

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy – East Tennessee State University

## *I'm thinking about applying...*

- **Do I need to complete a degree before I can apply?**

No, a degree is not required for acceptance. The completion of at least 61 semester hours of specified undergraduate coursework is required for admission. (For statistics on our students, including their educational level, please visit: [www.etsu.edu/pharmacy/Admissions/EnrollStats.asp](http://www.etsu.edu/pharmacy/Admissions/EnrollStats.asp).)

- **Can I apply before I've finished all of my prerequisite courses?**

Yes. All prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to enrollment (i.e., no later than July 31, as the Gatton College of Pharmacy begins Fall classes in early August).

- **Do you have a minimum PCAT or minimum GPA requirement?**

No, as our Admissions Committee considers the **entire** file of an applicant. However, applicants presenting average or above average numbers are more competitive. (For statistics on our students, including PCAT and GPA averages, please visit: [www.etsu.edu/pharmacy/Admissions/EnrollStats.asp](http://www.etsu.edu/pharmacy/Admissions/EnrollStats.asp).)

- **Where should I take my prerequisite courses?**

Prerequisite coursework will be accepted from any college or university that is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. (All prerequisite coursework must be completed with a grade of C- or higher.)

- **Will you accept my Advanced Placement (AP) or CLEP credit?**

Under certain conditions. AP credit, CLEP credit, or other nontraditional credit in non-science courses awarded by a regionally accredited college or university will be accepted (i.e., the credit must be reflected on the transcript of the awarding college or university).

- **Do you give preference to a certain major?**

No. The most common majors of our applicants are Biology and Chemistry.

- **How many students apply to the Gatton College of Pharmacy? How many students are accepted?**

We receive over 800 applications every year. Our class size is 80.

- **What is the "Early Decision program"?**

This program allows **highly competitive** 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 receiving a decision and agree to attend the Gatton College of Pharmacy, if accepted. (For more information, visit the PharmCAS web site: [www.pharmacas.com/applicants/edp.htm](http://www.pharmacas.com/applicants/edp.htm).)

- **Do you accept foreign students?**

Under certain conditions. 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. (If you are not eligible, visit the AACP—American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy—web site for helpful information: [www.aacp.org/resources/student/Pages/ForeignStudentsandGraduates.aspx](http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/Pages/ForeignStudentsandGraduates.aspx).)

- **Does the Gatton College of Pharmacy offer a post-B.S. program for foreign students?**

No, but please visit the AACP—American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy—web site for helpful information: [www.aacp.org/resources/student/Pages/ForeignStudentsandGraduates.aspx](http://www.aacp.org/resources/student/Pages/ForeignStudentsandGraduates.aspx).

- **Will you accept credits from foreign institutions?**

No. Prerequisite coursework will be accepted from any college or university that is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

## ***I'm ready to apply...***

- **What steps do I need to take and what are your deadlines?**

For information on the current admissions cycle, visit: [www.etsu.edu/pharmacy/Admissions/Application.asp](http://www.etsu.edu/pharmacy/Admissions/Application.asp).

- **Should my PCAT scores be sent to PharmCAS or to the school?**

PCAT scores must be reported directly to PharmCAS (use PharmCAS code 104).

- **Should my letters of reference be sent to PharmCAS or to the school?**

All letters of reference must be submitted directly to PharmCAS. The Gatton College of Pharmacy requires two letters of reference.

- **Who should I use as references?**

One letter must be from a **science or math faculty member who has taught you** or from a pre-professional committee at your academic institution.

The second letter may be from a source of your choosing. You are encouraged to submit a letter from an individual **capable of attesting to your potential as a future health care professional**. Letters from family members (even if they are a pharmacist) will not be accepted.

- **How long does it take before my application is reviewed and decisions are made?**

The Admissions Committee begins reviewing your application as soon as the application is complete. **You will be notified via email when your application is considered complete** (i.e., we have received your PharmCAS application along with the 2 required letters of reference and your PCAT scores from PharmCAS). On average, it takes about three weeks for a decision to be communicated.

- **What do I need to know if the Admissions Committee decides to invite me for an interview?**

Selected applicants will receive an invitation to interview via email. Interviews are granted at least twice each month from October through March. Interview dates are scheduled directly with the applicant by the Admissions Office, and all travel arrangements and expenses are the sole responsibility of the applicant.

## ***I have questions about the prerequisites...***

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
General Biology and Lab – applicable toward science degree	4
Microbiology and Lab – applicable toward science degree	4
Other Biology – applicable toward science degree (combined A&P course will satisfy this requirement if both semesters are taken)	3
General Chemistry and Lab – applicable toward science degree	8
Organic Chemistry and Lab – applicable toward science degree	8
General Physics and Lab – applicable toward science degree	4
Calculus	3
Statistics	3
Economics	3
Composition	3
Oral Communication	3
Additional Writing or Oral Communication	3
Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, or Humanities Electives	9
General Elective (science course recommended)	3
<b>TOTAL (minimum)</b>	<b>61</b>

- **What does “applicable toward science degree” mean?**

The course either needs to count toward any science degree or needs to be a course that is for a major (i.e., a course for a Biology major, a Chemistry major, etc.).

- **What are some examples of Microbiology courses?**

General Microbiology, Introduction to Microbiology, etc. Courses such as Genetics, Immunology, etc. are not acceptable.

- **What are some examples of Other Biology courses?**

Biology for Science Majors II, General Biology II, or any other course in the biology area. Please note that a combined Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) course will satisfy this requirement only if both semesters are taken—both A&P I and A&P II.

- **Does the Physics course need to be calculus based or non-calculus based?**

Either a calculus based course or a non-calculus based course is acceptable.

- **What are some examples of Calculus courses?**

Analytical Geometry and Differential Calculus, Calculus I, Basic Calculus, etc.

- **What are some examples of Statistics courses?**

Probability and Statistics, Introduction to Statistics, etc.

- **What are some examples of Economics courses?**

Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, General Economics, etc.

- **What are some examples of Composition courses?**

English Composition or any **writing-intensive** course in the English area.

- **What are some examples of Oral Communication courses?**

Speech, Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communications, etc.

- **What are some examples of Social Sciences courses?**

Sociology, Political Science, etc.

- **What are some examples of Behavioral Sciences courses?**

Psychology, Organization Theory, etc.

- **What are some examples of Humanities courses?**

Language, Literature, Philosophy, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, etc.

- **What else do I need to know about the prerequisites?**

The prerequisites provide the minimum academic background essential to pharmacy education. Applicants who exceed the minimum stated requirements are more competitive. All prerequisite coursework must be completed with a grade of C- or higher and prior to enrollment.

Be sure to include all courses—completed, in progress, and planned—on your PharmCAS application. During the PharmCAS “Academic Update” window, be sure to update your coursework on your PharmCAS application.