



## **Admission Procedures – Doctor of Pharmacy Program**

*Updated June 2019*

### **I. Requirements**

#### **1. Prerequisite Courses**

- a. Applicants to the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) professional program are required to complete 69 credit hours of prerequisite courses. The complete list of courses comprising these 69 credit hours can be found on the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy website (<http://rx.uga.edu/students/prospective-pharmd-students/>).
- b. Applicants must earn a grade of C- or higher in each of the prerequisite courses.
- c. At least 50 percent of the required prerequisite credit hours must be completed before an applicant can be considered for admission, and the applicant must be able to complete all prerequisite courses with a grade of C- or higher prior to beginning the Pharm.D. program.
- d. Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) credit can be used to fulfill prerequisite coursework; CLEP credit cannot be used to fulfill prerequisite coursework.
- e. When a student repeats a prerequisite course, all grades earned in that course will be used in calculating the prerequisite grade point average (GPA).
- f. International applicants are required to complete at least of 50 percent of the prerequisite credit hours (including both English courses) at an accredited college or university in the United States.
- g. Applicants should have a preferred prerequisite GPA of 2.5 or higher. When all prerequisite courses are completed, applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 to be admitted. For Fall 2019, students admitted into the Pharm.D. program had an average GPA for the prerequisite courses of 3.4.

#### **2. Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)**

- a. Applicants are required to take the PCAT in order to be considered for admission; information on the PCAT can be found at <https://www.pcatweb.info>.
- b. The PCAT may be taken multiple times without penalty.
- c. An applicant's highest composite score on the PCAT is utilized in the admissions process. There is no minimum PCAT score. However, a composite score of 50% or higher on the PCAT is preferred. For Fall 2019, students admitted into the Pharm.D. program had an average PCAT composite score of 72.

#### **3. Evaluations (Recommendations)**

- Applicants must arrange to have a minimum of two (and a maximum of four) evaluations submitted in support of their applications. One of the

recommendations should be from a college instructor familiar with the applicant's academic background; another should be from a health care professional, preferably a pharmacist supervisor/mentor, who can address the applicant's potential in the pharmacy profession. Evaluations must be sent directly to PharmCAS; evaluations sent to the UGA College of Pharmacy will not be accepted.

## II. Process

### 1. Applications

- a. Applicants must submit an application through the national Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS). Transcripts for all college-level coursework, PCAT scores and evaluations (recommendations) must be submitted to PharmCAS, not directly to the College of Pharmacy. Information on PharmCAS can be found at <http://www.pharmcas.org/>.
- b. Applicants also must submit a University of Georgia College of Pharmacy supplemental application, including payment of a \$55 non-refundable application fee. The supplemental application is available on the College of Pharmacy website (<http://rx.uga.edu/students/prospective-pharmd-students/>).
- c. The PharmCAS and UGA College of Pharmacy applications opens on July 18, 2019. Individuals may submit applications anytime thereafter. The UGA College of Pharmacy will employ a rolling admissions process. With rolling admissions, we will review applications, invite candidates to campus to interview, and offer acceptances on a continuous basis throughout our admissions process. This means that interested applicants should submit their PharmCAS and UGA supplemental applications as early as possible.
- d. The admissions application process has two different options: Early Decision and Regular Decision. The Early Decision (ED) program is a binding option for applicants who have decided that the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy Pharm.D. program is their first choice, and that they will enroll if accepted. ED applicants can only apply to one Pharm.D. program; if they are deferred to the regular admissions process or if they are denied admittance, they are then able to apply to other programs during the regular admission process. To apply early decision, applicants must have submitted their complete PharmCAS and UGA applications by the deadline. The deadline to apply for the binding Early Decision is September 3, 2019. Applicants will learn their ED status by October 18, 2019. For Regular Decision applicants, the PharmCAS and UGA College of Pharmacy applications deadline is February 3, 2020. PharmCAS must receive all materials (e.g., transcripts) by that closing date.
- e. Applicants for admission to the College of Pharmacy who are known to have been officially dismissed from another pharmacy program will not be accepted. A student who gains entrance to the College by misrepresentation of facts may be dismissed immediately.

### 2. Interview

- a. Applicants are selected for interviews based primarily on the GPA on prerequisite courses (not all courses an applicant has completed) and the PCAT composite score.

- b. Interview offers are made via e-mails, which inform applicants how to schedule the time and date for their interviews.
- c. The interview is designed to assess a number of factors including: personality, interpersonal communication skills, written communication skills, motivation, career exploration, and extracurricular activities. Assessment of recommendation letters also is factored into an applicant's admissions score.
- d. At the conclusion of applicants' interviews, they indicate their preferences for the extended campus to which they would wish to be assigned in the third year of the Pharm.D. program. At the time an offer of admission is made, a student is told which campus he/she will be assigned to in the third year.
- e. The first applicants selected for interviews are notified in September each year and the last interviewees are usually selected the following March. The first admission interviews are conducted in September and continue through the following April.

### **3. Admission Decisions**

- a. Admission decisions are made based on a candidate's application and the interview.
- b. Applicants with the highest final admission scores are offered admission to the Pharm.D. program with one exception. Applicants with especially poor interview scores may be denied admission regardless of their final admission scores.
- c. Acceptance letters are mailed following the applicant interview on a continual basis.
- d. Interviewees not offered admission at the conclusion of interviews will either be denied admission or placed on an alternate list. Both notifications are sent via e-mail. If applicants who have been offered admission decline those offers, applicants on the alternate list will be offered admission.

### **4. After Admission Offers Are Made**

- a. Within two-three weeks of receiving their admission offers, applicants must send a letter accepting the admission offer to the Office of Student Affairs and submit a non-refundable \$500 seat deposit. Details will be provided on the admittance letter.
- b. An admission offer is conditional pending the result of a criminal background check on an applicant. After being notified that an applicant has been offered admission, PharmCAS will contact that student with instructions for completing the criminal background check. The results of each criminal background check will be sent to the Office of Student Affairs for review; admission offers can be rescinded based on the results of these criminal background checks. The complete College of Pharmacy criminal background check policy can be viewed at <http://rx.uga.edu/students/recently-admitted-pharmd-students/>.
- c. Accepted applicants may complete only two prerequisite courses after the spring semester (i.e., during Maymester or summer sessions) prior to beginning the Pharm.D. program in the fall semester; only one of those two courses can be a mathematics (calculus or statistics) or science (chemistry, biology, anatomy/physiology, biochemistry, microbiology) course. An admission offer will be

rescinded if an accepted applicant receives a grade below C- in a course taken after the spring semester.

- d. Accepted applicants must begin in the semester for which they were admitted. Anyone admitted into the program that chooses not to accept a position is eligible to reapply in the following admission cycle.

**5. Advising and Registration**

- a. Attendance at an advising and registration session is mandatory for all incoming Pharm.D. students. For UGA pre-pharmacy students, group advising and registration sessions are held in April. For non-UGA students and those admitted as alternates, advising and registration sessions will be offered in May and in June.
- b. All incoming students are also expected to attend the PharmDawgs Boot Camp/New Student Orientation program and White Coat Ceremony in August 2020.