Application and Deadline: The UNC School of Pharmacy and many other pharmacy programs participate in PharmCAS (Pharmacy College Application Service), a centralized application service that offers the convenience of one general application for multiple doctor of pharmacy degree programs. This service opens May 1st of each application year.

The UNC School of Pharmacy application cycle requires several steps:

- **Phase I:** The online PharmCAS application, includes submitting PCAT scores
- **Phase II:** Supplemental materials specific to the UNC School of Pharmacy
- **Interviews:** After reviewing applications, the Admissions Committee chooses to meet in person with select applicants by invitation only.

Both Phase I and II of your application must be submitted to the School of Pharmacy’s admissions office by November 1 for the following fall term.

Interviews are scheduled November through February. A combination of faculty, staff, students, and alumni will participate in your interview session. You are encouraged to bring your own questions to your interview. We want this to be a two-way conversation.

Letters of Recommendation - We no longer accept free form letters of recommendation. All applicants are required to submit two statements of recommendation through PharmCAS using the form available in the forms section of the application menu. The Admissions Committee will review only recommendations submitted on the appropriate forms.

Basic Admitting Info and Requirements:

The doctor of pharmacy degree, also called the PharmD, is the entry-level professional degree for pharmacy. It is not an undergraduate degree, (such as a BS or BA) nor is it a graduate degree (such as an MS, MBA, or PhD). The PharmD is a professional degree for pharmacists similar to the doctor of medicine (MD) for physicians or a doctor of dental surgery (DDS) for dentists. The BS pharmacy degree is no longer offered at UNC-Chapel Hill.

A degree is not required for admission into the School of Pharmacy. An individual may enter our program after successful completion of the prerequisite courses. Some applicants will already have completed an undergraduate or even a graduate degree before attending pharmacy school. If you have a bachelor’s degree, you are not required to complete the general education coursework. Please note however that the majority of applicants have at least a bachelor’s degree which will likely add to the strength of their application. The percentage of students accepted without an degree is significantly smaller than those with degrees.

Effective fall 1999, students who transfer with an AA or AS degree and who followed the common curriculum as outlined by the North Carolina Community College System will satisfy the general college requirements for admission with the following exceptions: foreign language, PE, and the prerequisite math and science courses required for pharmacy admission.

Regardless of whether you have completed an undergraduate degree program previously, after earning the PharmD and successfully passing a licensure exam, you are eligible to practice pharmacy in a variety of settings.
The pre-pharmacy coursework can be completed in two years, and the professional program can be completed in four years. Ten months of the professional curriculum is spent working "in the field" under the direction of other pharmacists.

The School of Pharmacy enrolls 140 PharmD students each year at the UNC-Chapel Hill campus, and 10-15 students each year at the Elizabeth City State University satellite campus. Admissions criteria are the same for both campuses.

The doctor of pharmacy degree requires at least two years of pre-pharmacy study, followed by four years of study in the professional program. At the UNC School of Pharmacy, all prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C minus or better before entering the School.

Fall 2008 applicants who have already completed all prerequisites or who will complete all prerequisites by the end of May 2008 will be given a first priority for admission

Pre-Pharmacy Course Work – It is recommended that applicants carry a full academic load (i.e., 15-16 credit hours) per semester and suggest taking a minimum of 3 science courses each term. This gives them a chance to preview what is in store for them in pharmacy school (i.e., a full course load that cannot be taken part time). At the same time, it gives the program a better opportunity to evaluate their chances of success in pharmacy school.

- Average Admitted GPS - is 3.5 (on a 4.00 scale).
- Out of State Acceptances - They do accept out-of-state students into our program. Because they are a state-supported school, they cannot exceed 18 percent from out of state.
- Average number of Applicants - Approximately 600 applications were received in 2006. They accepted 137 students into the program.
- Chances of acceptance - Your chance of admission to the School of Pharmacy will depend on your competitiveness with other applicants applying to the program. The School of Pharmacy Admissions Committee makes all decisions. The committee looks at each applicant on an individual basis considering academic performance, PCAT exam score, interview assessment, recommendation assessment, and all written information submitted with the application. Therefore, if you have additional information that the committee should know, be sure to put this information in writing.
- Where pre-pharmacy coursework is taken - Generally, no. However, the School of Pharmacy does not accept credit for coursework unless the institution is an accredited institution of higher learning in the United States or Canada.
- Credit from foreign college or university - Please note that the School of Pharmacy does not evaluate courses for transfer credit from schools outside of the United States and Canada. Click here for evaluation of foreign credit policy and procedures. This process takes some time, so plan well in advance.
- Grades lower than C- in math and science prereqs - Grades lower than C minus are not acceptable. You should repeat the course with a goal of achieving a C minus or higher.
- When must prereqs be completed - As long as all your math and science prerequisite courses will be completed before entering pharmacy school, you may still apply. You will not be allowed to begin coursework in the professional program, however, until you have successfully completed all science and math prerequisite courses with a score of C minus or better. There can be no exceptions to this rule. Also, please keep in mind that preference will be given to applicants who complete all prerequisites prior to enrolling.
- What to do about coursework taken after application - You should update your PharmCAS application. This information will be forwarded to us.
- When to take the PCAT - The PCAT is required for admission. The PCAT is offered each year in the summer, fall, and spring. Applicants must take the PCAT no later than October 2007 to receive full consideration for fall 2008 admission. Students taking the exam in January 2008 (for the first time) will
be considered for the waiting list only. The PCAT is administered all over the country including the UNC School of Pharmacy in Kerr Hall.

- Competitive PCAT Scores - Although we have no minimum acceptable score, applicants should try to achieve a competitive score of 350 out of a maximum 500. The average score of accepted students for the 2004-05 cycle was 400. We get this score by adding up the first five numbers in the percentile column.
- How old can PCAT scores be to be accepted and how many times may a application take the PCAT - There is no limitation on the length of time scores are valid. However, we recommend that scores be no older than three years. There is no limit to the number of times that you may take the PCAT. However, we recommend a maximum of four attempts

**Prerequisite Courses** - Please contact UNC School of Pharmacy (below) with specific questions regarding course equivalents for GERs

- Please click [here](#) if you entered college **prior** to fall 2006.
- Please click [here](#) if you entered college in fall 2006 or **after**.

Students with a baccalaureate degree prior to enrolling in the School of Pharmacy must only complete the math and science prerequisites. Students who do not have a baccalaureate degree are required to meet the general education requirements, as well as the math and science prerequisites.

**Requirements for Students Who Entered College Prior to fall of 2006**

- *Chemistry – 2 semesters inorganic, 2 semesters organic with lab*
  - CH 101/102, CH 201/202, CH 221, CH 223
- *Biology – 2 semesters – 1 general biology with lab, 1 human anatomy/physiology with lab*
  - BIO 181 or BIO 105, & Either ZO 212, ZO 412, or BIO 495 A & B (All need BIO 183)
  - Could use ZO 160 to enter BIO 183 and anatomy course
- *Microbiology – 1 semester with lab*
  - MB 351/351
- *Physics – 2 semesters with lab*
  - PY 211/212 or PY 205/208
- *Math – 1 semester calculus of 1 variable*
  - MA 232 or MA 141 or above
- *Statistics – 1 semester*
  - ST 311, 101, 361

**General Education Requirements – if applying without a bachelor’s degree**

- English 101, + 1 additional English course
- Fine Art – 1 course such as
  - Music 120, 200, 260, 301; History of Art 201, 202, 203; DF 101, 102; Com 103; Eng 282
- Literature – 1 course such as
  - English 205, 206, 207, 208, 251, 252, 261, 262, 265, 266, 288, 346, 347, 398, 399; Com 213, Greek 310; French or Spanish 301
- Pre-1700 History – 1 course
- Historical – 1 course
- Social Science – 1 course
  - Sociology 202, 203, 204, 305, Anthropology 251, 252
- Cultural Diversity – 1 course
- One qualifying course from any discipline
- Philosophical – 1 course
Philosophy 205, 275, 305, 306, 321, 340; Religion 311, 312
PE – two one hour physical activity courses
Foreign Language – through level 3 intermediate (3 courses)

Requirements for Students Who Entered College fall of 2006 or after

- Chemistry – 2 semesters inorganic, 2 semesters organic with lab
  - CH 101/102, CH 201/202, CH 221, CH 223
- Biology – 2 semesters – 1 general biology with lab, 1 human anatomy/physiology with lab
  - BIO 181 or BIO 105, & Either ZO 212, ZO 412, or BIO 495 A & B (All need BIO 183)
    ▪ Could use ZO 160 to enter BIO 183 and anatomy course
- Microbiology – 1 semester with lab
  - MB 351/351
- Physics– 2 semesters with lab
  - PY 211/212 or PY 205/208
- Math – 1 semester calculus of 1 variable
  - MA 141 or above
- Statistics – 1 semester
  - ST 311, 101, 361

General Education Requirements – if applying without a bachelor’s degree

- Foreign Language-completion through level three (intermediate) in a single language. If placed into level four, applicant must complete it (9 credit hours)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences-three courses from at least two different departments or curricula. One of these courses must engage in historical analysis (9 credit hours)
  - Social and Behavior Include - ANT 251, 252; EC 201; SOC 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 301, 305, 306; PS 201, 202, 231
- Humanities and Fine Arts- one course in philosophical analysis that contains significant content in ethics and moral reasoning (Philosophical and Moral Reasoning), and one course in literature and one course in visual or performing arts (Visual, Performing, and Literary Arts) (9 credit hours)
  - Philosophical includes - MDS 325; PHI 205, 275, 300, 301, 305, 306, 311, 312, 321, 340; REL 300, 311, 312
  - Literature includes - ENG 205, 206, 207, 208, 251, 252, 261, 262, 265, 266, 288, 346, 347, 398, 399; COM 213, FLF or FLS 301; GRK 310
  - Visual/Performing Arts include - COM 103, DF 101, 102; ENG 282, HA 201, 202, 203; MUS 120, 200, 260,
- Lifetime Fitness (one credit hour)
- U.S. Diversity (3 credit hours)
- Global Issues (3 credit hours)
- English Composition and Rhetoric (at least 6 credit hours – Eng 101 & an additional English course)

Clinical Experience:

It is not a requirement for admission that you have worked in a pharmacy prior to beginning school; however, applicants who have substantial pharmacy and/or health care experience typically fare better during the interview sessions because they know more about the profession. If you do not have any pharmacy experience,
consider volunteering, shadowing a pharmacist, or speaking extensively with a variety of health care providers prior to your interview session.

Contact Information:

For further information contact: pharmacy_admissions@unc.edu