



BILL GATTON
COLLEGE *of* PHARMACY

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Admissions Information

2020 – 2021

APPLICATION PROCESS AND ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Admission to 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. Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy uses a rolling admission process that 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 encourages candidates to apply to the early decision admission program through the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS). This program allows applicants who are committed to attending Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy the opportunity to secure an admissions acceptance early during the admissions cycle. Candidates choosing this program cannot apply to any other pharmacy school prior to receiving a decision and agree to attend Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy, if accepted.

Early Decision applicants who are extended an admissions acceptance will receive a \$2,000 scholarship renewable for three additional years. Additionally, the class reservation deposit of \$200 is waived.

The deadline to apply as an Early Decision applicant is **September 8, 2020**. Early Decision applicants are assured of receiving an admission decision no later than **October 26, 2020**.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

- I. **Citizenship:** Applicants may be a U.S. citizen; possess a U.S. Permanent Resident Visa (Green Card); have been granted political asylum or refugee status; or be eligible for an International Student Visa.
- II. **PharmCAS Application:** Application is made using the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) via their website, www.PharmCAS.org.

- III. **Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT):** The PCAT is not required.
- IV. **English Language Proficiency:** International applicants whose native language is not English must submit one of the following to certify English language proficiency:
- Proof of degree from an accredited U.S. institution; OR
 - TOEFL score must be at least 79 on the internet-based examination or 550 on the paper-based examination; OR
 - IELTS score must be at least 6.5; OR;
 - PTE Academic score of 53 or higher; OR
 - Successful completion of the ELS Language Centers level 112 course or an equivalent ELS program.

Scores are valid within two years of the testing date and must be submitted directly to PharmCAS (code 8246). Documentation of the ELS program should be submitted to the Admissions Office.

- V. **Supplemental Application:** A supplemental application is not required.
- VI. **Letters of Reference:** Two letters of reference are required and must be submitted through PharmCAS. One letter **must** be from a **faculty member (science recommended) who has taught the applicant** or from **the pre-health advising office at the applicant's academic institution**. This letter should address the applicant's academic performance and academic potential as a future Student Pharmacist.

The second letter may be from a source of the applicant's choosing; however, a letter from a pharmacist or other source who can attest to the applicant's potential as a future health care professional is highly recommended. Letters from the following evaluators will not be counted toward the two letters of reference: family members, clergy, co-worker, friend, and politician.

- VII. **Interview:** An in-person interview with members of the Admissions Committee is required. International applicants may be given the option of an in-person or an online interview. 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. Travel arrangements are the responsibility of the applicant.
- VIII. **Pre-Pharmacy Course Prerequisites:** Admission to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program requires that applicants complete at least 61 semester hours of undergraduate courses as specified below. The prerequisites provide the minimum academic background essential to pharmacy education. Applicants who exceed the minimum stated requirements are more competitive.

Applicants who have or will earn a baccalaureate degree by the end of the spring 2021 term are considered to have met the general education requirements and only the math and science prerequisites are required.

All prerequisite coursework must be completed with a grade of C- or higher and prior to enrollment. **Applicants are expected to have completed all math and science prerequisites by the end of the spring 2021 term. With permission, summer coursework may be allowed; however, all courses must be completed prior to August 2021.**

Prerequisite coursework must be completed at an accredited institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the equivalent authority in a foreign country. A foreign transcript evaluation report must be received by PharmCAS by June 11, 2021.

Required math and science courses for all applicants:	Semester Hours
General Biology and Lab (Course must count toward any science degree or be a course for a Biology major.)	4
Microbiology and Lab (Course must count toward any science degree or be a course for a Biology major.)	4
Biology Elective (Course must count toward any science degree or be a course for a Biology major.)	3
General Chemistry and Lab (Courses must count toward any science degree or be courses for a Chemistry major.)	8
Organic Chemistry and Lab (Courses must count toward any science degree or be courses for a Chemistry major.)	8
General Physics and Lab (Course must count toward any science degree or be a course for a Physics major.)	4
Calculus	3
Statistics	3
If no baccalaureate degree by the end of the spring term, additional required courses*:	
Economics	3
Composition (Any writing-intensive course in the English area is acceptable.)	3
Oral Communication	3
Additional Writing-Intensive Course or Oral Communication Course	3
Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and/or Humanities Electives	9
General Elective (science course recommended)	3

*Applicants with a baccalaureate degree are considered to have met these 24 semester hours.

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 courses 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.

APPLICATION PROCESS

I. **Submission of all application materials (see pages 2-3 for details):**

- PharmCAS Application
- Letters of Reference
- For international applications, foreign transcript evaluation report and documentation of English language proficiency (if applicable)

Application Deadlines	Early Decision Applicants	Regular Applicants
Receipt by PharmCAS of application, fee, and all transcripts	September 8, 2020	June 1, 2021
Deadline for all other materials (i.e., letters of reference, and if applicable, foreign transcript evaluation report and documentation of English language proficiency)	September 23, 2020	June 11, 2021
<i>Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy does not require the PCAT or a supplemental application.</i>		

II. **Interview (see page 3):** The Admissions Committee's decision will be communicated to the applicant within one week following the interview date.

III. **Class Reservation Deposit:** Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy follows the **AACP Cooperative Admissions Guidelines**. Upon notification of acceptance to Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy, the applicant will be required to pay a **non-refundable class reservation deposit of \$200**.

IV. **Deferred Matriculation:** Accepted applicants may request deferred entrance into Bill 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. Requests for deferred matriculation must be made in writing no later than June 30, 2021.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Admissions Committee evaluates applicants on the basis of demonstrated academic achievement, 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 Bill 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 examines the time frame and difficulty of the pre-pharmacy course schedule, the academic record, 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 are encouraged to consult with the Admissions Office.

Experience: Applicants are expected to have a clear understanding of the pharmacy profession. 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. Applicants without pharmacy work experience should consider volunteering, shadowing a pharmacist, or extensively researching the profession prior to applying for admission.

Residency: Bill 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 pharmacy. Because Bill 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.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND RETENTION

Pharmacy education requires that the accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of professional skills. 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.

The Admissions Committee considers any applicant demonstrating the ability to perform or learn to perform the skills listed below. These skills and abilities are assessed during the interview and throughout the PharmD program. Students must possess the scholastic, physical and emotional capacities to meet the full requirements of the school's curriculum. These standards describe the essential functions students must demonstrate in order to fulfill the requirements of a general pharmacy education, and thus are prerequisites for entrance to and continuation at Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. The Admissions Committee asserts that the following minimum technical standards must be present in prospective candidates and students continuing in the program.

Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in certain areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in an independent manner. Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy, in conjunction with ETSU Office of Disability Services and in compliance with Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, will make appropriate accommodations to facilitate enrollment and program participation of qualified individuals with temporary or permanent disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to notify ETSU Office of Disability Services in a timely manner to determine if he or she is eligible to receive accommodations.

Observation

Candidates should be able to use visual and other sensory modalities to observe demonstrations and experiments in the class-based setting and to make observations in practice-based activities. They should be able to observe a patient accurately. They must be able to note and interpret verbal and non-verbal communication cues displayed by the patient.

Communication

Effective communication skills include the ability to ask questions and to thoughtfully receive, record, and disseminate information. Candidates should be able to employ speech, reading, writing, and computer literacy skills to communicate effectively in the English language with patients, caregivers, faculty and staff, peers, and all members of the healthcare team.

Sensory and Motor

Candidates should have functional use of the senses of equilibrium, smell, and taste, as well as sufficient motor function (gross and fine) and coordination to execute movements required to carry out functions necessary to the practice of pharmacy. They must also have somatic

sensation and the functional use of the senses of vision and hearing; sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch, pain, and temperature); and sufficient proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, vibratory).

Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative

Candidates' intellectual skills and learning techniques must allow them to complete a rigorous and complex didactic and experiential curriculum. They must be able to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction, small group activities, individual study, preparation and presentation of reports, and use of computer technology. Candidates must be able to consistently, quickly, and accurately integrate information regarding patient assessment and therapeutic planning, as appropriate for each stage of their education. They must be able to convey this information in a manner and speed appropriate to the situation. When appropriate, they must be able to identify and communicate the limits of their knowledge to others and be able to recognize when the limits of their knowledge indicate that further study or investigation is necessary before participating in decision-making.

Behavioral and Social

Candidates must possess the emotional and mental health required for full utilization of intellectual abilities. They must cultivate and maintain a professional demeanor that is able to tolerate workloads that are physically, mentally, and emotionally taxing, and to function effectively under stress or with distractions. They must exercise good judgment and maintain professional ethical standards. Candidates must possess compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, and motivation to excel in the practice of pharmacy. They must be able to modify their behavior in response to constructive criticism.

Contact Information:

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