Spring 2015 Orientation Information

Congratulations on being admitted to the UT School of Public Health! We are excited to welcome you as a member of the entering class of Spring 2015. Completion of the steps listed in this email will provide you the smoothest transition into the school. Be sure to update your email and address with the Registrar’s Office if it changes.

As a new student, you should have received your username and password for myUTH. It is used to log in for various purposes. If you have not received your username and password, please contact the Helpdesk at 713-500-4848.

Confirm Your Attendance: If your plans to enroll for the Spring 2015 have changed, please inform the Student Affairs Office by updating myUTH at: https://my.uth.tmc.edu/psp/myuth/MYUTH/ENTP/h/?tab=UT_EP_NVT_SIGNON. If you wish to defer your enrollment to a later date, you may make that request by contacting Dr. Mary Ann Smith, Associate Dean for Student Affairs at: SPHAdmissionsDeferral@uth.tmc.edu.

New Student Orientation on January 6, 2015. Attendance is MANDATORY for all degree-seeking students. If you were admitted to one of the regional campuses (Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, or San Antonio), please confirm the orientation date with the campus’ Admissions Coordinator. The Orientation Sample Schedule is attached and available at https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/current-students/newly-admitted-students. Course registration is contingent upon attendance at Orientation. January 7, 2015 is highly encouraged for new students to attend to gain more in-depth knowledge in areas such as: Career Services, Concentrations, etc.

Join the UTSPH Spring Entering Class of 2015 Facebook group to receive reminders and information, and to connect with your classmates.

UT Health SPH Spring 2015 Entering Class

To Do List

After logging in to myUTH, you will be required to complete the items on your “To Do List”. You must complete the following steps prior to attending orientation, as registration for Spring 2015 classes is contingent upon completion of all items. We strongly encourage you to complete these items as soon as possible since they may take some time to process. It is not in your best interest to put this off until just prior to the beginning of the semester. Classes begin
on January 12, 2015. The New Student Checklist is located at: [https://sph.uth.edu/current-students/newly-admitted-students](https://sph.uth.edu/current-students/newly-admitted-students).

Below is a screen shot of the main page of myUTH. You will see “Holds and To Do” circled. The items below will appear in your To Do List until they are completed.

- **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**: All new students are required to complete a criminal background check located at: [https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/current-students/newly-admitted-students](https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/current-students/newly-admitted-students).

  Office of Student Affairs  
  Attn: Admissions  
  UT School of Public Health  
  1200 Pressler Street  
  Houston, TX 77030  
  Fax: 713-500-9068

*International students who arrive in the US less than 30 days prior to Orientation are exempt from this report.* For more details, see your acceptance letter or contact the International Affairs Office at: [http://www.uthouston.edu/international-affairs](http://www.uthouston.edu/international-affairs).
• **Identity Management Hold**
  Students must present a valid government issued identification card (driver license or passport). The identification card must contain name, address, date of birth, and photo. The hold will not be removed without the proper identification.

• **RESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE**: Forms can be found at: [http://registrar.uth.tmc.edu/Services/Student_Forms.html#Residency](http://registrar.uth.tmc.edu/Services/Student_Forms.html#Residency) Complete the form and return it to:

  UT-Health, Office of the Registrar
  PO Box 20036
  Houston TX  77225
  Phone:  713-500-3361
  Fax:  713-500-3356

• **IMMUNIZATION RECORDS**: Forms can be found at: [https://sph.uth.edu/content/uploads/2010/08/Certification-of-Immunization.pdf](https://sph.uth.edu/content/uploads/2010/08/Certification-of-Immunization.pdf). Immunization Records are submitted online; please contact the Student Health Services with additional questions.

  UT-Health, Student Health Services
  6410 Fannin Street, Suite 1010
  Houston TX  77030
  Phone:  713-500-5171
  Fax:  713-500-0605

• **FINAL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS**: Verify that all of your final official transcripts have been received by the Registrar’s Office. Questions may be directed to The Office of the Registrar by calling 713-500-3388 or via email at registrar@uth.tmc.edu.

• **REGISTRATION**: Once the above steps have been completed, you will be cleared to register. Registration is also contingent upon attendance at Orientation on January 6, 2015. The earliest time for new students to register is the afternoon of Orientation day.

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**Scientific Writing Requirement**

During orientation, *all* new degree-seeking students *must* attend a workshop on scientific writing and do a writing self-assessment. It will take you about 90 minutes to complete both parts (the schedule will be posted on December 10, 2014):

1. View a brief presentation on ways to improve your scientific writing skills;

2. Write a brief essay (300-600 words) in response to a prompt. Both you and your advisor will receive a copy of your score report.
The writing assessment serves two purposes, both of which are equally important:

1. To provide you and your advisor information about your *current* writing skills (no matter how advanced) so that you may plan your curriculum for your maximum benefit during your tenure as a student at UTSPH.

2. To provide the Office of Academic Affairs with information about the full range of writing skills amongst our entering graduate students, so that we can plan how to enhance the communication skills of our students at all levels.

**Other Helpful Information**


- **HOUSING:** Information regarding UT Housing can be found at: [http://www.uth.edu/auxiliary-enterprises](http://www.uth.edu/auxiliary-enterprises). However, since it is usually filled to capacity, you will need to consider alternative housing options. Apartment locators can assist you at no charge, or you may consider nearby housing options. For further information see: [https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/current-students/student-life-and-resources](https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/current-students/student-life-and-resources).

- **TRANSPORTATION, PARKING, STUDENT LIFE, AND RESOURCES IN HOUSTON:**

  The School of Public Health is located at 1200 Pressler Street in the Texas Medical Center. Directions and maps can be found at [http://www.tmcmaps.info/](http://www.tmcmaps.info/). Since student parking is very limited, public transportation is recommended to and from the Medical Center. Metro routes and schedules can be found at: [http://www.ridemetro.org/](http://www.ridemetro.org/). The Metro Light Rail TMC Transit Center stop is just a short walk from the School of Public Health. Daily parking within a short walking distance is available at the University Center Tower Garage located at 7000 Fannin, and at the TMC Garage #2, located on Holcombe Blvd. at Bertner Street. There is also visitor and contract parking available at the South Extension Lot located at 1522 S. Braeswood Blvd. and William C. Harvin Blvd.

  The UT Shuttle is available during orientation week for SPH students holding a temporary shuttle permit located at: [https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/current-students/newly-admitted-students](https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/current-students/newly-admitted-students). Please print the permit and be prepared to show it to the shuttle driver. For parking and transportation resources, please refer to: [http://www.uth.edu/auxiliary-enterprises](http://www.uth.edu/auxiliary-enterprises). For further information on parking, transportation, housing and various
other resources, please refer to: http://www.uthouston.edu/auxiliary-enterprises. Please allow extra time to find parking and travel to the School of Public Health.

- **UNIVERSITY ID BADGES AND EMAIL:** ID Badges and UT email addresses will be available following course registration. You can obtain your badge from the Bursar’s Office, located in the University Center Tower (UCT) 2240, at 7000 Fannin Street, Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm. Please note that there is only one badge machine, so the process can be slow during high traffic times.

We are excited to welcome you as a member of the SPH Entering Class of Spring 2015. We look forward to seeing you at the information-packed Orientation program. As always, the Student Affairs Office is happy to assist you in any way that we can. You can reach us at: saffairs@uth.tmc.edu or by calling 713-500-9032.