

Pharmacy Admissions FAQ

General Questions about the Program

How long does it take to complete the PharmD program?

The PharmD program is completed in four years.

Does USF offer a “0-6” program?

No. USF does not accept students immediately after they graduate from high school.

Does USF offer an “early assurance” program?

No. At this time, USF does not offer an “early assurance” or “early admission” program.

I already have a degree in healthcare (or related science). Can I finish the PharmD degree in less time?

No. A degree in a related discipline does not reduce the time it takes to complete the PharmD degree program. Applicants who have earned an undergraduate or graduate degree in a related field must still complete the entire pharmacy degree program.

How many are you accepting into your Charter Class?

USF will accept 50 students into its Charter Class. We will increase the class size to 75 for the fall of 2012 and then to 100 the following year. We do not anticipate accepting more than 100 students per class.

How much does pharmacy school cost?

Tuition is a flat fee of \$15,100 per year.

Where can I find out if a pharmacy school is accredited?

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) does not grant accreditation to U.S. or international pharmacy degree programs. To determine the most recent accreditation status for a particular institution, contact ACPE directly:

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
20 North Clark Street
Suite 2500
Chicago, IL 60602-5109
312-664-3575
<http://www.acpe-accredit.org/>

What is the difference between a “precandidate” and “candidate” pharmacy school?

A newly instituted professional program of a college or school of pharmacy may be granted one of two preaccreditation statuses, precandidate or candidate, depending upon its stage of development. In the instance of a newly founded college or school of pharmacy, the programs generally progress through both statuses.

Precandidate: A new program that has no students enrolled but has a dean may be granted precandidate accreditation status. The granting of precandidate status indicates that a college or school's planning for the Doctor of Pharmacy program has taken into account ACPE standards and guidelines and suggests reasonable assurances of moving to the next step, that of candidate status. Granting of precandidate status brings no rights or privileges of accreditation. Full public disclosure by the college or school of pharmacy of the terms and conditions of this accreditation status is required.

Candidate: A new program that has students enrolled but has not had a graduating class may be granted candidate status. The granting of candidate status denotes a developmental program, which is expected to mature in accord with stated plans and within a defined time period. Reasonable assurances are expected to be provided that the program may become accredited as programmatic experiences are gained, generally, by the time the first class has graduated. Graduates of a class designated as having candidate status have the same rights and privileges as graduates of an accredited program.

Should I enroll in a new pharmacy school?

Pharmacy institutions are not eligible to become fully accredited programs until they graduate their first professional class. Students who attend a new pharmacy institution may be taking a risk if the institution does not achieve full accreditation status at that time. Graduates from unaccredited institutions are ineligible to sit for the state pharmacy license examination or practice pharmacy in the U.S. The list of [Associate](#) AACP member institutions represents those new pharmacy colleges and schools that have chosen to join AACP. Not all of the new or emerging pharmacy degree programs are members of AACP. All fully ACPE-accredited pharmacy programs are [Regular](#) members of AACP.

General Questions on Requirements

Applicants must meet the following basic requirements:

- Have completed 72 hours of prerequisite coursework by the time of matriculation.
- Minimum required GPA of 2.75, as calculated by all coursework and all institutions attended.
- Minimum PCAT scores to be reviewed is 65th percentile.
- Be US Citizens or Permanent Residents of the US who are FL Residents.

What are the minimum PCAT scores considered?

The minimum PCAT scores considered for admission is 65th percentile taken within the past 3 years.

Please note that while we do have a minimum PCAT requirement all interested applicants will be able to access and e-submit a supplemental application. Our approach is to look at applicants holistically. We will consider your PCAT score but we also take into consideration your overall academic

performance. We never turn students away on the basis of a single number, but instead consider each applicant as an individual.

What is the minimum college GPA considered?

Minimum required GPA, as calculated by all coursework and all institutions attended, is 2.75.

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Can international applicants apply to the USF School of Pharmacy?

No. At this time USF is not accepting applications from international (non-U.S.) applicants.

Does USF School of Pharmacy require the PCAT for admission?

Yes. PCAT test scores must be sent to PharmCAS. You may apply prior to taking the PCAT. Your scores will be forwarded to us as long as you designated that your scores be sent to PharmCAS when you registered for the PCAT.

Where can I find information about prerequisite coursework?

You can find a list of prerequisite coursework at <http://health.usf.edu/pharmacy/prerequisites.htm#prerequisites>.

General education prerequisite coursework must have been taken within the past 10 years, and science coursework must have been taken within the past 5 years from the time of matriculation.

It is preferred though not required that:

- prerequisite science coursework be designed for science majors and
- science and math courses be completed during the regular academic year and not during a summer term.

Must I have completed all required courses before I apply?

Completion of prerequisites is not required prior to application; however, all prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to matriculation. All coursework must be taken at a 2 or 4-year accredited institution. Foreign coursework will not satisfy prerequisites.

Does USF accept my AP, IB, or CLEP scores for prerequisites?

AP coursework is accepted with a score of 3 or higher, IB coursework is accepted with a score of 4 or higher.

CLEP scores are not accepted.

Does USF distinguish between classes taken at community college versus a four-year institution?

No.

Will Gordon rule courses meet the prerequisite for English coursework?

No. Gordon rule courses will not meet the prerequisite for English coursework; English courses must be taken with the English Department at or above the level of English Composition or English Literature (ESL courses will not be accepted).

My institution does not offer lab sections for some of the lower level science courses. What should I do?

Lab sections are required for courses with a lab on our prerequisite list. You will need to register for the lab at another college/university.

How do I calculate credit hours if I attend a college that is on a quarter system?

Applicants who attend a college on the quarter system should multiply the number of credits by .66 for translation into semester hours. Round partial credits of .5 and above up to the next semester hour; credits at .4 and below are rounded down.

Do I need a bachelor's degree before I apply to the USF School of Pharmacy?

You are not required to earn a bachelor's degree in order to apply USF. The PharmD degree requires applicants to have completed 72 hours of prerequisite coursework before starting the PharmD program. USF does give preference to students who have earned a bachelor's degree. Individuals who hold a bachelor's or other advanced degree must still complete all four academic years of professional pharmacy study.

Should I choose pre-pharmacy or chemistry as my college major?

You are not required to major in "pre-pharmacy" in college to be eligible for admission to a pharmacy degree program. Chemistry is a common major for pharmacy applicants because many of the course prerequisites for pharmacy are often incorporated into the standard chemistry curriculum. Student pharmacists, however; come from a wide variety of educational back grounds, including those who majored in English, business, communications, biology, etc. If the pharmacy prerequisite courses are not required as part of your undergraduate major, you will need to complete these courses as electives.

General Questions on the Application Process

How do I apply to the USF School of Pharmacy?

Upon the opening of the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) 2011-2012 application cycle (early June 2011), applicants must:

1. Submit an application to the College of Pharmacy through the PharmCAS (www.pharmcas.org) and remit the associated fee to PharmCAS
2. Take the PCAT (www.pcatweb.info) and have official scores reported to PharmCAS (code 104)
3. Provide an official copy of all college transcripts to PharmCAS
4. Request the submission of at least two (2) letters of recommendation on your behalf to PharmCAS. One letter must be from a science professor.

In addition, applicants must complete and submit the following materials directly to the USF College of Pharmacy:

1. USF College of Pharmacy Online Supplemental Application (available in June 2011)
2. Online Residency Form along with two proofs of residency
3. Have official AP and IB test scores to be sent directly to the College:

USF College of Pharmacy
12901 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., MDC 30
Tampa, FL 33612

What is the application deadline?

Early Decision: The application deadline for early action is September 2, 2010. All application materials must be received by this deadline.

Regular Decision Process: The application deadline is December 1, 2011. All application materials must be received by this deadline.

What happens if I apply through Early Decision and I'm not accepted?

Should you apply through early decision and not be invited for an interview, your application will automatically be deferred for regular decision and be reviewed again. At that time, you may apply to additional pharmacy schools.

Are letters of recommendation required for admission?

Yes. Two letters of recommendation are required. One letter must be from a science professor. Letters are not accepted by friends or teaching assistants.

What kinds of experiences, paid and volunteer, will help me get into pharmacy school?

Applicants are encouraged to have volunteer or paid experience working with patients in a pharmacy or health-related setting (hospital, nursing home, etc.). Ongoing work or volunteer experience in a pharmacy setting may be an important factor in the admissions process. If you are unable to gain work or volunteer experience directly related to pharmacy, contact your selected pharmacy school admission offices to determine what other experiences they might accept that will adequately demonstrate your knowledge of the profession

What sources of information are utilized by the Admissions Committee in assessing applicants?

- PharmCAS application

- Supplemental Application
- PCAT Test score
- Interview

Can I update my application once submitted?

PharmCAS allows you to update your college course history after you initially submit your PharmCAS application. However, you can only do this during the Academic Update window. Please refer to the PharmCAS Application Instructions for Fall 2012 Enrollment for further information.

Once you submit the USF COP Online Supplemental Application you will not be able to update your application.

If I change my contact information, how can update USF School of Pharmacy?

Please refer to the PharmCAS Instructions for Fall 2012 Entering Class for information on how to update your phone number or address. After April 1 you must submit changes directly to the USF COP. You may email your new contact information to the PharmD Admissions Office at PharmD_admissions@health.usf.edu. Please be sure to include your PharmCAS ID.

Questions on the Interviewing Process

Is an on-site interview required during the admissions process?

Yes. All interviews will occur after the application deadline. Invited applicants will participate in a half-day interview day. The Faculty has approved the implementation the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) as part of the admissions process. The MMI is similar in format to the objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). Applicants rotate through a circuit of 'stations', each designed as a brief (5–7 minute) interview with a trained interviewer who assesses non-cognitive characteristics that are important for success in pharmacy.

In addition, applicants will be required to provide a writing sample and participate in a small group activity.

Questions on Other Admissions Requirements

If I am accepted will I be required to complete a background check and drug test?

A criminal background check and drug test will be completed on all applicants accepted to the entering class using a vendor designed and approved by the College. The criminal background check and drug test will be initiated at the time an applicant is accepted and has made a deposit to the school.

The criminal background check and drug test is not a component of the application, interview, or decision-making process for the school. It is a mandatory component of the post-acceptance matriculation process. The acceptance letter sent by the College to each accepted applicant will include information about the criminal background check requirement, with the contingency that the final

decision about pharmacy school matriculation be made after institutional review of the accepted applicant's criminal background check and drug test reports.

If I have a criminal record, can I go to pharmacy school and become a pharmacist?

Contact the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to determine if a felony conviction will prevent you from obtaining a license to practice pharmacy in a particular state.

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy
1600 Feehanville Drive
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
847-391-4406
Fax: 847-391-4502
<http://www.nabp.net/>

USF asks applicants to disclose any previous felony or misdemeanor convictions as part of the application process. A criminal record will not necessarily prevent you from enrolling in a pharmacy school; however, failure to disclose any past or pending charges may be grounds for dismissal. USF requires criminal background checks and/or drug tests in order to verify and individual's suitability to participate in experiential education rotations, to confirm a student's eligibility for pharmacy licensure and to ensure patient safety.

Are there technical standards that I must meet?

Yes. All candidates must meet the health and technical standards requisite for admission and participation in the educational programs of the College. The PharmD degree signifies that the holder is prepared for entry into the practice of pharmacy and graduates must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of situations and render patient-centered, pharmaceutical care to patients.

You may obtain a copy of our technical standards by emailing the Office of Admissions at pharmdadmissions@health.usf.edu

Are there health related requirements that must be met?

Yes. The COP has four health related requirements that must be met prior to matriculation.

1. Students must have health insurance in effect at all times during enrollment at USF COP. Policy information on basic health insurance policies will be available at orientation for students who do not have current health insurance. Proof of insurance will be collected by admissions prior to or during orientation.
2. Students must have disability insurance in effect at all times during your enrollment at USF COP. The policy will be purchased at registration for approximately \$75 and is to be renewed annually.
3. Students must undergo a physical examination prior to starting school. Complete the Physical Exam Verification Form and return it directly to the Associate Director of Medical Health Administration in July.

4. Students must provide documented evidence of immunity to specified communicable diseases listed on the Communicable Disease Prevention Certification form. All documentation must be in English.

Is a laptop computer required?

Yes. A laptop is required.

Who can I talk to for further information or for questions that I have?

For further information, please contact the School of Pharmacy Admissions Office at PharmD_admissions@health.usf.edu

Should I work while I am in the PharmD program?

We typically recommend that students do not work for the first year to adjust to our program. However, we do have students that must work and we recommend no more than 10-15 hours a week. It is important to note that our coursework is very challenging, and you would be taking at least two classes with labs every semester.