

Admissions Frequently Asked Questions

About the Program

What is the Pharm.D. degree?

The Doctor of Pharmacy, or 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 Master and Ph.D. degrees in pharmaceutical sciences.

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

Following completion of a 60-hour pre-pharmacy core curriculum, the Pharm.D. program takes 4 years to complete. The first 3 years of the Pharm.D. program consists of didactic coursework, while the 4th is spent participating in clerkships at various sites around the state of Georgia. There are no courses offered in the summers between the first 3 professional years, but clerkships do begin in the summer immediately following the spring semester of the 3rd professional year and continue for one calendar 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 who chooses not to accept a position is always welcome to re-apply in the following application cycle.

How many students are accepted each year?

In 2009, 140 students are accepted into the Pharm.D. program each year. Last year, there were 725 applicants. The size and composition of the applicant pool determines the competitive nature of admissions in a particular year.

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 significant 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.

How has the pre-pharmacy curriculum changed this year? How does that change affect individuals applying for admission to the Fall 2010 entering class?

The pre-pharmacy curriculum has been changed to reflect the University of Georgia's new core curriculum. One change involves the deletion of two courses, pre-calculus and a social science elective, from the pre-pharmacy curriculum. Additional courses are now required in the area of world languages and culture; a total of 9 hours are now required, 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 is based on the new pre-pharmacy curriculum.

Can any Pre-Pharmacy courses be waived if I already have a degree?

Yes. English requirements may be waived if you have previously obtained a Bachelor's Degree or higher. However, all other Pre-Pharmacy courses are required no matter what level degree you have earned.

Are AP, CLEP, or online courses accepted for Pre-Pharmacy course work?

Yes. We will consider all AP, CLEP, and online courses as credit as long as they appear on your transcript. For AP and CLEP, we will also accept scores sent directly from the issuing authority.

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 30 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 is 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 on any such course, the offer of admission will be rescinded and the applicant will be placed on the alternate list.

If I do not complete my Pre-Pharmacy course work at UGA, how will I know if the courses taken at my institution will count?

You can view UGA courses and course descriptions on the course bulletin website located at <http://bulletin.uga.edu/bulletin/prg/index.html>. You can also view how courses will directly transfer to UGA by visiting <http://www.admissions.uga.edu/transferequiv/>.

On the Pre-Pharmacy checklist, what do “graduation requirements” mean?

Graduation requirements are UGA requirements that work in tandem with Pre-Pharmacy course work. In order to obtain a degree from UGA, students must fulfill several requirements outside the realm of traditional course work. However, most of these requirements are satisfied by taking prescribed Pre-Pharmacy courses. More specifically, by taking US History 2111 or 2112 (or their equivalent) in the state of Georgia, you fulfill both the US and GA *History* requirements. By taking Political Science 1101 (or its equivalent) in the state of Georgia, you fulfill both the US and GA *constitution* requirements. **Out of state applicants** should still take US History and Political Science to satisfy the US History and US constitution requirements, and then satisfy the GA portions of these requirements after matriculation. PEDB is a physical education course that includes physical activity in the course description and can be satisfied either before or after matriculation. The Regent’s Exams, if not already taken at a Georgia institution, should be satisfied in the first semester after enrolling in the program.

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

There is no predetermined minimum GPA which must be achieved to be considered for admission.

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. While no minimum composite score is required to be considered for admission, **applicants must achieve a minimum score (the 30th percentile) in each of 5 content areas** covered by the PCAT (i.e., verbal ability, reading comprehension, biology, chemistry, and quantitative ability). Further information on the PCAT can be found at www.PCATweb.info.

How is the UGA College of Pharmacy using the PCAT writing score?

For the current admissions cycle, the new PCAT writing score will not be used as a factor in admissions decisions. The Admissions Committee will evaluate the information provided by the writing score and determine whether it will be utilized in future admission cycles.

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.

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

Yes. The final group of interviewees is not selected until scores from the January PCAT are recorded.

What is the average pre-pharmacy GPA and PCAT score for admitted students?

For fall 2009, students admitted into the Pharm.D. program had an average pre-pharmacy core GPA of 3.64 and an average PCAT composite score of 83. These students' GPAs ranged from 2.90 to 4.00, and their PCAT scores ranged from 58 to 99.

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 research projects.

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

When is the application deadline?

The deadline for an applicant's file to be completed is **February 1**, although it is recommended that students apply during the fall semester prior to their desired starting date in the Pharm.D. program. Applications are submitted online at www.rx.uga.edu.

What is the 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 online application is usually available beginning in late summer and individuals may submit applications anytime thereafter. 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. No other special consideration is given to students who apply early. The same criteria are used for the last applicant selected for an interview as for the first student interviewed.

When should I send in my supplemental materials (transcripts, letters of recommendation, PCAT scores)? Can I send them in before I submit an application?

You may send us your supplemental materials at any time during the application cycle as long as they are postmarked before or on the February 1 deadline. You may send them in at any time before or after you submit your online application. If you send us supplemental materials **before** submitting an online application, we will keep them on file until the end of the current application cycle. If you send us supplemental materials and **do not** submit an application before the February deadline, they will **not** be kept on file for future application cycles.

If I am a re-applicant, will my supplemental material (transcripts, recommendations, PCAT scores) be kept on file?

Yes. All supplemental material will be kept on file for one year. However, if you choose to re-apply two or more years later, you will have to re-send all supplemental materials.

How will I know when my application file is complete?

You may check the status of your application online, using the same login as when the application was submitted. The application status page will indicate the receipt of your application, payment, PCAT score(s), transcript(s), and letters of recommendation. An application file is considered complete when fall semester grades and all materials for which a student is responsible for submitting are received. Additional questions about the status of an application can be directed to the admissions office at admissions@rx.uga.edu or (706) 542-5278.

Are there any basic guidelines for selection?

The initial ranking of applicants is entirely quantitative. Based on pre-pharmacy core GPAs and PCAT scores, the approximately 250 top applicants are selected for interviews. The interviews allow the Admissions Committee to assess a variety of factors, including career exploration, motivation, written and verbal communication skills, and extracurricular activities. The score for the interview is added to an applicant's GPA and PCAT score, with each of these three factors being weighed equally, to yield an overall ranking that is used in making final admission decisions.

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, which may be included in the "supplemental" portion of the application, can be considered in the 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 re-taken?

We use the average of the two 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: pre-pharmacy core GPA, PCAT score, and interview (if invited).

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 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 30 credit hours at an accredited US institution** in order to establish a GPA. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by one of the services designated by UGA. International students can find more detailed information on this process at http://www1.admissions.uga.edu/9_intl_adm_criteria.html.

How many recommendations do you require and from whom?

Two letters of recommendation are required; a recommendation form can be downloaded at www.rx.uga.edu. It is preferred that one recommender be someone familiar with the applicant's academic background, such as an advisor or faculty member. The other recommendation should be from a person familiar with the applicant's interest in pursuing a career in health care, preferably a pharmacist. However, the letters of recommendation do not have to come from an advisor/faculty member and a pharmacist, and you are not limited to two letters of recommendation.

Is every applicant interviewed?

Because of the large number of applications received, we are not able to interview every applicant. The number of interviews is not fixed, but in a typical year approximately 250 applicants will be 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 mail or email that you have been selected, and you will be asked to call the admissions office to arrange a specific time and date for your 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 admissions@rx.uga.edu.

How should I dress for the interview?

Professional attire is recommended 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. Some applicants find it helpful to contact the UGA Career Center, which offers seminars in improving interviewing skills.

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. You may bring any additional documentation that you want to add to your file (e.g., transcripts, certifications). Since you will be writing an essay, you are welcome to bring your own pen, if desired.

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

All accepted applicants will be notified by mail or 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 or lack of follow-up. The college does not utilize "rolling" admissions, so no applicants will be accepted until after completion of the entire interview process. Acceptance notifications usually are sent in mid-April.

If I am placed on the alternate list, what are my chances of getting in?

Every year, admitted applicants decline for personal reasons (e.g., financial issues, unexpected family situations) or an offer may be withdrawn 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. Some alternates are accepted each year; 26 alternates were accepted in 2009.

Where am I on the alternate list?

An applicant's position on the alternate list is not set at the time when initial letters of acceptance are mailed, because additional information (e.g., spring semester grades) will be received throughout the late spring and early summer. The alternate list is only ranked at the time an opening exists due to a decline by an accepted applicant. Thus, it is not possible to tell you where you stand on the alternate list.

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 classes includes several students who had applied two or three times before gaining admittance. The college's admissions staff is pleased to work with students to discuss

how they might be able to improve their pre-pharmacy core GPA, PCAT score, and/or interview score in anticipation of reapplying.

What is the complete address to send my supplemental materials to?

UGA College of Pharmacy
PharmD Admissions
Green Street
Athens, GA 30602

What if I have more questions?

In our experience, the answers to the majority of questions can be found somewhere on this list. However, if, after *carefully* reading through the previous questions, you require additional assistance, you can contact the admissions office by e-mail at admissions@rx.uga.edu or by calling (706) 542-5278.