SOPHAS APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

**MPH/MD – MPH Customized-Houston Campus-MD-McGovern Medical School**

Application Deadlines: [https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/admissions/application-deadlines/](https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/admissions/application-deadlines/)

- **December 1** Deadline for all degree-seeking applicants who wish to be considered for new student scholarships *(GRE scores are required to be considered for New Student Scholarships)*
- **March 1** Deadline for MD/MPH for Summer/Fall
- **October 1** Deadline for MD/MPH for Spring

Visit [SOPHAS.org](http://sophas.org) to explore, prepare, apply, and review the Schools of Public Health Application Service website.

Review the SOPHAS Frequently Asked Questions before initiating the application [http://sophas.org/faqs/](http://sophas.org/faqs/)

Select “APPLY” and click on “Create an Account” to start the online application.

**Create a new applicant account** by completing the required data fields and agreeing to the terms and conditions listed. Please then select “Create my Account” to finalize your account setup.

*An automated email from SOPHAS will be sent immediately to the email account the applicant listed.*

On the next screen, “Start Your Application,” use the dropdown menu to select our institution “University of Texas School of Public Health” and click “Search”

Select the drop down menu for degree and select “MPH/MD”

Click on “+” to add “MPH/MD-MPH Customized - Houston Campus-MD-McGovern Medical School”

Click on “I am Done, Review my Selections”

Please review your program selections to make sure that they are correct and then select “Continue to my Application.”

SOPHAS will then guide you to the following page:
Click on each box and fill out required fields.

***PLEASE COMPLETE ALL BOXES (Personal Information, Academic History, Supporting Information, Program Materials) AND ALL DATA FIELDS THAT ARE REQUIRED ***

*We highly recommend* that you complete the additional information fields of community service, honors, research and other

A writing sample is NOT required for MD/MPH applicants.

PLEASE NOTE: SOPHAS *does not* have a mechanism to accept TMDSAS materials! Therefore, you must request your letters of reference as stated below:

When you click on the box for “Supporting Information” click on the box for “Evaluations” (Letters of Reference)

SOPHAS requests applicants to provide a minimum of three references. *UTHealth-School of Public Health only requires 2 Letters of Reference.*
Select “Create Evaluation Request” and fill in required information.

- Please request two-three references from professors who know you as a student and your potential/promise as a public health professional; you can request the letters written for your medical school application from the original letter writers.
- You are only required to submit two letters. If you choose not to request a reference for the third entry, please enter Laura Benjamins, M.D., M.P.H. information as a placeholder. Dr. Benjamins is the MD/MPH director at the McGovern Medical School at UTHealth – her information is below.

Please contact the Student Affairs Office at the McGovern Medical School to let them know that you are applying for the dual degree program.

Student Affairs Office: 713.500.5116; https://med.uth.edu/admissions/

If you will not be submitting a third letter, please enter the following information for the third reference:

Director – MD/MPH Program

Dr.

Laura

Benjamins

Laura.J.Benjamins@uth.tmc.edu

713-500-5714

Dr. Benjamins will NOT be submitting a letter for you; she will act ONLY as a placeholder.

When you are completing the Program Materials box:

Click on the “Program Materials” box and select the “Documents” tab

For the “Personal Statement” section, SOPHAS requires applicants to submit a narrative commenting on any or all of the following: plans you have to use your education and training; the needs and/or challenges you perceive as important in your field of study; and any personal
qualities, characteristics, and skills you believe will enable you to be successful in your chosen field of study. The word maximum is 1500. It is recommended to compose the narrative in a text editor and then copy/paste it into the application data field.

- The personal statement and objectives is required. The writing sample, as mentioned above, is NOT required.

“Academic History” section: The mechanism for entering coursework from your prior degrees works just like TMDSAS. You have to have a copy of your prior transcripts to view and then enter course-by-course the course names and grades. You will then be asked to make transcript requests from the academic institutions to forward official copies directly to SOPHAS (the address is provided within the SOPHAS application portal).

**SOPHAS does not have a mechanism to accept the TMDSAS materials.**

In the “Academic History” section > “Standardized Test” data fields, the MD/MPH applicant’s **GRE requirement is waived** if an official acceptance offer has been made from the McGovern Medical School at UTHealth. *(SOPHAS code 4479. Please note that GRE scores are used by the Admissions Committee to aid in the determination of qualified recipients of competitive scholarships.)*

When the application is complete, at the top of the application page you select **“Submit Application”** you will pay the application and e-submit your application.

Once the application is submitted, Please e-mail Elvis Parada; Elvis.A.Parada@uth.tmc.edu and Robert Hammarberg; Robert.Hammarberg@uth.tmc.edu at the UTHealth School of Public Health, a PDF copy of your admissions letter to the Medical School.

For questions about your SOPHAS application, please contact:

**Mr. Elvis Parada, MS**  
**Senior Student Services Coordinator**  
**UTHealth-School of Public Health**  
Elvis.A.Parada@uth.tmc.edu  
713-500-9028