

Admissions Information



2009 – 2010

APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Admission to the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy at East Tennessee State University is based on a competitive selection process involving applicants who meet the minimum requirements for admission. The Admissions Committee endeavors to select for admission those applicants who are the best qualified, with an emphasis on those who demonstrate a desire and propensity for rural pharmacy practice and an interest in rural health. The Gatton College of Pharmacy uses a rolling admission process which allows for interviews and final action on applications throughout the admission cycle. The College is committed to increasing the number of qualified pharmacists from currently underrepresented minority groups and from disadvantaged backgrounds. The school actively promotes and encourages applicants from these groups.

Pre-Pharmacy Studies: Pre-professional preparation should be in an area chosen strictly according to the interest of the individual student. A specific major or minor course of undergraduate study for entering students is not advocated. A well-rounded undergraduate education is highly desirable, and students are encouraged to pursue the undergraduate program of their choosing. In addition to acquiring specific knowledge, the pre-pharmacy student should acquire certain basic skills and aptitudes such as the ability to read with speed, comprehension, and retention; the ability to understand concepts and draw logical conclusions; the ability to adapt quickly to new and different circumstances; and the ability to communicate effectively in all circumstances. Evidence of these abilities is sought throughout the admission process. These skills and abilities are essential in becoming a practicing pharmacist and a self-directed, lifelong learner.

Early Decision: The College participates in the early decision admission program through the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS). This program allows applicants who are committed to attending the Gatton College of Pharmacy the opportunity to secure an admissions acceptance early during the admissions cycle. Applicants choosing this program cannot apply to any other pharmacy school prior to the receiving a decision and agree to attend the Gatton College of Pharmacy, if accepted.

The deadline to apply as an Early Decision applicant is September 2. Early Decision applicants are assured of receiving an admission decision no later than October 23. Please note that early decision applicants are not given preference over regular decision applicants by the Admissions Committee.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The minimum admissions requirements set forth the criteria that must be met before the applicant can be considered for admission.

- I. Citizenship:** In order to be admitted, an applicant must be a U.S. citizen, possess a U.S. Permanent Resident Visa, or have been granted asylum status. Proof of eligibility is required for non-U.S. citizens.

II. Pre-Pharmacy Course Prerequisites: Admission to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program requires that applicants complete at least 63 semester hours of specified undergraduate courses at a college or university that is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. The prerequisites provide the minimum academic background essential to pharmacy education. Applicants who exceed the minimum stated requirements are more competitive.

Courses	Semester Hours	Quarter Hours
General Chemistry and Lab (for majors)	8	12
Organic Chemistry and Lab (for majors)	8	12
General Physics and Lab (for majors)	8	12
General Biology and Lab (for majors)	4	6
Microbiology (must include an accompanying lab)	3	5
Other Biology (combined A&P course will satisfy this requirement if both semesters are taken)	3	5
Calculus (for majors preferred)	3	5
Statistics	3	4
Composition	3	4
Oral Communication	3	4
Additional Writing or Oral Communication	3	4
Economics	3	4
Electives (Social or Behavioral Science, or Humanities)	9	13

Coursework must total a minimum of 63 semester or 94 quarter hours. Applicants who are in the process of completing the required courses at the time of application should note these on their PharmCAS application as current courses. Courses for which the applicant earned a grade less than C- will NOT be utilized to satisfy prerequisites. All prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to enrollment.

Use of Advanced Placement or CLEP Credit: Advanced placement credit, CLEP credit, or other nontraditional credit in required non-science courses awarded by a regionally accredited college or university may be utilized to satisfy academic prerequisites. Such credit may also be utilized to satisfy prerequisite science courses provided that applicants have taken additional course work in the same discipline. Prospective students should be aware that portions of the professional curriculum require solid skills in algebra and introductory integral calculus, and those math skills, if not

used, quickly diminish. As such, we strongly recommend that incoming students take appropriate steps to insure a high level of mathematical aptitude.

- III. Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT):** All applicants are required to report scores from the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) by the close of the current application period. Applicants must officially report scores via PharmCAS (code 104). The PCAT must be taken within 3 years of the application deadline (January 2007 – January 2010).

Applicants are advised to prepare adequately and thoroughly for this examination and to structure a curriculum that adequately prepares them prior to this important examination. Information regarding the Pharmacy College Admission Test may be obtained from the applicant's pre-professional advisor or at www.PCATweb.info.

- IV. Letters of Reference:** At least two letters of reference are required. One letter must be from a faculty member who has taught the student (biology, chemistry, physics or math recommended) or a pre-professional advisor or committee at the applicant's academic institution. Note: If a committee/composite letter is utilized, it will only count as one reference. The second letter may be from a source of the applicant's choosing; however, letters from family members will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to submit letters from an individual capable of attesting to the applicant's potential as a future health care professional. Letters from employers, especially if the employer is a pharmacist, are strongly encouraged. Applicants are required to submit the letters of reference through PharmCAS (refer to PharmCAS for instructions).
- V. Interview:** An in-person interview with members of the Admissions Committee is required. Only selected applicants will be invited to interview (all related expenses are the sole responsibility of the applicant). An invitation to interview does not guarantee admission or imply any specific action on the part of the Admissions Committee.

Interview dates are scheduled directly with the applicant by the Admissions Office. When the interview date is confirmed, information will be sent to the applicant regarding local overnight housing options. All accommodation arrangements are the responsibility of the applicant.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- I. PharmCAS Application:** Application is made using the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) via their website, www.PharmCAS.org. Repeat applicants either to PharmCAS or ETSU are required to resend all test scores, letters of reference, and official transcripts.
- II. Supplemental Application and Application Fee:** Applicants are also required to complete a supplemental application along with a **non-refundable application fee of \$50** directly to the Gattton College of Pharmacy Admissions Office on or before the

application deadline. The application, which is available at www.etsu.edu/pharmacy, can only be completed online. Applicants should begin their PharmCAS application prior to attempting to complete the supplemental application, as a PharmCAS ID number is required.

III. Application Deadlines:

	Regular Applicants	Early Decision Applicants
Submission of PharmCAS Application	February 1, 2010	September 2, 2009
Submission of Supplemental Application and Fee	February 1, 2010	September 2, 2009
Receipt of PCAT scores	March 5, 2010	October 2, 2009
Receipt by PharmCAS of all required Letters of Reference	February 1, 2010	September 2, 2009

Important: Applications will not be considered by the Admissions Committee until all application materials have been received (i.e., PharmCAS application, supplemental application and fee, PCAT scores, and required letters of reference) and it has been determined that the applicant meets prerequisite academic requirements.

- IV. **Class Reservation Deposit:** Upon notification of acceptance to the Gatton College of Pharmacy, the applicant will be required to pay a **non-refundable class reservation deposit of \$500**.
- V. **Deferred Matriculation:** Accepted applicants may request deferred entrance into the Gatton College of Pharmacy until the next class for previously unforeseen circumstances. In order to request deferred matriculation, the applicant must submit a written request explaining why a later matriculation is desired. The applicant, if approved for deferment, will be required to sign a contract agreeing to comply with specific conditions.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Admissions Committee evaluates applicants on the basis of demonstrated academic achievement PCAT scores, letters of reference, pertinent extracurricular activities, evidence of non-scholastic accomplishments, evidence of strong knowledge and understanding of the profession, and demonstrated motivation for the study and practice of pharmacy consistent with the mission of the Gatton College of Pharmacy. Criteria for admission are integrity, willingness and ability to assume responsibility, high scholastic achievement, maturity, intellectual curiosity, and sound motivation.

Academic Considerations: In evaluating the applicant's coursework, the Admissions Committee will examine the time frame and difficulty of the pre-pharmacy course schedule, the correlation of the academic record with the PCAT scores, and extracurricular activities

(particularly activities such as concurrent employment, collegiate athletics, and philanthropic/service activities) as an indication of the potential to succeed in the academically rigorous pharmacy curriculum.

Applicants are expected to possess a solid academic foundation, particularly in the sciences and mathematics. Applicants who have taken prerequisite coursework more than 10 years prior to the application deadline should demonstrate contemporary content knowledge. This can be accomplished by acceptable performance on the PCAT and/or work experience. Such applicants are encouraged to address this issue in the PharmCAS personal statement or the College's supplemental application.

All prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to enrollment; however, students who will have completed the prerequisites by the end of the spring semester prior to desired enrollment will be more competitive for admission. Similarly, applicants completing the typically more demanding science courses such as Organic I, Physics I, or Microbiology by the end of the fall semester are more competitive. Applicants are strongly encouraged from leaving a significant number of prerequisites for completion during the summer preceding anticipated enrollment in pharmacy school.

Experience: Each application is examined for evidence of an applicant's firsthand exposure to health care as an indication of the applicant's motivation and that the applicant is familiar with the realities of pharmacy as a career. It is expected that applicants have a clear understanding of the pharmacy profession. Applicants without pharmacy work experience should consider volunteering, shadowing a pharmacist, or extensively researching the profession prior to applying for admission. The Admissions Committee seeks evidence that the applicant has made a serious and reasoned commitment to understand the profession of pharmacy.

Residency: The Gatton College of Pharmacy gives preference to applicants who are residents of Tennessee and residents of our contiguous Appalachian service area who are interested in our emphasis on the practice of rural institutional or community pharmacy. Because the Gatton College of Pharmacy is a tuition-funded program, tuition is the same for all students regardless of residency.

Reconsideration of Admissions Committee Decision: The Admissions Committee makes every effort to consider all available information in making admissions decisions. It is the policy of the College that it will not review or reconsider any admissions decision unless significant new information which was not available at the time of the original decision is discovered. The College reserves the sole right to determine the significance of any new information presented. Requests for reconsideration are rarely granted.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION

Pharmacy education requires that the accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of skills and professional attitudes and behavior. PharmD graduates must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to

render a wide spectrum of patient care. While acknowledging Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Admissions Committee asserts the following minimum technical standards must be present in prospective candidates.

A candidate for the PharmD degree must have aptitude, abilities, and skills in five areas:

- Observation
- Communication
- Motor
- Conceptual, integrative and quantitative
- Behavioral and social

Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in certain areas but a candidate should be able to perform in an independent manner.

Candidates for the PharmD degree must have somatic sensation and the functional use of the senses of vision and hearing. Candidates' diagnostic skills will also be lessened without the functional use of the senses of equilibrium, smell, and taste. Additionally, they must have sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch, pain, and temperature), sufficient proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, vibratory), and sufficient motor function to permit them to carry out the activities described in the section above. They must be able to consistently, quickly, and accurately integrate all information received by whatever senses employed, and they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data. The Admissions Committee considers any applicant demonstrating the ability to perform or learn to perform the skills listed. These skills and abilities are assessed during the interview and throughout the PharmD program. Students are judged not only on their scholastic accomplishments, but also on their physical and emotional capacities to meet the full requirements of the school's curriculum, and graduate as skilled and effective pharmacy practitioners.