UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
College of Pharmacy

Admissions Frequently Asked Questions

Updated Summer 2026

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, like 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 NAPLEX exam). The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy also offers B.S., Master, and Ph.D. degrees including Pharmaceutical Sciences and Biomedical Sciences, Regulatory Sciences, and Clinical Trials.

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 consist of didactic coursework, while the fourth is spent participating in advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPEs) at 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, GA; Augusta, GA; or Savannah, GA. These students will stay in the area for their fourth year APPEs.

Students who stay in Athens for the third year will then complete their fourth year APPEs in one of the available regions within Georgia, and will remain in that region for the duration of their APPEs. A matching system is used during the third year to assign students.

Are students accepted each semester?
No. Applications are accepted only for the Fall semester.

If accepted into the program, can I defer enrollment?
If a student is admitted to the Pharm.D. program, but is unable to matriculate in the Fall semester due to extenuating circumstances, they may be eligible for deferment. These requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For more information about requesting a deferral of an admissions offer, applicants should contact the Director of Admissions and Career Development, Dr. Danielle Vitale (daniv@uga.edu). Please note that failure to complete the pre-pharmacy coursework is not considered an extenuating circumstance.

How many students are accepted each year?
We plan to enroll 145 students each year. The size and composition of the applicant pool determine 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 or out-of-country 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 when 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 curriculum is required. 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 may make an individual a stronger candidate, but these are just some of the many factors considered by the Admissions Committee.

What are the World Languages and Culture requirements?
As part of the pre-pharmacy curriculum, three courses are required in the area of world languages and culture. Nine (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 requirements 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 of 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 you have received college credit for them and 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 their pre-pharmacy requirements are in progress. An applicant must have completed at least 50 percent (35 hours) of the pre-pharmacy curriculum to be considered for admission, and all pre-pharmacy requirements must be completed before a student may enroll in the Pharm.D. program. Please note that only two courses may be completed in the summer prior to matriculation.

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 to be considered for admission. If an applicant receives an offer of admission prior to completing all 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.

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.

What is the average prerequisite GPA score for admitted students?
For Fall 2025, students admitted into the Pharm.D. program had an average GPA for the prerequisite courses of approximately 3.45.

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). ***Applicants needing to complete more than two courses of any type after the spring semester may not be admitted.***

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 in the UGA Bulletin. You can also view how courses will directly transfer to UGA by visiting the UGA Undergraduate Admissions Transfer Equivalency Page. We also have pre-pharmacy course equivalency guides for most Georgia institutions, as well as selected out-of-state institutions, on the Prospective Students Page.

Is the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) required?
No. The PCAT is no longer offered by the test provider, and so taking the PCAT is no longer an option available to applicants. If an applicant has taken the PCAT in the past, it is not required that they submit past PCAT scores when applying to our program.

Is pharmacy work experience required or recommended?
Work experience in pharmacy is not required for admission, but it may be beneficial. 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 types of extracurricular or co-curricular activities preferred in the admissions process?
We do not prefer specific extracurricular or co-curricular activities (e.g., clubs, charities, community involvement, religious organizations, 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 or co-curricular 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 may be considered on an individual basis. Applicants for admission to the College of Pharmacy who 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.

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).

When are applications due?
If you are a current Double Dawg student at the University of Georgia or are a BS student in the Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences program, you should submit your application by September 1, 2026.

The priority deadline is December 1, 2026. Applicants who submit both their PharmCAS and UGA Supplemental Application by the Priority Deadline on December 1, 2026 will be eligible to waive their Supplemental Application fee and will be given priority consideration for scholarships and for 2+2 campus preferences.

The final deadline is February 1, 2027. PharmCAS must receive all materials (e.g., transcripts) by this closing date. No applications will be considered if they are submitted after this 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" periods after the Fall and Spring semesters.

When is the UGA Supplemental Application deadline?
UGA Double Dawgs students should submit their UGA Supplemental Application by September 1, 2026. For all other students: the Priority Deadline is December 1, 2026. The Final Application Deadline is February 1, 2027. 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. If an applicant submits both their PharmCAS application and UGA Supplemental Application by December 1, 2026, they will be eligible to waive their UGA Supplemental Application fee.

When should I apply? Is it beneficial to apply early?
The PharmCAS and UGA College of Pharmacy applications opens on July 9, 2026. Individuals may submit applications any time before the deadline of February 1, 2027. The benefit of applying early is that the earlier a student applies, the sooner he/she may be selected for an interview and considered for admission by the Admissions Committee.

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 application and UGA Supplemental Application as early as possible.

Where do I send my transcripts and letters of recommendation?
These materials will be sent directly to PharmCAS; they will not be accepted if sent to the UGA College of Pharmacy.

If I am a re-applicant, will my transcripts and recommendations 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 progression of prerequisite coursework and prerequisite GPA. During the interviews, the Admissions Committee assesses a variety of factors, including career exploration, motivation, written and verbal communication skills, and extracurricular or co-curricular activities. Final admission decisions are made by the Admissiosn Committee based on a holistic review of the 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 may 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, and do you have a "grade forgiveness" policy?
When a course is retaken, we use the average of all attempts. We do not have "grade forgiveness" nor do we only use the highest grade earned if a pre-pharmacy course is taken multiple times, even if the institution where the courses were completed offers "grade forgiveness" or "grade replacement."

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 from foreign institutions accepted?
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 curriculum (including both English courses) at an accredited US institution** 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 and Study Abroad" section of PharmCAS's Transcripts Site.

For questions on how to submit your transcripts to WES, please contact WES at 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 through PharmCAS. At least one recommender should be someone 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 conditionally accepted. Recommendations from clergy, family members, friends, or politicians will not be accepted. Evaluations are submitted to PharmCAS; those sent directly 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, 250 to 300 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 for an interview. 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.

How should I dress for the interview?
Business professional attire is expected for admissions interviews. For examples of business professional attire, visit the UGA Career Center website.

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 early for the interview. During the interview, you should expect to talk about your interest in pharmacy, any experiences you have had in the profession, involvement in extracurricular or co-curricular 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. Mock interviews are helpful ways to prepare for pharmacy school interviews; reach out to your school's career center/services department to schedule one.

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.

What should I expect on the interview day?
All candidates will have the opportunity to interview with faculty, who will evaluate the candidate's fit for our Pharm.D. program, and to interact with current Student Ambassadors. In addition, all candidates should be prepared to respond to a writing prompt, which is used to assess candidates' written communication ability. For in-person interviews, candidates may also participate in a compounding activity and go on a tour of College of Pharmacy facilities.

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. We recommend that you check your email regularly during the admissions process, and that your voicemail is set up and able to take messages.

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 the time specified on the admission notification. The seat deposit is nonrefundable and will be applied to your first semester's tuition.

If I am admitted, when will advising and registration occur?
Group advising and registration sessions are held during the fall and spring. Attendance at an advising and registration session is mandatory for all incoming Pharm.D. students.

Will a criminal background check 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 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 the requirements established by the Board of Pharmacy, including a criminal background screening; admission to the College of Pharmacy alone does not ensure 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 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 waitlist for admission, what are my chances of being admitted?
Each 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 waitlist are accepted into the program. Because the number of individuals accepted from the waitlist 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 you require additional assistance after carefully reading through the previous questions, , contact Mr. Erik Dennison, Admissions Counselor, by e-mail at PharmDadmissions@uga.edu or by calling (706) 542-5278.