

# Admissions Requirements and Statistics for Pharmacy School

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## Pharmacy School Information

### Pharmacy School Timeline:

- 4 years of graduate school leading to either a PharmD. (Doctorate in Pharmacy)
  - Classroom study of the basic sciences
  - Advanced courses on pharmacologic agents, drug reactions, and related fields
  - An internship in a pharmacy setting
- After graduation, pharmacists will take a licensing exam before being allowed to practice
- Pharmacists may decide to continue their studies with either a 3-4 year residency or a research fellowship

### Admissions Test: PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test)

- 6 Sections:
  - Verbal Ability
  - Quantitative Ability
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Reading Comprehension
  - writing sections
- Scoring information
  - Multiple choice sections are scale scored from 200 to 600 each
  - Composite Score is the combination of these scores
  - The writing section is scored from 0 to 5 (5 being the highest)
  - You are given a percentile rank indicating how well your scores compare to your peers
  - Your PCAT score is considered more important than your GPA by most schools, though your GPA is still very important
- Typical test date: After completion of Organic Chemistry, the semester before applying
- Typical application dates: June-July before Senior year

### Required Courses (with accompanying labs) vary from school to school, but commonly include:

- **1 year of General Biology for science majors**
- **1 year of General Chemistry for science majors**
- **1 year of Organic Chemistry**
- **1 year of Physics**
- 1 semester of Calculus
- 1 semester of statistics
- Microbiology
- Anatomy
- Mammalian or Human Physiology

- Molecular or Cell Biology
- Psychology or Sociology
- 1 semester of Biochemistry
- Economics
- Public Speaking
- Check individual school policies on AP/CLEP credits

Recommended Courses vary from school to school, but commonly include:

- Cell Biology
- Genetics
- Immunology
- Computer Science, Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, Anthropology, history, foreign languages, philosophy, religion

Admissions information for the South Carolina College of Pharmacy (Columbia and Charleston campuses):

- Required courses includes: Calculus, Statistics, Psychology, economics, 6 hours of anatomy/physiology, 3 hours of “verbal skills”, and 9 hours of liberal arts electives. Must be completed before matriculation into pharmacy school, not necessarily before applying.
- Admissions decisions based upon completion of required coursework, PA, academic record, letters of recommendation, interview evaluations, PCAT scores, honors/awards, extracurricular activities, work experience, and student personal statement concerning their goals for a career in pharmacy.
- Priority Admissions Program:
  - 3.60 in required coursework
  - 70<sup>th</sup> percentile on the PCAT
  - Completed application, PCAT scores, and transcript turned in before October 1<sup>st</sup>. Must have taken the PCAT before October 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Coursework from the preceding Fall will be examined in the evaluation process
  - Interviews between October 25<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Admissions decisions will be mailed in January
  - If not accepted in this program, applicants will be considered for regular admission

	<b>Non-Resident</b>		
Years 1-3	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Scholarship</b>	<b>Non-Resident</b>
<b>Full Time*</b>	\$20,757	\$26,292	\$31,000
Year 4			
<b>Full Time*</b>	\$18,082	\$22,980	\$26,960

- You designate your preferred campus on the application, but also indicate whether you are willing to go to the other campus
- Average GPA: 3.6-3.7                      Average PCAT percentile: 70<sup>th</sup> percentile rank

Admissions information for Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Georgia):

- “Selecting a candidate for the future practice of pharmacy involves many important factors, including academic background, PCAT scores, letters of reference and pharmacy experience.”
- Required Minimum courses include: 1 semester of physics with lab, 1 semester of Calculus, 3 hours of public speaking, economics, 6 hours of humanities electives, 6 hours of social/behavioral sciences. **Must be grades of C or higher.**
- Work experience in a pharmacy is strongly recommended. For example, working as a pharmacy technician in a hospital or community pharmacy
- Personal interviews begin in September
- Admissions Statistics for 2010:
  - 480 students interviewed, 145 accepted. 60-70 of accepted students were from out-of-state
  - Average GPA: 3.40
  - Minimum PCAT score considered: 60 preferred
- Tuition: \$14,871 per year for the first three years, \$4,217.45 for the fourth year.

Admissions information for Belmont University College of Pharmacy (Tennessee):

- Requirements: 3 hours of Calculus, 3 hours of Statistics, 1 semester of Physics with lab, economics, public speaking, 9 hours of social science electives
- Early decision program – Binding (must attend if accepted) – admissions decisions by late October
- Regular decision program- application due March 1st
- Admissions Statistics for 2010:
  - 375 students interviewed, 174 accepted. 100 of accepted students were from out-of-state.
  - Average GPA: 3.30
- Tuition: \$25,420 per year