachelor's degree from a U.S. or Canadian college or university accredited by a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized accrediting body (some courses may be in progress).

2.02 Completion of the following courses with no grade below "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale):

- English, 6 credit hours
- Biology, including laboratory; 8 credit hours
- Physics, including laboratory; 8 credit hours
- General Chemistry, including laboratory; 8 credit hours
- Organic Chemistry, including laboratory; 8 credit hours
  - Biochemistry can be substituted for Organic Chemistry II
- Mathematics: 6 credit hours - 3 hours must be Statistics

- 2.03 Submit to a criminal background check prior to matriculation. Applicants are on notice that individuals with a criminal history may be unable to secure partner medical facility approvals for participation in required clinical rotations, which will preclude completion and award of the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. Applicants are further advised that the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners may deny the application for license to practice medicine of an individual with a criminal history that includes a felony or certain misdemeanors. For more information, applicants should see Title 3 of the Texas Occupations Code.
- 2.04 In order to matriculate, SHSU-COM accepted candidates must submit post-graduation official transcripts reflecting the degree earned from U.S. or Canadian colleges or universities accredited by a Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recognized accreditation body. Transcripts must include all work completed as well as the degree and the date the degree was conferred or awarded. All degrees must be conferred and verified before the first day of orientation at SHSU-COM.

### 3. MINIMUM TECHNICAL STANDARDS

- 3.01 The Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine expects its applicants and students to meet certain minimum technical standards. Every applicant and student of the Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is expected to possess those intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the full curriculum and to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty and profession.
- 3.02 SHSU-COM applicants must possess the minimum technical skills and abilities included in the AACOM Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles (ECOP) Technical Standards Document. These standards may be viewed at the following link [https://www.aacom.org/docs/default-source/councils/aacom\\_ecop\\_technical\\_standards\\_2009.pdf?sfvrsn=1f226197\\_4](https://www.aacom.org/docs/default-source/councils/aacom_ecop_technical_standards_2009.pdf?sfvrsn=1f226197_4) and are outlined below:
- a. Observation and Visual Integration
  - b. Communication
  - c. Motor Function
  - d. Sensory Skills
  - e. Strength and Mobility
  - f. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities
  - g. Behavioral and Social Attributes

- h. Participation in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Laboratory and Clinical Care Encounters
- i. Dress Code in Osteopathic Principles and Practice Laboratories

#### 4. SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

4.01 A medical school applicant must submit the following documentation:


- a. Completed Texas Medical and Dental School Application Service (TMDSAS) application with non-refundable application fee.
- b. Official transcripts from all prior educational institutions attended sent directly to TMDSAS.
- c. MCAT scores released directly to TMDSAS.
- d. Letters of recommendation accepted via TMDSAS.
- e. SHSU-COM Supplemental Application with non-refundable application fee.

#### 5. MEDICAL STUDENT SELECTION

5.01 The Office of Admissions reviews all applications. Candidates with a completed TMDSAS application are invited to complete the SHSU-COM supplemental application.

5.02 After submission of the supplemental application, completed files are reviewed and selected qualified candidates are invited to a required in-person interview.

5.03 The SHSU-COM Admissions Committee will render final decisions on accepted, rejected, and wait-listed applicants. Decisions are not subject to appeal.

APPROVED:   
Dana G. Hoyt, President

DATED: 1/4/20

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

This academic policy statement (APS) has been approved by the reviewer(s) listed below and represents SHSU's Division of Academic Affairs' policy from the date of this document until superseded.

Original: June 21, 2018  
Reviewer(s): Council of Academic Deans  
Academic Affairs Council

Review Cycle: Five years\*  
Review Date: Spring 2023

Approved: Richard Eglsaer  
Richard Eglsaer  
Provost and Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Date: Jan. 6, 2020

\*Effective January 2018, Academic Policy Statements will be reviewed on a rotating 5-year schedule. To transition to a distributed review load, some policies may be reviewed prior to the 5-year timeframe, with subsequent reviews transitioning to the 5-year schedule.

## Admissions Procedures

**Procedure Title: SHSU-COM Admissions Process**

**Effective: Upon Receiving Pre-Accreditation Status**

**Corresponding Policy: Medical Student Admissions Policy  
COCA Standard/Element COCA 9.1 – Admissions Policy**

**Revised and Approved by COM Admissions Committee on March, 1, 2023**

**Reviewed and Approved by CEC on May 2, 2023**

**Description:** SHSU-COM adopts admissions policies and criteria designed to recruit and enroll diverse and highly qualified candidates for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree. All admissions policies and technical standards are tied to the COM mission and will be posted on the SHSU-COM website.

Procedure Step/Task		Responsible Party
1.	The SHSU-COM Dean is regularly updated on the application and admissions process as well as the implementation of admissions policies and pipeline programs at the SHSU-COM.	SHSU-COM Associate Director of Admissions SHSU-COM Director of Enrollment Services
2.	SHSU-COM requires that all candidates accepted for admission will, by the time of enrollment, have completed the admissions prerequisites as outlined in the Admissions Policy.	SHSU-COM Associate Director of Admissions SHSU-COM Registrar
3.	Candidates presenting credentials from colleges or universities outside of the United States must show proof of equivalency to US-based education that is verifiable before their application will be considered.	SHSU-COM Associate Director of Admissions
4.	Students seeking applicant information for the SHSU-COM will be provided with national averages of both MCAT scores and GPAs so that they may judge their level of competitiveness. SHSU-COM publishes this information as well as its averages on the SHSU-COM website after each class matriculates..	SHSU-COM Associate Director of Admissions SHSU-COM Director of Enrollment Services
5.	SHSU-COM utilizes uniform selections criteria that are relevant to the curriculum and mission and are in compliance with all regulatory authority and accreditation.	SHSU-COM Admissions Committee SHSU-COM College Executive Committee
6.	The Admissions Committee will ask for and obtain outcomes data that includes SHSU-COM student performance, residency, and practice information to inform the selections process and ensure alignment with the mission of SHSU-COM.	SHSU-COM Admissions Committee SHSU Enrollment Success SHSU-COM Educational Affairs

7.	The SHSU-COM Dean is provided regular reports regarding the selection process and the academic profile for each class. State and national MCAT and GPA averages are referenced and referred to instead of posting minimums due to the holistic review process. Matriculant profile data are posted for each cohort when it becomes available.	SHSU-COM Associate Director of Admissions SHSU-COM Dean
8.	Admissions policies and procedures are reviewed bi-annually. Any changes to the policy must go through the SHSU approval process. Policy changes shall be published one year in advance of their implementation in accordance with Texas Education Code 51.842.	SHSU-COM Associate Director of Admissions SHSU-COM Dean SHSU Academic Affairs