

# Pharmacy

**Web site(s):** [www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org) (professional organization) and [www.acpe-accredit.org](http://www.acpe-accredit.org) (pharmacy education)

**Application service:** PharmCAS at [www.pharmcas.org](http://www.pharmcas.org). There are several dual degree options with PharmD programs including MBA, JD, MD, and MPH. The PharmCAS application site opens in June for an application cycle (i.e., June 2014 for the 2014-15 application cycle).

**Application exam:** Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) – [pcatweb.info](http://pcatweb.info). The PCAT is offered on specific test dates in July, September, October, November, and January. Registration deadlines can be two months prior to test date, so please register early. Test subsections: Verbal Ability, Biology, Chemistry, Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Ability, & Writing.

**Transcripts:** Official transcripts from ALL institutions attended, including Marquette University, must be sent directly from the institution to the central application service or the school. If you completed study abroad courses that are on a transcript from another university, official transcripts from that institution must also be sent.

**Course prerequisites:** Course prerequisites vary by program. Typical prerequisites include biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, physics, calculus, statistics, public speaking, and economics (micro or macro).

**Observation hours/experience:** Pharmacy schools like to see well rounded applications and look for quality and depth of experiences rather than requiring a specific number of hours. Direct exposure to pharmacy and/or health care settings is strongly encouraged. On the PharmCAS application you will be required to report the following categories: extracurricular activities in order of importance to you (including designating whether the activity was related to pharmacy or health care); work experience; honors and scholarships, and publications.

**Minimum application requirements:** Most programs have minimum gpa's overall and in prerequisite coursework (range from 2.5-3.0), and minimum PCAT scores (range from 20<sup>th</sup> – 60<sup>th</sup> percentile) for applicants. A directory of program admission requirements is located on the AACP web page.

**Personal Statement:** Your personal essay should address why you selected pharmacy as a career; how the Doctor of Pharmacy degree relates to your immediate and long-term professional goals; and how your personal, educational, and professional background will help you achieve your goals. You are limited to 4500 characters, including spaces.

**Letters of Reference (LOR):** Reference letters your behalf will be submitted directly by the recommender to PharmCAS. You will identify these individuals on your application (including their email address). PharmCAS will send an email directly to the reference person with a link for them to submit their recommendation. A few pharmacy schools prefer that applicants send references directly to the institution. Know the preferences for your schools.

**Interview:** Competitive applicants may be invited to participate in an interview process. Interviews may include faculty members, current students of the program, and/or practitioners. Interviews may be used to assess oral communication skills, professional behaviors, attitude, knowledge of the profession (or of health care overall), problem-solving skills, etc. Go to your interviews with prepared questions about the school/program that show your interest in what the school has to offer (other than being close to home or low tuition).

**Deadlines:** Most schools have rolling admission, which means programs review applications as they arrive. The earlier an application is submitted, the greater the chance for acceptance. The processing of an application may take four to six weeks once all materials have been submitted.

**Early Decision:** Early decision admission, for programs that offer it, is a binding option for applicants who have decided that a particular program is their first choice and that they will enroll if accepted. The application deadline for early decision is September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Data for Accepted Students:** Acceptance data varies greatly by program and national averages are not available. For the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy's 2013 entering class, the average GPA overall was a 3.57, math and science prerequisite GPA was a 3.59 and the mean composite score on the PCAT was a 78%. 61% of admitted students had completed B.S. degrees.

