

PharmD FAQ

About the Students and Applicants

1. How many people do you accept each year?

Each year, we accept 100 students from a pool of about 600 to 800 applicants. Competition depends on the size of the applicant pool for a particular year.

2. Do you give preference to applicants from Michigan colleges?

Preference is not given to Michigan residents.

About the Program

1. Do you have rolling admissions?

Not in the true sense of rolling admissions. We do admit as candidates are interviewed, but insure that positions are available in the program throughout the admissions cycle.

2. Do you offer an advanced-standing program?

No. This is true regardless of your educational background. All students enter our program at the first-year level.

Step 1: Minimum Eligibility Requirements

1. What is the minimum grade point average required for admission?

Admission is competitive and is based on all aspects of the application in addition to your grade point average. This includes your science grades, PCAT scores, curriculum, work experience, extracurricular activities, honors, recommendations, and essays. Competition varies from year to year depending upon the size and strength of the applicant pool. Although we do have minimum grade point average requirements, they are quite low compared to the average GPA (currently 3.65) of applicants usually offered admission.

2. Is a bachelor's degree required for admission?

No, only the pre-pharmacy requirements are required. However a degree can make an applicant more competitive for admission.

3. Do I have to take the PCAT or GRE?

Yes, we require the Pharmacist College Admissions Test (PCAT). We do not require the GRE.

4. Do you have minimum requirements for the PCAT?

We do not have minimum requirements but do look to see that an applicant's PCAT scores are above certain guidelines. These are Composite 50th %tile, Chemistry 50th%tile, Quantitative 50th%tile, Biology 50th%tile, Reading 25th%tile, Verbal 25th%tile. Candidates with scores below these percentiles are close reviewed by the admissions committee.

Step 2: After Applying

1. How do I find out the status of my application.?

When an application is received by the College an e-mail message is sent informing candidates that it has been received. Within 7 days of receiving an application it is preliminarily reviewed. If important information is missing, such as PCAT scores, the applicant will be notified by e-mail. If you have not heard from the College concerning the receipt of your application please contact us at cphsinfo@wayne.edu. One of the most common reasons for not hearing from us is the use of an e-mail address from carriers such as yahoo.com, hotmail.com, comcast.net. You are strongly encouraged to use a university/college based e-mail address and not rely on other e-mail services.

2. Is every applicant interviewed?

No. We interview only the most qualified candidates. This will vary each year depending on the pool of candidates. For the past several years accepted students have average GPAs of 3.66 and average PCAT composite scores at or above the 75thtile. Generally speaking as a GPA decreases below the average, the PCAT composite scores should increase above the average for a candidate to be competitive. Last year we interviewed 200 applicants for 100 positions. This is from a candidate pool of 600 applicants.

3. When will I know if I have been selected to be interviewed.

Candidates must have a completed application before the Admissions Committee will review them for consideration to be interviewed. For applications that have been submitted and complete, applicants will know as soon as 7 days after we have received the application. Almost all requests to schedule an interview are completed by the end of December. If you have not heard from our program by January 10, 2008, you should contact us at cphsinfo@wayne.edu and inquire about your status.

We attempt to let applicants know as early as possibly about their status. Applicants who have undergraduate GPAs or PCAT scores well below what we have established as minimums will receive rejection e-mail letters from us prior to January 1, 2008.

Other candidates may fall into a holding category, which is used while we are assessing the quality of candidates who are interviewed. We will invite only those candidates who have a realistic chance of being competitive for that year's applicant pool.

4. What is involved with an interview? Do I need to bring anything?

Our interview is designed for students to see our facilities, meet with current students and have their written and oral communication skills evaluated. Candidates will meet with 2 faculty members who will assess communication skills and understanding of the profession of pharmacy and the desire of the applicant to become a pharmacist. Candidates will meet with an academic advisor who will provide them with an assessment of their progression towards completing all program prerequisites.

You do not need to bring anything, but you should be familiar with Wayne State University and the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and health Sciences before you interview. If you have had significant application updates, bring them with you to the interview.

5. I really need to know if I've been accepted. Can I call you to find out?

We notify every applicant as soon as possible. Please do not call our office to check on your status. This hinders the process and delays notification for all applicants. Be patient and wait to hear from us.

6. What is a Wait List

About half of the students interviewed end up being admitted into the program. Not everyone who is interviewed will be accepted. While we accept as candidates are interviewed, most are initially placed in a wait list category. This is a list of candidates that after interview are acceptable to the program but their overall evaluation is such that the Admissions Committee wants to evaluate more candidates before making a decision. Applicants may be on a wait list until all candidates are interviewed. After the completion of all interviews candidates are notified concerning their final status in the program. This should happen by mid-March.

7. What is an Alternate List?

Once a class of 100 students has been filled, a small number of candidates are placed on an alternate list. These are candidates may be communicated with on very short notice concerning acceptance into the program. Every year some applicants decline the offer, and the reasons are diverse. For example: financial issues, personal issues, or medical issues. Every year some applicants are also administratively canceled. This could be for failing a prerequisite, not completing all the prerequisites, or not submitting documents or other verification materials required by the University.

A. Where am I on the alternate list?

We do not rank the alternate list. After the deadline has passed for admitted applicants to accept, and secure their spot, the committee meets to review how many spaces are open and reviews everyone on the waitlist to determine who will fill the spaces.

B. What are my chances?

Unfortunately, it is impossible to predict how many accepted applicants will decline their admission offer or be canceled.

C.. How soon will I know?

Unfortunately, it is impossible to predict when accepted applicants will decline our offer or be canceled. The alternate list remains open until the first day of classes.

D How many alternates are accepted each year?

The number of alternates we accept can vary significantly from year to year. Since the reasons for declining an admission offer or for being canceled are often related to personal or unexpected situations, it is impossible to predict the number of alternates that will be offered admission.

8. If I am offered admission, how will I be contacted?

We immediately contact you after the admissions committee makes a decision. This contact will be by e-mail. Therefore, it is very important for you to keep us informed if your contact information changes. If we cannot reach you by telephone or e-mail, we presume you are not interested and move to another person on the wait list. It is imperative that your e-mail address remain current and that you know that our messages are not filtered by your e-mail carrier. Again we strongly recommend the use of university or college base e-mail address and discourage the use of yahoo, hotmail and comcast addresses.

9. Can I call for more information?

Please do not call our office to check your status on the waiting list. We will contact you immediately if we are able to offer you a place in the entering class.

Denied Applications

May I apply again in a future application cycle?

Yes. You will have to submit a new application through PharmCAS. We do recommend that you meet with an advisor who can assist with strengthening your application for the future. You also should do a reality check and ask yourself the following: Am I a competitive academic applicant? The history of our program over the past 5 years is that students with GPAs below 3.2 need to have high PCAT scores (Composite percentiles above the 80th %tile). Similarly if your composite PCAT is below the 60th %tile, your GPA should be above our average of 3.67. If you do not meet these criteria, you need to be very realistic about your chances of being admitted to the WSU Doctor of Pharmacy Program.

Have a question that isn't answered here? Ask us at cphsinfo@wayne.edu.