



## PharmD Admissions FAQs

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### **General PharmD Program Questions**

- **How long does it take to complete the PharmD program?**
  - The PharmD program is completed in four years.
- **Does USF offer a “0-7” program?**
  - USF COP has a partnership with the USF Honors College, for information about the 7-Year B.S./PharmD Program please visit this [link](#).
- **Does USF offer an “early assurance” program?**
  - No. Currently, USF does not offer an “early assurance” or “early admission” program. Early assurance and early admissions are different than early decision. Please see the “PharmD Application Process” for this information.
- **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, need and merit-based scholarships are awarded. Merit based scholarships are given at or close to time of acceptance. Needs based scholarships are awarded through an application process, once accepted students will receive needs-based scholarship information from our dedicated the USF Health Office of Financial Aid.
  
- **Do students work while in the PharmD program?**
  - We 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.
  
- **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/>

## PharmD Program Admission Requirements

- **What are the PharmD program Admissions requirements?**
  - US Citizens or Permanent Residents of the United States of America.
  - 2.75 Overall GPA (preferred).
  - 72 hours of prerequisite coursework credit hours.
  - The PCAT is not required for the 2020-2021 Admissions cycle but may be submitted at the discretion of the applicant. For students opting to submit PCAT

- scores, it is preferred that the scores are within the last 3 years.
- Two letters of recommendation
    - 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 Taneja College of Pharmacy require the PCAT for admission?**
    - The PCAT is not required for the 2020-2021 Admissions Cycle but may be submitted at the discretion of the applicant. For students opting to submit PCAT scores, it is preferred that the scores are within the last 3 years.
  
  - **What are the minimum PCAT scores considered?**
    - We do not have a minimum PCAT score requirement. The PCAT is not required for the 2020-2021 Admissions Cycle but may be submitted at the discretion of the applicant. For students opting to submit PCAT scores, it is preferred that the scores are within the last 3 years.
  
  - **What is the minimum college GPA considered?**
    - We do not have a minimum required GPA. However, we recommend overall GPA of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale, as calculated by all coursework and all institutions attended.
  
  - **Does the USF College of Pharmacy accept international students and/or DACA students?**
    - No. To qualify for admission, all students must be either a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States with a green card at the time of submitting the PharmCAS application. International students with a student visa (F1) do not qualify for admissions. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis for DACA students. In addition, all prerequisite coursework must be completed at a regionally accredited U.S. university or college by the time of matriculation.

### **PharmD Program Prerequisite Courses**

- **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 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 backgrounds, 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 requirements?**
  - You can find a list of the required prerequisite coursework on our website here: <https://health.usf.edu/pharmacy/prerequisites/prerequisite-courses>
  
- **Will Admissions staff review my transcript to determine which courses I should take or if courses I have taken meet USFTCOP 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 [here](#).
  - If your college/university is not listed or the course you took (or plan to take) is not listed under your college/university, please send a copy of the syllabus to our course equivalency form [here](#). Our Office of Admissions staff will review the syllabus and inform you whether the course would be accepted as a prerequisite.
  
- **Is there a time limitation on prerequisites?**
  - There is not a specific time limitation for pre-requisites or general education courses. However, completion of prerequisite coursework will be critically reviewed by the Admissions Committee. The date when prerequisite courses were completed, particularly math and/or science coursework, as well as the grade earned in all prerequisite courses will be reviewed. Upon transcript review, you may be advised to retake a course(s) completed five or more years ago.
  
- **Must I have all my prerequisite coursework completed before I apply?**
  - Completion of prerequisites is not required prior to application; however, all prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to matriculation.

- If accepted, all prerequisite coursework MUST be completed no later than the USF Summer C Session (typically mid to late July). Due to session end dates, courses CANNOT be taken during USF Summer Session B. For the pre-requisite completion deadline for the current cycle, please view the pre-requisite section of our website [here](#).
- **Will foreign coursework be accepted?**
  - No. 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.
- **Humanities & Arts and/or Social Sciences requirements**
  - Our prerequisite course requirements include 9 credit hours of Humanities & Arts and/or Social Sciences, which includes a wide range of humanities and arts courses from Intro to Humanities to Music Theory to Art History. As a part of this requirement, 3 credit hours (1 course) must be related to diversity and culture and/or social and ethical issues. Examples of courses that would satisfy this requirement include Applied/Intro to Ethics, Cultural Anthropology, Intro to

World Religions, etc. If you have a specific question about a particular course, please email the course description and course syllabus to [pharmacyadmissions@health.usf.edu](mailto:pharmacyadmissions@health.usf.edu).

## **PharmD Program Application Process**

- **How do I apply to the USF Taneja College of Pharmacy?**

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 (<http://www.pharmcas.org/>) and remit the associated fee to PharmCAS.
  2. Request the submission of at least two (2) letters of recommendation on your behalf to PharmCAS. We recommend one letter be from a science faculty member. We do not accept letters of recommendation from family members or friends.
  3. Submit PCAT test scores to PharmCAS (code 104) IF you are taking the PCAT.
  4. Submit official transcripts to PharmCAS.
- **What is the application deadline?**
    - **Early Decision:** The early decision application deadline is typically the Tuesday after Labor Day in September. This can vary from cycle to cycle.
    - **Regular Decision Process:** The regular decision deadline can vary from cycle to cycle.
    - To view deadlines for the current cycle please visit the applying section of our website through this [link](#).
  - **Is a supplemental application required?**
    - No. We no longer require a supplemental application.
  - **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 to regular decision and be reviewed again. At that time, you may apply to additional pharmacy schools.
  - **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, including letters of recommendation and PCAT testscores
    - 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 Academic Update section](#) for further instructions.
  
  - **If I change my contact information, how can update USF Taneja College of Pharmacy?**
    - Please refer to the PharmCAS Instructions for information on how to update your phone number or address.
  
  - **Can I provide an update directly to USF TCOP regarding my employment or volunteer work?**
    - No. We do not make revisions or updates to PharmCAS applications once they are submitted.
  
  - **Can I provide a letter of intent?**
    - No, we do not consider letters of intent when making admissions decisions.
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- **Is an on-site interview required during the admissions process?**
    - Yes. Invited applicants will participate in a half-day interview day. The interview will consist of three assessments including an oral interview, group activity, and writing sample. The oral interview is conducted through a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI). 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.
  
    - The Office of Admissions offers an interview workshop every summer for applicants. This workshop can be reviewed at any time on our Facebook Page through Facebook Live. To register for an Interview Workshop please visit our website [here](#).
  
  - **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 designated and

approved by the College. The criminal background check and drug screen 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 PharmCAS Application Instruction guide has updated fees from year to year. Please access the most current application guide through the PharmCAS website [here](#).
- **Who 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 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 history 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 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 review our technical standards at <https://health.usf.edu/~media/Files/Pharmacy/Admissions/usf-college-of-of-pharmacy-technical-standards.ashx>
- **Are there health related requirements that must be met?**
  - Yes. The TCOP has three health related requirements that must be met prior to matriculation.
    1. Students must always have health insurance in effect during enrollment at USF TCOP. 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. A detailed list of the hardware and software requirements will included in the admitted student canvas course. It is recommended (but not required) that students have access to an external hard drive, color printer, and web camera.

## PharmD Program Advising

- **Who can I talk to for further information or for questions that I have?**
  - Pre-pharmacy students are encouraged to sign up for an 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 [pharmacyadmissions@health.usf.edu](mailto:pharmacyadmissions@health.usf.edu)
- **Do you host open houses?**
  - We host inPHARMation sessions. Please see the question above for how to register for inPHARMation sessions.
- **Do you host campus tours?**
  - We host group tours of our campus pharmacies and USF Health for groups of 5 or more. Smaller groups and individuals can sign up for a tour with USF Health Office of Pre-admissions and Outreach. To register for a tour please visit our website [here](#).
- **Do you host virtual tours for out of state applicants?**
  - No.
- **How can I schedule an appointment with an advisor?**
  - The Taneja College of Pharmacy offers two types of advising appointments, Pre-Admissions and Admissions. Please carefully read each appointment type to ensure that you meet with the appropriate advisor. If you are looking for a general information it is highly recommended that you attend an InPHARMation Session listed above.
  - 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.
  - **College of Pharmacy Pre-Admissions Appointments**
    - This appointment is for students who have general questions about the College of Pharmacy, Admissions process, Prerequisites, and those students who have not applied yet. If you would like to set an appointment time, please use the [e-scheduler](#) and select Pre-Admissions as your Sub Area drop down.
    - *Pre-Admissions also offers walk-in appointments on Tuesdays from 8:30 am to 11:30 am and on Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.*
  - **Taneja College of Pharmacy Admissions Appointments**
    - This appointment is for students who have applied or are in the application process. This is also for students who have *specific* questions about a prerequisite, application issues, or in-depth concerns about the admissions process. If you would like to set an appointment with admissions, please use the [e-scheduler](#) and select Admissions as your Sub Area drop down.

- If you are not sure which advisor to meet with or have general questions, please contact us at [pharmacyadmissions@usf.edu](mailto:pharmacyadmissions@usf.edu).