ETSU College of Pharmacy Admissions Information 2007-08

Admission to the East Tennessee State University College of Pharmacy 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 institutional or community pharmacy practice and an interest in rural health. All application materials must be received in the ETSU College of Pharmacy Admissions Office prior to the application deadline of March 1, 2007.

Selection Criteria The Admissions Committee evaluates applicants on the basis of demonstrated academic achievement, PCAT scores, letters of recommendation, pertinent extracurricular work, evidence of non-scholastic accomplishments, and demonstrated motivation for the study and practice of pharmacy. Eligibility for admission shall be determined without regard to age, sex, color, race, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. Criteria for admission include integrity; willingness and ability to assume responsibility; high scholastic achievement; maturity; intellectual curiosity; and sound motivation.

Pre-Pharmacy Studies Pre-professional preparation should be in an area chosen strictly according to the interest of the individual student. 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. Demonstrations and evidence of these abilities are sought throughout the admissions process. These skills and abilities are essential in becoming a high-quality practicing pharmacist and a self-directed, lifelong learner.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

The ETSU College of Pharmacy has established certain prerequisites for admission that provide an essential background to pharmacy education. The minimum admissions requirements set forth the criteria that must be met before the applicant can be admitted. In order to be admitted, an applicant must be a U.S. citizen or possess a U.S. Permanent Resident Visa and must have completed at least 63 semester credit hours of undergraduate courses which must include the Specific Academic Requirements (see below). Only courses taken at a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education will be accepted. Applicants who are in the process of completing the listed required courses at the time of application should note these courses on their application as current courses according to the instructions provided in the application process. All prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to enrollment; however students who will have completed the prerequisites by the end of the Spring semester will be more competitive for admissions. In addition, the applicant must officially report scores for the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT); the code number for reporting PCAT scores to ETSU is 112.

Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) In an effort to obtain predictive information on applicants, all applicants are required to report scores from the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT). Applicants may submit competitive scores from any administration of the PCAT taken within three (3) years of the application deadline. Applicants are advised to prepare adequately and thoroughly for this examination and to structure a curriculum that allows for the majority of the prerequisites for admission to be completed prior to this important examination. Information regarding the Pharmacy College Admission Test may be obtained from the applicant’s preprofessional advisor or at http://www.PCATweb.info.
Transcripts  ETSU College of Pharmacy requires that a transcript be sent from each institution attended even if the courses are not required for admission or were transferred to another institution. All transcripts must be received by the application deadline. Only official transcripts will be accepted. Transcripts marked “issued to student” will be accepted only if they are delivered in a sealed envelope bearing an indication that it was sealed by the issuing institution. Transcripts must be sent to the following address:

Admissions Office  
ETSU College of Pharmacy  
Box 70414  
Johnson City, TN  37614-1704

Experience  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.

Nonresident Applicants  The ETSU College of Pharmacy encourages anyone interested in the practice of rural institutional or community pharmacy to apply. However, preference will be given to residents of Tennessee and the Appalachian region in the selection process.

Letters of Recommendation  The purpose of the Letters of Recommendation is to help establish and confirm that the student is academically prepared to successfully complete the PharmD program, and that the student has the enthusiasm, commitment and other personal qualities to be a successful pharmacist.

At least two recommendations are required. One letter must be from a faculty member who has taught the student (biology, chemistry, physics or math recommended, but not required) or a pre-professional advisor or committee at the applicant’s academic institution. Another letter should be from a health care professional capable of attesting to the student’s potential as a health care professional. Employer evaluations may also be submitted in addition to the required letters. Letters from relatives, significant others and political figures will not contribute to the success of your application. Applicants are encouraged to provide “Expectations of Those Writing Recommendations” (available on the ETSU College of Pharmacy web site) to the individuals they use as references.

Letters should be submitted by regular mail and must come directly from the person writing the recommendation. Electronic letters are discouraged, but if used, should be sent directly from the writer as an attached word document and on company or institutional letterhead. All letters MUST include the writer’s title. Electronic references should be submitted to pharmacy@etsu.edu with the subject line as “Recommendation: student’s full name”.

Letters should be mailed to:  
Admissions Committee  
ETSU College of Pharmacy  
Box 70414  
Johnson City, TN  37614-1704

Interview  Selected applicants are invited to visit ETSU for personal interviews with members of the Admissions Committee. Interviews are held by invitation only, and all related expenses are the sole responsibility of the applicant. 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. On the day of the interview, the applicant should expect to meet individually with two members of the Admissions Committee and participate in an extemporaneous writing assessment. Please note that not all applicants are interviewed and the invitation to interview does not guarantee or imply any specific action on the part of the Admissions Committee.

Advanced Standing Applications  Students desiring to transfer into the professional program from another accredited college of pharmacy will be evaluated on an individual basis. To be considered for admission with advanced standing, they must have a competitive grade point average and be in good standing with the school previously attended. Transfer students will be required to provide a transcript of their record at that institution from which they are transferring. If the transfer applicant is determined to be qualified for admission, a personal interview is required.
Class Reservation Deposit  Upon notification of acceptance to the ETSU College of Pharmacy, the applicant will be required to pay a non-refundable $100 class reservation deposit that is applied to tuition.

Deferred Matriculation  Accepted applicants may request deferred entrance into the College of Pharmacy until the next class. In order to request deferred matriculation, the applicant must forward a letter addressed to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs stating the request and explaining why a later admission is desired. The request will be considered provided it is received at least 30 days prior to the beginning of classes. Requests for deferred matriculation received less than 30 days before the beginning of classes will not be considered.

SPECIFIC ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry (with labs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics (with lab)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology (with labs)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>Calculus</td>
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<td>Probability and Statistics (or equivalent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Minimum of 6 hours composition/writing)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective Courses</td>
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TOTAL Semester Credit Hours (minimum) 63

Chemistry (16): A minimum of sixteen semester credit hours of chemistry is required. A minimum of two courses must be in general chemistry, which may include inorganic or analytical chemistry, and two additional courses must be in organic chemistry. Each of these courses must be a complete, standard college-level course for science majors with a lab utilizing full laboratory facilities. In instances where students feel uncertain of their preparation in chemistry and wish to take additional work, such courses as advanced analytical chemistry, physical chemistry, biophysical/biological chemistry, or chemical instrumentation should be considered.

Physics (4): A course in physics with a lab is required. The course is to be math based (either non-calculus or calculus). The areas of study are to include mechanics, heat, light, sound, electricity, and magnetism. Survey types of courses will not satisfy this requirement.

Biology (8): A minimum of two courses in general biology with a lab for each course that has a focus on human processes and disease will fulfill this requirement. Many students may benefit from additional study in the biological sciences. The faculty recommends additional courses in genetics, cellular biology, embryology, and molecular biology.

Mathematics (6): A one semester calculus course with a minimum of three semester credits is required. In addition, a three-semester credit statistics course, which covers probability and statistics, is required.

Communication Skills (9): Competency in the use of both oral and written English is considered highly essential to the successful study and practice of pharmacy. The usual college-level introductory courses in freshman English composition and literature will meet six semester credit hours of this admission requirement. Writing intensive courses are recommended. It is recommended that the other three required credits be satisfied by an interpersonal communication course that will facilitate the student's ability to communicate effectively.

Electives (20): Additional courses that will provide a balanced program include: social sciences, arts, and humanities. Examples: psychology, sociology, political science, anthropology, economics or business courses, computer science, history, foreign language, philosophy, religion studies, and related courses.
**Computer Skills:** Due to the ever-increasing presence of computers as tools in healthcare, it is expected that applicants will possess and demonstrate an ability to use computers both in the academic and personal setting.

**Advanced Placement or CLEP Credit:** A student who has been awarded advanced placement credit, CLEP credit, or other nontraditional credit in required non-science courses by a regionally accredited college or university will have those credits honored. This would also be true for required math and science courses provided such placement or credit has been followed by a more advanced course in the same discipline.

**Academic Requirements:** These prerequisites represent the academic foundation that is deemed necessary for success in the pharmacy curriculum. In evaluating the candidate’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 such activities as concurrent employment, collegiate athletics, and philanthropic/service activities) as an indication of the potential to succeed in the academically rigorous pharmacy curriculum. Students are invited to contact the Admissions Office for assistance in evaluating their pre-pharmacy academic plan. While all prerequisite coursework must be completed prior to enrollment, students who will have completed the prerequisites by the end of the Spring semester will be more competitive for admissions.

**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 must 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 consistently, quickly, and accurately to 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 admissions 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.