FAQs

ELIGIBILITY

How can I find out more about JAMP and the application requirements?

The first thing to do is look over the JAMP website: www.texasjamp.org. There is a tremendous amount of information under the “Students” tab of the website. You should also look through the application instructions and log into each section of the application to get an idea of the process.

How do you calculate your GPA (cumulative & science) to determine if you are eligible for JAMP?

Your cumulative GPA is based on all college-level courses you have completed. This means if you took college coursework in the summers or completed dual enrollment courses while in high school, those grades are included in your cumulative GPA. Your cumulative GPA must be at least a 3.25.

Using those same guidelines of all college-level coursework – your BCPM GPA includes all Biology, Chemistry, Math, and Physics coursework. Statistics is also included under Math. Your BCPM GPA must also be at least 3.25.

Do I have to be a science major to qualify for JAMP?

Your choice of major does not make a difference in the JAMP program. As long as you are completing the pre-medical science requirements, you can major in anything!

If I am classified as a sophomore because of my AP credit, will that affect my eligibility and when I apply to JAMP?

The JAMP requirements do not follow classification; rather they follow the number of years in undergraduate education. Many students enter the university with several hours of AP or dual credit, which can advance their classification to sophomore level. The program is designed for students to apply after their first full year of undergraduate education, regardless of the classification. The plan is for students to enter the program in the spring of their second year and to complete their undergraduate education in the next 1 and ½ to 2 years. It is not designed for students who wish to complete their undergraduate education in three years or less.

The JAMP website states that if I am interested in applying to JAMP that I must have regular meetings with my JAMP Faculty Director – how do I make an appointment with the director? And what if I just learned about the program and haven’t been able to meet with the director yet?

The official JAMP website serves all institutions that participate in the program. For larger institutions, not all of the program suggestions work from an operations standpoint. UT is the largest institution with the largest number of interested applicants. This means Dr. Kopp, JAMP Faculty Director and Shannon Gutheil, our JAMP Coordinator,
would be booked solid for two weeks out of every month if they met with all interested applicants (along with their time meeting with current participants in the program)! So, given the time constraints and the sheer numbers, we don’t incorporate that suggestion here at UT.

Having said that, the purpose of the "monthly meeting suggestion" from JAMP is to help first year students who may have concerns about their academics or adjusting to their life at UT. If you find yourself in that situation, please make an appointment with Shannon Gutheil, by calling the Health Professions Office at 512-471-3172. She can help assess the situation and connect you with the resources you need.

**I am transferring to UT Austin beginning my sophomore year – can I still apply for JAMP?**

Yes, if you meet the other requirements. You must:

- Have enrolled in college the first fall semester after graduation from high school
- Have completed at least 27 hours during the fall and spring semester of your first year of college (no more than 3 hours of AP credit can count toward that total)
- Have met the GPA requirements of 3.25 (cumulative and science). See FAQ on calculating GPAs listed above.
- Be able to get a letter of evaluation from a faculty member at the institution where you attended your first year.

**COMPETITIVENESS**

**How many students actually get interviewed and how many actually get picked?**

A good number of the applicants receive an interview. In other words, the initial review of the application is not used to “whittle” down the applicant pool. If the council feels the applicant would possibly make a good JAMP student, they will receive an interview.

Regarding how many students get selected for the program, there is not a straightforward answer because there are not firm guidelines for the number of places. Each public institution is initially allotted 2 places, while private institutions are allotted 1. Sometimes the smaller or more remote universities have a hard time coming up with candidates to fill their places. Those “extra places” get divided out among the larger institutions that have more than enough qualified candidates. Another factor is the number of places in the program statewide. That number is not always consistent. The program grew over the initial few years and peaked at 150 places in the program. Due to the recent downturn in the economy, the program suffered budget cuts and the statewide places have been reduced to 100. UT always received more than two places in the program with numbers ranging from 6 to 36.

**What does it mean to be an alternate?**

Because the program spans a couple of years, the JAMP council designates alternate candidates. These students replace those who opt out of the program or who fall below the program criteria. Students, who are in the alternate position, do not receive scholarship money or participate in the summer internships, but they are included in the monthly lunches with the JAMP Coordinator and are encouraged to participate in Texas JAMP (the student organization which supports members and alternates).
These students’ progress is monitored by the JAMP Council through transcript updates. If a place opens up in the program and the alternate still meets program criteria (GPA, MCAT score, Graduation in four years), they may be invited into the program.

What are the average GPAs from past years?

Even though the GPA minimums are 3.25, candidates at UT Austin generally have higher GPAs. The average cumulative GPAs for successful candidates have been between 3.67 and 3.97 over the past several years.

What kinds of non-academic issues are considered important as an applicant?

In addition to your academic performance, you must be able to present a genuine interest in medicine. This interest should be clearly outlined in the application essay. You must be able to answer the question – why do you want to be a doctor? The JAMP Council will also look at work and extracurricular activities to see how you balance your time.

APPLICATION

I am definitely interested in applying – where do I start?

The best place to start is the QuickStart Guide, which is located on our JAMP Applicant website.

I am having trouble with the online application, who can help me.

Please direct all inquiries regarding the application to the JAMP Office.

Some of the JAMP forms ask for the JAMP Faculty Director’s name and address – where can I find that information?

If you get the Notice of Intent to Apply and the JAMP Applicant Evaluation Form from our website, the information has already been added to the form. On the official JAMP website, the forms are generic so that applicants from any institution can use them. Either version is fine. The JAMP Faculty Director information that must be added to the generic form follows:

- Sacha Kopp, PhD
- Associate Dean, College of Natural Sciences Professor, Department of Physics
- The University of Texas at Austin, 103 W. 24th St. Mail Stop A2900 Austin, TX 78712

What’s the purpose of the Notice of Intent to Apply?

This form authorizes us to gather your supporting paperwork - UT transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, high school rank, and financial aid information.
The application instructs me to submit transcripts (high school and college), my SAT/ACT scores, my high school rank, and my financial documentation. How do I collect these documents and where do I send them?

At UT Austin, we gather most of your documents for you. This includes your Official UT Transcript, copies of any transcripts submitted from other institutions, your high school transcript, your high school rank, and SAT/ACT scores. You will access your financial aid information and send it to the Health Professions Office.

**Special note:** If you attended another institution and decided not to transfer the credit, you will need to send an official transcript from that institution to the address listed below:

Health Professions Office  
JAMP Coordinator  
The University of Texas at Austin 103 West 24th Street, Mail Stop A2900, PAI 5.03 Austin, TX 78712

Is it okay if my faculty member wants to write a letter, instead of filling out the JAMP evaluation form?

Is it okay if your faculty member wants to write a letter, but JAMP will still require the first page of the evaluation form to be completed. You will have completed the top portion of the form either waiving or retaining the right to see the evaluation. The evaluator will fill in their contact information at the bottom of the form and simply write “see attached letter” at the top of the second page. The form should then be stapled to the letter.

**What is the purpose of the “waive or retain the rights to see the evaluation” at the top of the JAMP Evaluation Form? Is one option better than the other?**

BEFORE you give the evaluation form to the faculty member, you need to select one of the options about whether you waive or reserve the right to see the evaluation. We recommend that you waive the right to see the evaluation. This underscores the honesty of the evaluation. (If you retain the right to see the letter, it could mean that the evaluator feels pressured to write a less than honest appraisal of your capabilities.)

**Does my faculty evaluation have to come from a professor or could I get a high school teacher to complete the form?**

The JAMP Council will not accept evaluations from high school teachers. They are looking for an evaluation from someone who has seen you perform academically at the college level. The faculty is used to being approached by students for evaluations and letters of recommendation so don’t be shy. It would be helpful to give them information about JAMP so they understand what is on the line - this isn't simply a monetary scholarship; it's the potential for a guaranteed spot in med school.

**What happens after the online application and the supporting documentation are submitted?**

The JAMP Office will distribute your complete application (including the supporting documentation) to (2) JAMP Council Members for review. [The JAMP Council is made up of Admissions Representatives from the 9 Texas Medical Schools.] Each reviewer will rate your application independently. From this, your application will be assigned a composite score.

The JAMP Council meets in the last week of November to review the applicants and select candidates for interview. You will be notified by the end of the first week of December if you are invited to interview. The interviews will take place here (on campus) in the spring, either the week before classes begin or the first week of classes. You will participate in (2) 20-minute interviews (one-on-one) with JAMP Council Members. The interviewers will assign independent scores. Those scores are then averaged to determine rank. The JAMP Council will then select participants and alternate candidates based on ranking. All candidates will be notified of their status by mid-February.