

## *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 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 4 years to complete. The first 3 years of the Pharm.D. program consists of didactic coursework, while the 4th 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 3rd professional year and continue for one calendar year.

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

In the first two years of the Pharm.D. program, all students attend classes in Athens. In the third year, some students move to each of our regional campuses (i.e., Albany, Augusta, and Savannah). Those students attend third-year classes on the regional campuses and then stay in those areas to complete their fourth year APPEs.

#### **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.

#### **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 a position is always welcome to reapply in the following application cycle.

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

In 2017, 138 students were accepted into the Pharm.D. program; there were 388 applicants. 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 [www.admissions.uga.edu/article/residency-for-in-state-tuition.html](http://www.admissions.uga.edu/article/residency-for-in-state-tuition.html).

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

It is available online at [http://osfa.uga.edu/documents/student\\_consumer\\_info.pdf](http://osfa.uga.edu/documents/student_consumer_info.pdf).

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 reflects the current pre-pharmacy curriculum.

### **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 all AP, IB, and online courses as credit 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 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 and the applicant will be placed on the alternate list.

**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, 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 on the course bulletin website located at <http://bulletin.uga.edu>. You can also view how courses will directly transfer to UGA by visiting [http://www1.admissions.uga.edu/transfer\\_equiv/TransferEquiv/Index](http://www1.admissions.uga.edu/transfer_equiv/TransferEquiv/Index).

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

An applicant must have a minimum GPA of 2.2 on prerequisite courses to be granted an admission interview. When all prerequisite courses are completed, an applicant must have a minimum 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. That composite score must be at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher to qualify an applicant for an admission interview. Further information on the PCAT can be found at <http://www.pcatweb.info>.

**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. 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 <http://www.pcatweb.info>.

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

Although the final group of interviewees typically is not selected until early February, there is no guarantee that scores from the January PCAT will be received in time to qualify an applicant for an admission interview. Therefore, it is important that applicants not wait until January to take the PCAT for the first time. January 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 2017, students admitted into the Pharm.D. program had an average GPA for the prerequisite courses of approximately 3.44 and an average PCAT composite score of 76. These students' GPAs ranged from 2.22 to 4.0 and their PCAT scores ranged from 51 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 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 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 ([www.pharmcas.org](http://www.pharmcas.org)) **before completing the UGA supplemental application**. The PharmCAS application opened in mid-July and will close on December 1, 2017 (see PharmCAS website for exact date). PharmCAS must receive all materials (e.g., transcripts, letters of recommendation) by that 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 should 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 semester?**

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

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

The deadline is December 15, 2017, although it is recommended that students apply during the early part of the fall semester prior to their desired starting date in the Pharm.D. program. Supplemental applications are submitted online at [www.rx.uga.edu](http://www.rx.uga.edu).

**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 online UGA application opened July 1, 2017 and the PharmCAS application opened in mid-July; 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. The same criteria are used for the last applicant selected for an interview as for the first student interviewed, but students with early interviews will be considered for the limited number of early admission notifications. *If you hope to be offered a fall interview, all applications and related materials should be submitted by September 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**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 reapplicant, 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?**

The initial ranking of applicants is entirely quantitative. Based on pre-pharmacy core GPAs and PCAT scores, the approximately 225 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 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 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 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: 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 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 one of the services designated by UGA. International students can find more detailed information on this process at <https://www.admissions.uga.edu/article/international-students.html>.

**How many recommendations do you require and from whom?**

Two letters of recommendation are required and a maximum of four letters 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 person, preferably a pharmacist mentor/supervisor, familiar with the applicant's interest

in and suitability for a career in pharmacy. However, letters of recommendation from other sources are accepted. Letters must be sent directly to PharmCAS; letters sent to the UGA College of Pharmacy will not be accepted.

### **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 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, 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](mailto:admissions@rx.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. Some applicants who are students at UGA 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., honors, certifications). Since you will be writing an essay, you are welcome to bring your own pen, if desired.

### **How 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.

### **Is a seat deposit required?**

Yes. A \$250 seat deposit is required to hold an individual's spot in the class. This deposit must be paid within 3 weeks of admission notification (the time period may be shorter during the alternate admission period). The seat deposit is non-refundable.

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

For UGA pre-pharmacy students, group advising and registration sessions are held in late April. For non-UGA students and those admitted as alternates, two advising and registration sessions will be offered (most likely one in May and one 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. Such checks will not be a component of the application or selection processes, but will be a mandatory component of the pre-matriculation process for each accepted applicant. The status of an admitted applicant will be conditional pending completion and review of a criminal background check. The complete College of Pharmacy background check policy can be found at [www.rx.uga.edu](http://www.rx.uga.edu).

**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 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.

**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 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 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 the admissions office by e-mail at [admissions@rx.uga.edu](mailto:admissions@rx.uga.edu) or by calling (706) 542-5278.