



## **Admissions Frequently Asked Questions**

*Updated May 2020*

### **About the Program**

#### **What is the Pharm.D. degree?**

The Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree is the sole entry level degree for the profession of pharmacy. It is considered a professional degree, similar to the M.D., J.D., and D.V.M. degrees. Completion of the Pharm.D. program qualifies one to sit for board exams to become licensed as a pharmacist. The UGA College of Pharmacy also offers B.S., Master, and Ph.D. degrees in the pharmaceutical sciences.

#### **How long does it take to complete the Pharm.D. program?**

Following completion of a 69-hour pre-pharmacy core curriculum, the Pharm.D. program takes four years to complete. The first three years of the Pharm.D. program consists of didactic coursework, while the fourth is spent participating in advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPEs) at various sites around the state of Georgia. The APPEs begin in the summer immediately following the spring semester of the third professional year and continue for one calendar year.

#### **What is the 2+2 portion of the program?**

All students complete their coursework in Athens for the first and second years of the Pharm.D. program. In the third year of the curriculum, some students move to our extended campuses in Albany, Augusta, or Savannah, Georgia. These students will stay in the area for their fourth year APPEs. Students who stay in Athens for the third year will go to one of the available regions within Georgia to complete their APPEs. A matching system is used during the third year to assign students. Students are assigned to one area for the entire fourth year.

#### **Are students accepted each semester?**

No. Applications are accepted only for the fall semester.

#### **If accepted into the program, can I defer enrollment?**

No. All admitted applicants must begin in the semester for which they were admitted. However, anyone admitted into the program that chooses not to accept their admissions offer is always welcome to reapply in the following application cycle.

#### **How many students are accepted each year?**

We plan to enroll 140-145 students each year. The size and composition of the applicant pool determines the competitive nature of admissions in a particular year.

**If I am a non-Georgia applicant, will I be eligible for in-state residency and tuition rates?**

Although there is a process through which out-of-state students may apply for in-state residency, it is unlikely that students who move to Georgia for the purpose of attending the UGA College of Pharmacy will be granted in-state residency for purposes of determining tuition rates. Further information can be found at [Georgia Residency for In-State Tuition](#).

**Where can the UGA “Guide to Student Consumer Information” be accessed?**

It is available online at [UGA Guide to Student Consumer Information](#). This guide contains a brief description of important information about UGA, financial assistance, graduation rates, athletic participation, campus security, student rights and responsibilities, study abroad, voter registration, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Is a bachelor’s degree required for admission to the UGA Pharm.D. program?**

No. Only the pre-pharmacy core is required. Each year, however, a substantial number of accepted students either have a previous degree or will complete a bachelor’s degree prior to completion of the Pharm.D. program.

**Are applicants who hold bachelor’s degrees favored in the application process?**

Holding a previous degree plays no role in determining which applicants are selected for interviews. During interviews, upper-level coursework and other additional experiences that may come with obtaining a degree can make an individual a stronger candidate, but these are just some of the many factors considered.

**What is the World Languages and Culture requirement?**

As part of the pre-pharmacy curriculum, three courses are required in the area of world languages and culture; a total of 9 hours are required for all applicants, and courses must be selected from a list specified by the University of Georgia. The pre-pharmacy checklist available on the College of Pharmacy website [UGA Pharm.D. Pre-Pharmacy Course Checklist](#).

**Can any pre-pharmacy courses be waived if I already have a degree?**

Yes. The English composition requirement may be waived if you have previously obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher in the United States. However, all other pre-pharmacy courses are required no matter what level degree you have earned.

**Are AP, IB, or online courses accepted for pre-pharmacy course work?**

Yes. We will consider credit from all AP, IB, and online courses from accredited institutions as long as they appear on your college transcript. For AP and IB, we will also accept scores sent directly from the issuing authority. CLEP credit may not be used to fulfill pre-pharmacy requirements.

**If it has been several years since I completed my pre-pharmacy course work, will the courses still be considered?**

Yes. Academic work does not expire. All pre-pharmacy courses will be considered no matter how long ago they were taken.

**Do you have to complete the pre-pharmacy requirements before applying for admission?**

No. Most students apply while having some pre-pharmacy requirements in progress. An applicant must have completed at least 50 percent (35 hours) of the pre-pharmacy core to be considered for admission, and all of the pre-pharmacy requirements must be completed before a student may enroll in the Pharm.D. program. ***If an applicant receives an offer of admission prior to completing all of the pre-pharmacy requirements, a grade of C- or higher must be earned in any outstanding pre-pharmacy courses.*** If a grade below C- is earned in any such course, the offer of admission will be rescinded.

**If I am admitted, can I complete my prerequisite courses during the summer immediately prior to beginning the Pharm.D. program?**

Only two prerequisite courses may be taken after the spring semester (i.e., in Maymester or summer semester), and only one of those courses can be a math or science course (i.e., calculus, statistics, general chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, biology, anatomy/physiology, or microbiology). ***Applicants needing to complete more than one math or science course, or more than two courses of any type, after the spring semester will not be offered admission.***

**If I do not complete my pre-pharmacy coursework at UGA, how will I know if the courses taken at my institution will count?**

You can view UGA courses and course descriptions located on the [UGA Bulletin](#). You can also view how courses will directly transfer to UGA by visiting the [UGA Undergraduate Admissions Transfer Equivalency Page](#).

**Is there a minimum grade required for each prerequisite course?**

Yes. Applicants must earn a grade of C- or better in each course in the pre-pharmacy core curriculum in order to be considered for admission.

**Is there a minimum pre-pharmacy grade point average (GPA) required for admission?**

We are seeking candidates with a preferred prerequisite GPA of 2.5 or higher. When all prerequisite courses are completed, applicants must have a minimum prerequisite GPA of 2.0 to be admitted.

**Is the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) required? If so, is there a minimum score?**

Yes. The PCAT is required for all applicants with no exceptions. 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 40% or higher on the PCAT is considered a competitive score. For Fall 2020, students admitted to the program had an average composite PCAT score of 70%. Further information on the PCAT can be found at the [PCAT Testing Website](#).

**Is there a limit on the number of times you can take the PCAT?**

No. Applicants are encouraged to take the PCAT early and often. Only the applicant's highest composite score on any **one** PCAT is considered, so there is no penalty for lower scores obtained on previous or subsequent PCAT attempts. Scores from multiple PCATs will not be combined to form a "super score". If an individual has taken the PCAT five times, he/she must submit a written request to the company which administers the test in order to register a sixth time; details are available at the [PCAT Testing Website](#).

**Will the score of the March PCAT prior to the fall semester of desired admission be considered?**

Yes. Although the final group of interviewees typically is not selected until April, there is no guarantee that scores from the March PCAT will be received in time to qualify an applicant for an admission interview. Therefore, it is important that applicants not wait until March to take the PCAT for the first time. March PCAT scores will be used when evaluating applicants at the time admissions decisions are made.

**What is the average prerequisite GPA and PCAT score for admitted students?**

For Fall 2020, students admitted into the Pharm.D. program had an average GPA for the prerequisite courses of approximately 3.46 and an average PCAT composite score of 70%.

**Is pharmacy work experience required or recommended?**

Work experience in pharmacy is not required for admission, but it may prove helpful. Such experience helps an applicant learn as much as possible about the profession, how it matches his/her skills and talents, and what practice opportunities are available for pharmacists. While working in a pharmacy is one way to gain this type of knowledge, there are other ways to learn more about the profession, including "shadowing" pharmacists, involvement in health-related community service activities, and participation in health care-related research projects.

**Are any particular types of extracurricular activities preferred in the admissions process?**

We do not have a preference for the particular types of extracurricular activities (e.g., clubs, charities, volunteer organizations, church, sports) in which applicants have been involved. The important thing to remember is that pharmacy is a helping profession, so we like to see evidence that you have been involved in activities that serve others. If you have had the opportunity to exhibit leadership skills through increased involvement within your extracurricular activities, that will make your application even stronger.

**Does the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy accept transfer students from other U.S. schools or colleges of pharmacy?**

No. We do not accept transfer students directly into the Pharm.D. program. Students previously enrolled in another school of pharmacy must go through our standard admission process and, if accepted, enter the program as a first-year student. Requests to grant credit for professional courses taken at another institution will be considered on an individual basis.

**Admissions Process**

**Does the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy participate in PharmCAS?**

Yes. Applicants must complete the online PharmCAS application ([Pharmacy College Application Service Page](#)) before completing the UGA supplemental application ([UGA Pharm.D. Supplemental Application Page](#)).

The admissions application process at the UGA College of Pharmacy 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 8, 2020. Applicants will learn their ED status by October 23, 2020.

For Regular Decision applicants, the PharmCAS and UGA College of Pharmacy preferred applications deadline for scholarship consideration is February 1, 2021 and the final deadline for both applications is April 1, 2021. PharmCAS must receive all materials (e.g., transcripts) by the closing date.

**When completing the PharmCAS application, should I include my AP or IB credits?**

Yes. Each individual course for which you earned AP or IB credit must be listed as if it was taken during your first semester in college. Do not simply list the total number of AP or IB credits as a single entry in the PharmCAS application as this will not specify the specific courses for which the credits were earned.

**After submitting my PharmCAS application, how do I include grades for courses taken during the fall and spring semester?**

You should submit those grades during the PharmCAS “Academic Update” period.

**When is the UGA supplemental application deadline?**

For Early Decision process, the deadline is September 8, 2020. For Regular Decision application process, the preferred application deadline for scholarship consideration is February 1, 2021 and the final application deadline is April 1, 2021. Since the UGA College of Pharmacy operates on a rolling admissions basis, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early. Supplemental applications are submitted online at [UGA Pharm.D. Supplemental Application Page](#).

**What is the UGA supplemental application fee?**

The fee is \$55, payable each time an individual applies to the Pharm.D. program.

**When should I apply? Is it beneficial to apply early?**

The PharmCAS and UGA College of Pharmacy applications opens on July 14, 2020. Individuals may submit applications any time before the deadline of April 1, 2021. The benefit of applying early is that a student's file can be considered every time the Admissions Committee meets; the earlier a student applies, the sooner he/she may be selected for an interview. The same criteria are used for the last applicant selected for an interview as for the first student interviewed.

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.

**Where do I send my transcripts, letters of recommendation, and PCAT scores?**

These materials will be sent directly to PharmCAS; they will not be accepted if sent to the UGA College of Pharmacy. The PharmCAS code for the PCAT is 0104.

**If I am a re-applicant, will my transcripts, recommendations, and PCAT scores be kept on file at the College of Pharmacy?**

No. All materials must be sent to PharmCAS.

**Are there any basic guidelines for selection?**

Applicants are selected for interviews based primarily on the prerequisite GPA and the PCAT composite score. The interviews allow the Admissions Committee to assess a variety of factors, including career exploration, motivation, written and verbal communication skills, and extracurricular activities. Final admission decisions are made based on a candidate's overall application and the interview.

**Are courses other than those in the pre-pharmacy core given consideration?**

Only courses in the pre-pharmacy core are utilized in the decision to invite applicants for interviews. Additional coursework can be considered in the interview/post-interview process. Courses in chemistry, biology, nutrition, food science, foreign language, business, computer science, and many other areas can provide knowledge and skills applicable to pharmacy practice.

**How do you count courses that were retaken?**

We use the average of all grades.

**Are UGA undergraduates given preference in the admissions process? Will I be at a disadvantage by attending a school other than UGA to complete my pre-pharmacy requirements?**

No preference is given to students completing their pre-pharmacy requirements at UGA. All applicants, regardless of what institution(s) they attended, are assessed on the same factors.

**Is the institution where I completed my pre-pharmacy course work considered when calculating my GPA?**

No. Courses from all accredited institutions of higher education are considered equivalent.

**Are pre-pharmacy credits accepted from foreign institutions?**

Credit can be given for courses completed at foreign institutions, but no letter grades for those courses will be transferred. Such courses do not have to be repeated, but the pre-pharmacy GPA can be calculated only from courses taken at accredited institutions in the United States. Therefore, **it is required that all international applicants take a minimum of 50 percent of the pre-pharmacy core curriculum hours (including both English courses) at an accredited US institution** in order to establish a GPA. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by World Education Services (WES), the application evaluation service required for use by PharmCAS. More information about this process can be found under the “International (Foreign) Institutions” section of [PharmCAS's What You Need to Apply Site](#). For questions on how to submit your transcripts to WES, please contact WES at [info@wes.org](mailto:info@wes.org).

**How many evaluations (recommendations) do you require and from whom?**

Two evaluations (recommendations) are required, and a maximum of four evaluations may be submitted. It is **highly preferred** that one recommender be someone very familiar with the applicant’s academic background, ideally a college-level instructor. The second recommendation should be from a healthcare professional, preferably a pharmacist mentor/supervisor, familiar with the applicant’s interest in and suitability for a career in pharmacy. However, evaluations from other sources are accepted. Recommendations from clergy, family members, friends, or politicians will not be accepted. Evaluations are submitted to PharmCAS; those sent to the UGA College of Pharmacy will not be accepted.

**Is every applicant interviewed?**

No. The number of interviews is not fixed, but in a typical year, 210-250 applicants are selected to interview for admission to the Pharm.D. program.

**How will I be notified if I am selected for an interview?**

You will be notified by e-mail that you have been selected. Because we may attempt to contact you by mail, e-mail, and/or phone at various points in the admissions process, please update this information when necessary via e-mail at [PharmDadmissions@uga.edu](mailto:PharmDadmissions@uga.edu).

**How should I dress for the interview?**

Professional attire is expected for admissions interviews.

**How can I prepare for the interview?**

The purpose of the interview is to evaluate your potential as a student in the Pharm.D. program, so you want to be prepared to make a good impression. This may begin with something as simple as arriving on time for the interview. You should expect to talk about your interest in pharmacy, any experiences you have had in the profession, involvement in extracurricular activities, and career plans. You also may wish to have questions in mind that you would like to ask the faculty members conducting your interview and/or current pharmacy students with whom you may interact.

**What should I bring with me to the interview?**

You are not required to bring anything to the interview, except a positive attitude and a desire to learn more about the UGA Pharm.D. program. Since you will be writing an essay, you are welcome to bring your own pen.

**How will you notify me if I've been accepted?**

All accepted applicants will be notified by email, so it is essential that up-to-date contact information is on file. Occasionally applicants are contacted by other means due to time constraints.

**Is a seat deposit required?**

Yes. A \$500 seat deposit is required to hold an individual's spot in the class. This deposit must be paid within two weeks of admission notification. The seat deposit is non-refundable and will be applied to your first semester's tuition.

**If I am admitted, when will advising and registration occur?**

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. Attendance at an advising and registration session is mandatory for all incoming Pharm.D. students.

**Will a criminal background be required for admission to the Pharm.D. program?**

Criminal background checks are required for all applicants accepted for admission to the Pharm.D. program. Admission offers can be rescinded based on the results of these criminal background checks. The complete College of Pharmacy background check policy can be found at the [UGA Pharm.D. Background Check Policy Page](#).



**Will criminal background and/or drug screenings be required in order to successfully complete the Pharm.D. program?**

Applicants need to be aware that some components of the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program require licensing as an intern by the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy. It is the responsibility of the student to meet all of the requirements established by the Board of Pharmacy, including a criminal background screening; admission to the College of Pharmacy alone does not assure that a student will be granted an intern license. Many of the health care settings to which students are assigned in the required experience portion of the Pharm.D. program also necessitate completion of a drug and/or criminal background screening. The results of such screenings have the potential to negatively impact a student's ability to complete the Pharm.D. program. In addition, granting of the Pharm.D. degree does not guarantee licensing as a pharmacist in any state. It is the responsibility of each student to meet all additional requirements of the state(s) in which they apply for licensure.

**If I am placed on the alternate list, what are my chances of being admitted?**

Every year, admitted applicants decline for various reasons (e.g., financial issues, unexpected family situations) or an offer may be rescinded because all admission requirements were not fulfilled. When these situations arise, applicants from the alternate list are accepted into the program. Because the number of individuals accepted from the alternate list is a factor of how many accepted applicants decline, it can vary significantly from year to year.

**What about students who are not accepted? What do they do?**

Students who are not accepted are encouraged to apply again next year. Each of our incoming classes includes several students who had applied before gaining admittance. The college's admissions staff is pleased to work with students to discuss how they might be able to improve their application in anticipation of reapplying.

**What if I have more questions?**

In our experience, the answers to the majority of questions can be found somewhere on the above list of frequently asked questions. However, if, after carefully reading through the previous questions, you require additional assistance, you can contact Mr. Erik Dennison, Admissions Counselor, by e-mail at [PharmDadmissions@uga.edu](mailto:PharmDadmissions@uga.edu) or by calling (706) 542-5278.