

Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Selection Criteria
Texas Alpha Chapter at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)

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Junior AOA Members: The top 10% of the junior class (as measured by Cumulative UTMB G.P.A.) will be made candidates for induction into AOA in Jan/Feb of their 3rd year. They will then be evaluated by the 4 categories listed below. For junior candidates, all 1st and 2nd year grades will be considered, as well as the first 3 core clerkship grades completed by January of the 3rd year (either Surgery, Pediatrics and Family Medicine, or Internal Medicine, OG/GYN, and Psychiatry). Elective grades will not be counted.

(Please note that the previous method of multiplying the value of the 3rd year grades by 3 will no longer be in effect as of January 2007.)

Senior AOA Members: The top 25% of the senior class (as measured by Cumulative UTMB G.P.A.) will be made candidates for induction into AOA in July or August of their 4th year.

All candidates will be evaluated as follows:

The 4 Categories of Evaluation:

- 1. UTMB GRADES:** Students will receive points as follows:
- 0 points for each grade of Pass or Satisfactory
 - 1 point for each grade of High Pass
 - 2 points for each grade of Honors

These points will be added together to calculate a student's total points for this category. Students will then be ranked according to their total points for this category.

For senior candidates, all 1st and 2nd year grades will be considered, as well as the six 3rd year core clerkship grades. Electives will NOT be counted, in order to ensure that all candidates are equally evaluated. If a student has taken a 4th year class as a 3rd year elective (Neurology, E.R., etc.), these grades will NOT be factored into the student's total points for the "Grades" category.

- 2. USMLE STEP 1 BOARD SCORE:** Students will be ranked according to their USMLE Step 1 Board Score.

3. CURRICULUM VITAE REVIEW: The 2 AOA Faculty Sponsors and 2-3 AOA student members/officers will review the curriculum vitae of each student in three categories. The more involvement and excellence the student shows in each category the more points they will receive, up to a maximum of 5 points per category:

Leadership	(0-5 points)
Community Service	(0-5 points)
Research	(0-5 points)

All information must pertain to the student’s time in medical school (not undergraduate, etc.), and points will only be awarded for items in these 3 categories. Information regarding honors, awards, or educational history will not be considered unless it directly pertains to leadership, community service or research. Activities started prior to medical school will be considered if continued during the student’s time in medical school.

These points will be added together to calculate a student’s total points for the C.V. category. Students will then be ranked according to their total points for this category.

4. PEER VOTE: By paper ballot, electronic ballot, or some other means to be determined, all students in the senior (or junior) class will have an opportunity to vote for which AOA candidates from the top 25% (or top 10% for junior selections) of the class they think should be inducted into AOA. Each student will have a limited number of votes, equal to the number of AOA positions that are becoming available that year. Students do not have to use all of their votes, and each student may cast one vote for him/herself if he/she is a candidate. Students may cast ONLY 1 vote for each person who they think should be inducted into AOA.

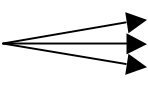
No student or candidate is allowed to directly ask their classmates for votes, to campaign or make mutual voting agreements, or in any way offer benefits to other classmates in exchange for their vote. The violation of any of these voting guidelines is considered irregular behavior and may be grounds for forfeiture of AOA candidacy.

Every student will receive 1 point for each Peer Vote that they receive. These points will be added together to calculate a student’s total points for this category. Students will then be ranked according to their total points for this category.

Rank Ties:

Any ties between students in the process of ranking from highest to lowest total points in the four categories will be handled as follows:.

	<u>Rank #</u>
(Student with the highest total points)	1
(Student with the second highest total points)	2
(Student with the third highest total points)	3
(If three students tied with	4
the fourth highest total points)	4
	4



(Student with the next highest total points) → 7
8, etc.

Overall Ranking for AOA Induction:

Each student now has a rank # in each of the four categories. These four rank #'s will be added together to arrive at an Overall Rank # for each AOA Candidate, as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{“UTMB Grades” Rank \#} \\ + \text{“STEP 1 Board Score” Rank \#} \\ + \text{“Curriculum Vitae Review” Rank \#} \\ + \text{“Peer Vote” Rank \#} \\ \hline = \text{Overall Rank \#} \end{array}$$

The available AOA membership positions will be filled by the students with the LOWEST Overall Rank #'s.

(For example: 1+1+1+1= 4, 4 is the best possible Overall Rank #, achieved by being ranked #1 in all four categories.)

In the event that a tie in the Overall Rank #'s creates a problem in deciding who to induct into AOA, the student with the best Rank # in the “UTMB Grades” category will be inducted. If the tie persists, then the “Step 1 Board Score” Rank # will be considered next, then the “Curriculum Vitae Review” Rank #, then the “Peer Vote” Rank #.

Timeline of Application Process:

UTMB Students who are candidates for induction into AOA during their junior year will be notified in February of that year (or as soon as all fall semester grades have been submitted to the Enrollment Office). Students who are made candidates for AOA induction during their senior year should be notified in July or August of that year. They will be given a deadline by which they must turn in an application to the UTMB AOA Chapter, which must include:

1. A Curriculum Vitae: containing only three categories:
Leadership, Community Service, and Research.

(The C.V. should ONLY include projects/activities carried out during medical school. Items dated prior to medical school may be included if the work continued during matriculation at UTMB. Furthermore, do NOT include information regarding honors, awards, or your educational history unless it directly pertains to one of the 3 listed categories.)

2. An “Issued to Student” UTMB transcript in an envelope sealed and signed by the Office of Student Enrollment.

3. A University Document verifying their USMLE Step 1 Board score in an envelope sealed and signed by the UTMB Office of Student Enrollment.

All candidates will be provided with a “Transcript and USMLE Step 1 Board Score Request Form.” This form must be delivered/faxed to the Office of Enrollment and releases the student’s transcript and board score to the AOA selection committee. Any candidate who wishes to be considered for membership into AOA must sign the request form.

Students who do not turn in their completed application materials by the specified deadline shall forfeit their candidacy for induction into AOA. Student applications will be evaluated, and the new senior AOA members will be inducted in August of their 4th year.

Professionalism:

Upon signing the “Transcript and USMLE Step 1 Board Score Request Form” and indicating the desire to continue in the selection process, all candidates must be cleared by the Office of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. If the candidate has a record of a serious or concerning professionalism offense, the AOA selection committee and/or the Dean may remove the student from consideration.

MD/PhD Students:

Each year two MD/PhD students will be made candidates for induction into AOA based solely on the recommendation of the MD/PhD Committee. These students will be evaluated with the other AOA candidates; however, they will not participate in the Peer Vote. Instead the Rank # from their “USMLE Step 1 Board Score” will be multiplied by two. All other selection criteria, including the AOA application deadline, shall apply to these students. This measure is intended to account fairness to the MD/PhD students, who do not have as much opportunity to develop professional peer relationships with their classmates.

Failure to Complete 3rd Year Courses:

Any AOA candidates, who have not completed and received a grade for all 3rd Year courses by the AOA application deadline in August, will be evaluated based only on the grades that are on their UTMB transcript at the time that they submit their AOA application.

(For example, if an AOA candidate has not completed and received a grade for the 3rd Year Pediatric Clerkship by the time that they submit their AOA application, then they will receive zero points for that course in the calculation of their “UTMB GRADES” score. However, if this penalty eliminates any student who would have otherwise had a mathematical chance to be inducted into AOA, then that student will have a limited time to complete their 3rd year coursework and possibly be inducted into AOA in November, see below.)

This rule applies to all students, regardless of the reasons for not completing their 3rd year coursework by the AOA application deadline. Therefore, it is in the interest of all students who desire membership in AOA to successfully complete their 3rd Year Core Curriculum Courses by the end of June of their 3rd year.

Conditional AOA Membership:

It is entirely possible that, in spite of receiving a zero for uncompleted 3rd year coursework, a student may have a strong enough application to still be inducted into AOA. However, any AOA membership that is offered to a student who has not completed their 3rd Year Coursework is

considered a conditional membership until all such courses are completed with a grade of Pass or higher. If that student fails any of their 3rd Year Core Curriculum Courses, then they forfeit their conditional AOA membership, and that membership will be transferred to another AOA candidate, who has the next best Overall Rank #.

Possible November Assignment of AOA Memberships:

If the penalty for uncompleted 3rd year coursework eliminates any student who would have otherwise had a mathematical chance of being inducted into AOA, then a maximum of 2 AOA spots will remain unassigned in August. Any such student will then have an October 31st deadline to complete their 3rd year courses and turn in an updated transcript that includes those grades. Their score and Rank # for "UTMB Grades" will then be recalculated based upon the updated transcript, and a new Overall Rank # will be calculated for all AOA candidates were not inducted into AOA in August. The AOA spots that were not assigned in August will then be assigned in November to the students with the lowest Overall Rank #.

(Note that these AOA memberships will be held over until November only if there is a student who has a mathematic possibility of qualifying for an AOA membership by completing their 3rd year coursework and having those grades added to their "UTMB Grades" score.)

Other Notes:

Any extraordinary circumstances that are not specifically addressed in these guidelines shall be evaluated by the AOA Faculty Sponsors and the AOA Chapter Officers, who will determine an appropriate response in accordance with the spirit of these guidelines.

These criteria for induction into AOA are deliberately designed to favor students who demonstrate excellence in ALL of the following areas: leadership, community service, research, development of professional relationships with their classmates/peers, UTMB grades, and USMLE Step 1 Board score.

It is entirely possible for a student with superb UTMB grades and an excellent Step 1 Board score to fail to be inducted into AOA if their application is weaker in the areas of leadership, community service, research, and/or the Peer Vote.

It is entirely possible for a student with superb leadership, community service, and research, and a high number of Peer Votes, to fail to be inducted into AOA if their application is weaker in the areas of UTMB Grades and/or Step 1 Board Score.