

USFCOP

Pharmacy Admissions FAQ

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 large is each incoming class?

100 students per class.

What is the cost of tuition?

We offer the lowest tuition within the State of Florida. Tuition for in and out of state students is *estimated* at \$17,500 per year. **This is subject to change.** This does not include fees. The fees between in and out of state students do vary; out of state fees are calculated at a higher rate.

Are scholarships available?

Yes. Scholarships are competitive and both merit and need based. Once accepted, students receive scholarship information from our dedicated Financial Aid Counselor.

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

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) 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 college?

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.

What are the Admissions requirements:

- 2.75 Overall GPA (preferred).
- 72 hours of prerequisite coursework credit hours.
- While 65th percentile composite PCAT score is preferred, we will consider applicants with lower scores that may have other strong academic indicators providing evidence of success. PCAT scores older than 3 years will NOT be accepted. Latest PCAT accepted for fall 2014 is **January 8, 2014** for regular decision and **September 18, 2013** for early decision applicants.
- US Citizens or Permanent Residents of the United States of America.

All applications undergo a holistic review process whereby careful consideration is given to all the credentials presented by applicants. By utilizing this process, applicants' academic record along with experiences and attributes are assessed for potential academic and clinical success.

Does USF College 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.

What are the minimum PCAT scores considered?

PCAT composite score considered for admission is 65th percentile taken within the past 3 years.

While 65th percentile composite PCAT score is preferred, we will consider applicants with lower scores that may have other strong academic indicators providing evidence of success.

What is the minimum college GPA considered?

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

Can international applicants apply to the USF College of Pharmacy?

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

Do I need a bachelor's degree before I apply to the USF College 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.

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>.

Will Admissions staff review my transcript to determine which courses I should take or if courses I have taken meet USFCOP prerequisites?

No, the process of reviewing applications and evaluating applicants is what occurs as part of our admissions process. Students may consult the Prerequisite Evaluation Guide and Prerequisite Guides by Schools to gain an idea of what courses will fulfill our prerequisites. These guides are available online (<http://health.usf.edu/pharmacy/prerequisites.htm#guides>).

If your college/university is not listed or the course you took or plan to take is not listed under your college/university, complete the [Prerequisite Coursework Evaluation Petition](#).

Is there a time limitation on prerequisites?

Yes, 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.

What if my coursework is older than 5 and/or 10 years?

If your courses fall outside 5 and 10 years, you *MAY* be able to submit a waiver request if you meet the following conditions:

PCAT Composite score of 40 **AND**

- Total GPA of 3.0 or greater **AND**
- Have been continuously enrolled in school **OR** work in a field (i.e. science teacher) using the subject matter (i.e. chemistry) that is outdated.
- **If you do not meet these conditions, a waiver request CANNOT be submitted for review.**
- Submission of a waiver request is not a guarantee that your request will be approved. Applicants are responsible for meeting prerequisite requirements.
- Requests will be reviewed after the application deadline and applicants will be notified during the spring 2014 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.

If accepted into the Class of 2018, all prerequisite coursework **MUST** be completed no later than summer session C (July 2014). Due to session end dates, courses **CANNOT** be taken during Summer Session B.

All coursework must be taken at a 2 or 4-year US 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.

How do I apply to the USF College of Pharmacy?

Please note that USFCOP does not participate in a rolling admissions process. Applications are reviewed by the Admissions Committee AFTER the application deadline.

Early Decision and Regular Decision Applicants:

Upon the opening of the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) application portal, applicants must:

1. Submit an application to the College of Pharmacy through the PharmCAS (www.pharmacas.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.
5. Electronically submit the USFCOP Supplemental Application and \$30 non-refundable application fee. To access the supplemental application, click [here](#).

What is the application deadline?

Early Decision: The application deadline for early action is September 3, 2013. All application materials must be received by this deadline.

Regular Decision Process: The application deadline is December 2, 2013. All application materials must be received by this deadline.

Application materials must be received (not postmarked) by respective deadlines.

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 documents are utilized by the Admissions Committee in assessing applicants?

- PharmCAS application to include letters of recommendation and PCAT test scores
- Supplemental Application
- Interview

Can I update my PharmCAS 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 2014 Enrollment for further information.

Can I provide an update directly to USF COP regarding my employment or volunteer work?

No. We do not make revisions or updates to applications once they are submitted.

Can I provide a letter of intent?

No, we do not consider letters of intent when making admissions decisions.

Can I update my USFCOP supplemental application once submitted?

No. Once you submit the USF COP Online Supplemental Application you will not be able to update your application.

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 of 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.

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

Yes. A criminal background check and drug screen 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 college.

The criminal background check and drug screen is not a component of the application, interview, or decision-making process for the college. 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 college matriculation be made after institutional review of the accepted applicant's criminal background check and drug screen reports.

Are there fees associated with completing the background check and drug screen?

Yes. The majority of the cost for the Centralized CBC is included in the application fee, however the students will be assessed a \$15 administration fee at the point of the CBC. The students will be assessed a \$53 administration fee at the point of the drug screening.

Who is conducts the background check and drug screen?

Certiphi Screening, Inc. is the vendor used to conduct the Centralized CBC program and the Centralized Drug Screening Program.

If I have a criminal record, can I go to pharmacy college 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 college; 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 undergo a physical examination prior to starting college. Complete the Physical Exam Verification Form and return it directly to the Associate Director of Medical Health Administration in July.
3. 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.

Are there computer and technology requirements?

Yes. Students are required to have a laptop and iPad. A detailed list of the hardware and software requirements will be included as part of the Welcome Packet. It is recommended (but not required) that students have access to an external hard drive, color printer, and web camera.

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

Pre-pharmacy students are encouraged to sign up for a inPHARMation session **before** meeting with an Admissions Advisor. Most admissions related questions can be answered by attending a session. These sessions are intended to provide prospective students with an overview of the PharmD program, admissions requirements, and application process. An optional campus tour will be provided at the end of the presentation. Click [here](#) for session dates and how to register.

You may also email questions to the Office of Admissions at pharmdadmissions@health.usf.edu

How can I schedule an appointment with an advisor?

Please note that advising sessions are not intended for us to review your transcript, evaluate how competitive you are as an applicant or where you may stand in the applicant pool. The process of reviewing applications and evaluating applicants is what occurs as part of our admissions process.

Before scheduling an appointment, be sure to review the USF COP admissions requirements and application process. Appointments must be scheduled online via [eScheduler](#). You will be taken to our online appointment scheduler. Please enter your email address and select "College of Pharmacy" from the Advisor Area drop down menu. Then select "Prospective Student" from the College of Pharmacy Area drop down menu. You will see a calendar by which you can select the weekday/date that you would like to meet with Mrs. Grosser, Admissions Advisor. If you encounter any problems with using e-Scheduler, please contact the Office of Admissions at pharmdadmissions@health.usf.edu

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

Please refer to the PharmCAS Instructions for Fall 2014 Entering Class for information on how to update your phone number or address.

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.