



## KEY MESSAGING

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- The State of Texas provides a significant amount of the funding required to support the Texas A&M College of Medicine. Unfortunately, the Legislature has fewer dollars to spend this session, and both the House of Representatives and the Senate have proposed a range of reductions across state government, including higher education.
- For the Texas A&M University Health Science Center, there are proposed program-specific reductions ranging from \$6 million to more than \$50 million for the next two years.
- We are committed to work closely with the state legislature and while we will not know the final outcome before the end of the regular session on May 29, 2017, we must prepare today, based on the current budget proposals.
- In years past, a position high on the alternate list would be associated with a high likelihood of joining the 2021 class. Unfortunately, because of the proposed budget cuts, we are forced to suspend offers to class placements to those on our alternate list at this time.
- If adequate funding levels are restored to the college, we may be able to offer placement to those on the alternate list in the future. However, any offers are unlikely to occur before June 2017.

## SAMPLE Q&A

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**Q: How many prospective students are on the college's alternate list?**

A: The Admissions Committee sets a number sizable enough to potentially fill one-third of the class from the alternate list. Currently the class size for entering year 2017 is expected to be approximately 150 students.

**Q: Will students know their ranking on the alternate list?**

A: No. It is a standing policy of the Admissions Committee not to divulge its rankings of students. This is consistent with other medical schools in the state and the country. The alternate list will regularly change in size over the designated timeframe to consider alternates (February 1 – June 1).

**Q: Can students on the alternate list choose to remain on the list and submit the recommended updates?**

A: Yes, students are welcome to remain on the alternate list and submit the following recommended updates:

- A personal statement highlighting additional accomplishments and or experiences not heretofore mentioned
- Official transcripts of course work taken in the summer and/or fall of 2016
- One additional letter of recommendation from a health professions advisor or faculty member

**Q: Should students on the list begin pursuing other opportunities?**

A: Yes. There is some uncertainty as to when and how many students will be accepted from the alternate list. Therefore, it is highly recommended that students on the Texas A&M alternate list consider all educational, medically related, research, or employment opportunities during this time.



**Q: Will students on the alternate list be given priority for future enrollment periods?**

- A: Yes, students on the alternate list are given priority provided
- they re-apply and apply early
  - maintain high levels of academic performance
  - remain active in promoting their interest in medicine and
  - nothing comes to the attention of the Admissions Committee which would cause it to suspend its consideration

**Q: How many students will the college admit in the 2021 class? How does this compare to previous years?**

A: The goal is to enroll 150 new incoming students. The college has enrolled ~ 200 students since 2013.

**Q: Are similar budget cuts affecting other medical schools in the state?**

A: Yes, all Health Related Institutions across the state are facing potential budget cuts.

**Q: How will cuts to enrollment impact the field of medicine in Texas? What are the possible implications related to access to care across the state—looking several years down the road?**

A: Decreasing class size will negatively impact our ability to address the physician shortage in Texas. The implications for decreasing class size will be felt in the years to come as qualified students are potentially forced to train out of state.

**Q: Will the cuts impact the class of 2022—and future classes—as well?**

A: The funding for all Health Related Institutions is based on class size, so decreases in class size today will impact future funding for the College of Medicine. All HRIs are funded based on the same per-student formula level.

**Q: Will the budget cuts impact the quality of education provided at the College of Medicine?**

A: No. Decreasing the class size will allow us to continue to provide a high-quality teaching and training experience for the students enrolled.

**Q: What other health science center programs will the budget cuts impact?**

A: Within the Health Sciences, proposed budget cuts will impact our Colleges of Pharmacy and Nursing. Campuses in Corpus Christi and McAllen and our Forensic Nursing and Healthy South Texas Programs also face significant decreases in the proposed budgets.