

## University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

### Admission Procedures – Doctor of Pharmacy Program

#### 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 ([www.rx.uga.edu](http://www.rx.uga.edu)).
- 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.

##### 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 [www.pcatweb.info](http://www.pcatweb.info).
- b. The PCAT may be taken multiple times without penalty.
- c. While their highest composite score achieved on a single administration of the PCAT is of primary importance in the admissions process, applicants also must score at the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher in each of the five PCAT subject areas (i.e., biology, chemistry, quantitative, reading comprehension, and verbal) in order to be considered for admission. Qualifying scores in the individual subject areas do not have to be achieved on a single administration of the PCAT.

##### 3. Recommendations

- a. Applicants must arrange to have a minimum of two (and a maximum of four) letters of recommendation 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.

## II. Process

### 1. Applications

- a. Applicants must submit an application through the national Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS). Transcripts for all college-level coursework and letters of recommendation must be submitted to PharmCAS, not directly to the College of Pharmacy. Information on PharmCAS can be found at [www.pharmcas.org](http://www.pharmcas.org).
- b. Applicants also must submit a University of Georgia supplemental application, including payment of a \$55 non-refundable application fee. The supplemental application is available on the College of Pharmacy website ([www.rx.uga.edu](http://www.rx.uga.edu)).
- c. The PharmCAS application for a given admission cycle opens in the summer, with the specific date determined each year by PharmCAS administrators; the supplemental application opens on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- d. The deadlines for both the PharmCAS and supplemental applications vary from year to year, but typically are in December. Dates for a given admission cycle are posted on the PharmCAS and College of Pharmacy websites.
- 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 on a formula which combines the GPA on prerequisite courses (not all courses an applicant has completed) and the PCAT composite score. The prerequisite GPA is multiplied by 25 (yielding a maximum of 100 points) and the result is added to the PCAT composite score (a percentile with a maximum of 99), thus for each applicant an interview determination score is calculated which totals between 0 and 199 points.
- b. For each admission cycle, an interview determination cut-off score is established; applicants achieving that score or higher are offered interviews, while those below that score are not offered interviews. Interview offers are made via e-mails which inform applicants how to schedule the time and date for their interviews.
- c. The interview determination cut-off score varies with each admission cycle based on the relative strength of the applicant pool. Applicants not being offered interviews are notified via e-mail by early March.
- d. 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 interview score.
- e. At the conclusion of applicants' interviews, they indicate their preferences for the regional 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.

- f. The first applicants selected for interviews are typically notified in September each year and the last interviewees are usually selected the following February. The first admission interviews are conducted in October or November and continue through the following March.

### 3. Admission Decisions

- a. An applicant's final admission score is the total of the prerequisite GPA multiplied by 25 (maximum 100 points), the PCAT composite percentile score (maximum 99 points), and the interview score (maximum 100 points). Thus, the possible final admission score ranges from 0 to 299.
- 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. There are typically three different times during an admission cycle when applicants are selected to receive admission offers: in late November or early December, in mid-February, and in late March (after the conclusion of all admission interviews). Admission offers are sent to applicants via first-class mail.
- 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 three weeks of receiving their admission offers (two weeks for alternate list admissions), applicants must send a letter accepting the admission offer to the Office of Student Affairs along with a non-refundable \$250 seat deposit (cash or check).
- 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 [www.rx.uga.edu](http://www.rx.uga.edu).
- 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.