

# Becoming a Pharmacist in Minnesota

## THE PROFESSION

Pharmacists dedicate their careers to creating, developing and providing drug therapy to improve patients' quality of life. Pharmacists are among the most highly respected professionals in the country. The roles of the pharmacist are expanding, and employment prospects are very good. Among their many roles, pharmacists:

- **CARE** for patients' drug-related needs in community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities and clinics
- **ACT** as drug therapy consultants to other health professionals
- **DESIGN** new drugs and diagnostic techniques and devise new ways to administer drugs
- **EDUCATE** pharmacy students, health care providers and the public
- **CONDUCT** research in colleges, universities and drug companies
- **WORK** in government health agencies
- **ADMINISTER** pharmacy services in health care institutions
- **MANAGE** pharmacy services for large health maintenance organizations
- **LEAD** changes to improve medication management in the health care system

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

The University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy was founded in 1892 and is the only college of pharmacy in the state. The college offers the Pharm.D. program on two campuses, Duluth and Twin Cities, and is a leader in patient-centered care. Students learn from world-class faculty who are involved in groundbreaking research. There is a small college feel in the College of Pharmacy (about 6:1 student to faculty ratio), with the benefits of a large university. The college is housed within the Academic Health Center, an organization uniquely designed to promote interprofessional collaboration in research and education. The College of Pharmacy is ranked third nationally and recognized internationally for its excellence in research and teaching.

## THE DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PHARM.D.) PROGRAM

After completing at least two years of pre-pharmacy coursework, students enter the full-time four-year Pharm.D. program. The Pharm.D. Program teaches students the skills to identify, resolve and prevent drug-related problems with hands-on learning and patient interaction that begins during the first year. The core curriculum and elective courses allow students to explore multiple areas of pharmacy and patient care.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES & PLACEMENT

Graduates of the Pharm.D. program who complete internship requirements are eligible to take the state license examination to practice pharmacy. Starting salary for University of Minnesota Pharm.D. recent graduates is approximately \$120,000. The college seeks to educate pharmacists to meet the needs of all the state's residents. Graduates of the college's Pharm.D. program go into various positions in community and clinical pharmacy, managed care, industry, government, academia, and many other specialties.

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota was founded in 1852 and is one of the most comprehensive public universities in the country. It ranks among the most prestigious and is a state land-grant university with a strong tradition of education and public service as the state's primary research university. The internationally renowned faculty conducts innovative research in a wide range of disciplines.

# Application Process

## HOW TO APPLY

Students apply about one year before they would begin the Pharm.D. program and are admitted for fall semester only. Due to rolling admissions, it's best to submit an application early. Applicants to either the Duluth or Twin Cities campuses go through one application process to the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, and choose their campus after they interview.

For all information about the admissions process, visit the Pharm.D. admissions website: [Z.UMN.EDU/PHARMACY](https://www.zumnu.edu/pharmacy)

- 1 PREREQUISITES** – You are ready to begin the application process after you have completed most of the prerequisite courses. Some prerequisites can be missing at the time you apply, but all must be complete by the time you would begin the program.
- 2 PCAT** – The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) is required to apply. Give yourself ample time to study for the PCAT. The test is offered in July, September, October, November, and January. Common ways to prepare include: PCAT study books, online practice tests on the PCAT website, or a PCAT prep course. Register for the PCAT at least two months before your test date and select PharmCAS as the score recipient, you do not need to select the University of Minnesota. *Fee: \$199*
- 3 PHARMCAS** – The Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) is a national application service to apply to most pharmacy schools in the United States. You can begin your PharmCAS application in early June and our PharmCAS application deadline is February 2. The PharmCAS application includes: official transcripts, PCAT scores, personal statement, work & volunteer experience, three letters of recommendation, and demographic information. *Fee: \$150+*
- 4 SUPPLEMENTAL** – Once our office receives your PharmCAS application, we will notify you via email and give you access to the supplemental application online. The supplemental application consists of a few short essays that the admissions committee will review with your PharmCAS application. Essay questions are posted ahead of time on the admissions website. Once you have submitted your complete PharmCAS and supplemental application, they will be reviewed for an interview. *Fee: \$75*
- 5 INTERVIEW** – Interview Days are offered September through March. The interview is about 40 minutes one-on-one with a College of Pharmacy faculty member. Be ready to talk about why you are going into pharmacy, your knowledge of the profession and why the University of Minnesota is a good fit for your career path in pharmacy. About one month after the interview, you will receive the admissions decision.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

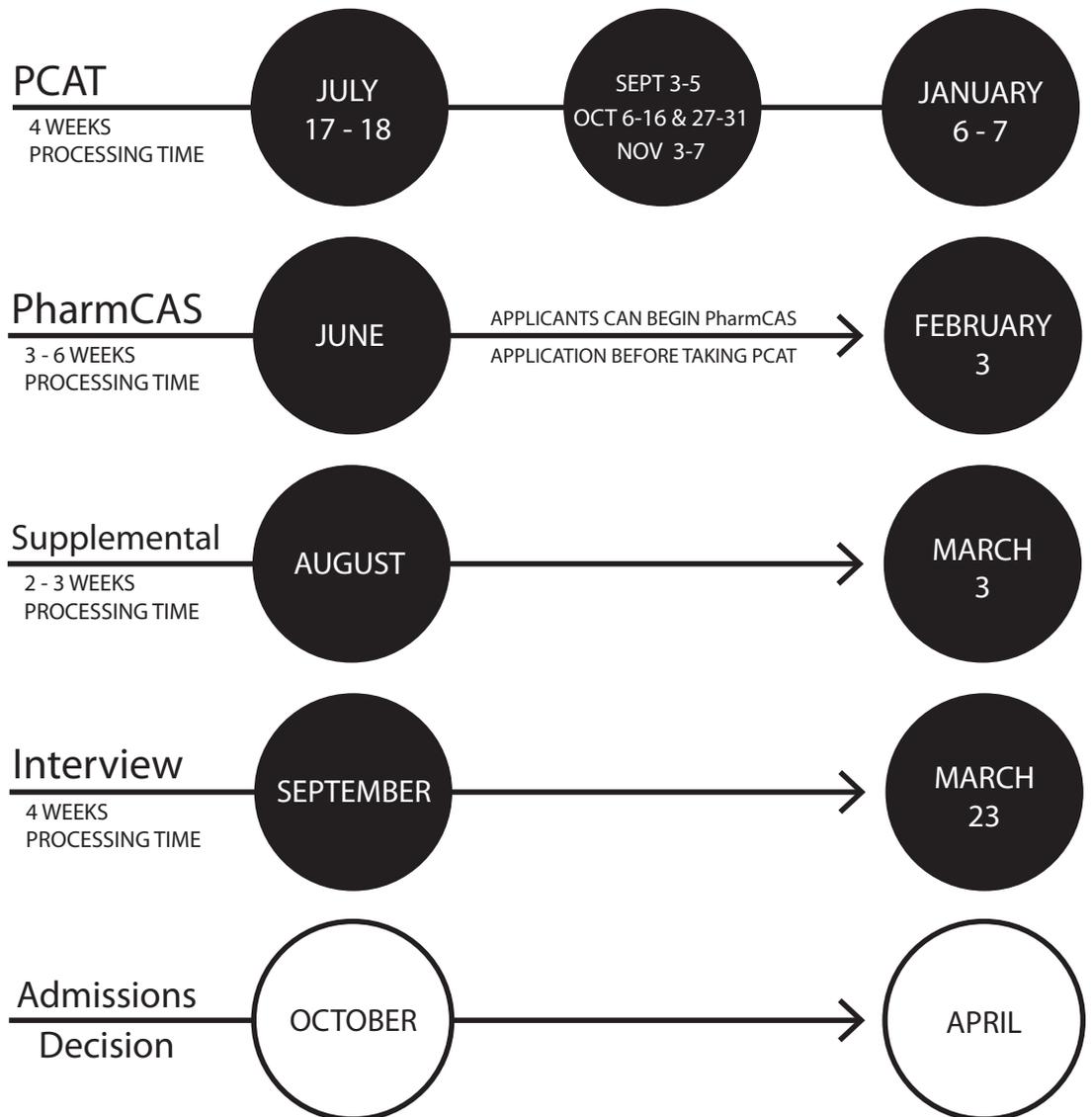
- There are three ways to become an eligible applicant to the Pharm.D. Program. Applicants only need to fulfill one of the following minimum requirements: 1) 3.0 overall PharmCAS GPA, or 2) 3.2 GPA in most recent 60 credits, or 3) 70% composite PCAT or higher.
- TOEFL is required for international applicants whose native language is not English, unless they have been a full-time college student in the United States.
- Students with international coursework that does not appear on their U.S. transcript must have their foreign coursework evaluated by an evaluation service and submitted as a part of their PharmCAS application.

## Application Timeline

## 2015 ROLLING ADMISSIONS APPLICATION TIMELINE

## STEPS TO APPLY

- 1 Prerequisites
- 2 PCAT
- 3 PharmCAS Application
- 4 Supplemental Application
- 5 Interview



## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- PharmCAS application deadline: **FEBRUARY 2, 2015**
- Supplemental application deadline: **MARCH 3, 2015**
- Due to rolling admissions, it is better to submit a complete application earlier.  
If you submit your complete application close to the deadline, all interview spots may already be filled.
- Register for the PCAT at least two months before the test date.

## Prerequisite Courses

The required pre-pharmacy courses listed below are for fall 2015 admission. The courses may be taken at any regionally accredited university, college, or community college, or completed as Advanced Placement courses. Pre-pharmacy courses must be at least 3 semester credits, taken A/F, and completed with a grade of C- or better before enrollment.

For all information about prerequisites visit: [Z.UMN.EDU/PREREQS](http://Z.UMN.EDU/PREREQS)

GENERAL BIOLOGY (INCLUDING LAB)	1 COURSE
MICROBIOLOGY (INCLUDING LAB)	1 COURSE
HUMAN ANATOMY <sup>1</sup>	1 COURSE, OR ENTIRE ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY SEQUENCE
HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY <sup>1</sup>	1 COURSE, OR ENTIRE ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY SEQUENCE
ADVANCED BIOLOGY <sup>2</sup>	1 COURSE
CALCULUS I	1 COURSE
STATISTICS	1 COURSE
GENERAL CHEMISTRY (INCLUDING LABS)	SUFFICIENT TO QUALIFY FOR ORGANIC CHEMISTRY
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY (INCLUDING LABS)	2 COURSES
GENERAL PHYSICS (CALCULUS-BASED) <sup>3</sup>	1 COURSE
SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES <sup>4</sup>	2 COURSES
ENGLISH COMPOSITION (ADVANCED) <sup>5</sup>	1 COURSE
PUBLIC SPEAKING/INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION	1 COURSE

<sup>1</sup> If taking combined Human Anatomy and Physiology courses, both semesters must be completed to fulfill both Human Anatomy and Physiology, or the combined one-semester course must be a minimum of 5 semester credits.

<sup>2</sup> Recommended Courses: biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, or molecular biology. Any other advanced biology course must focus on the human body in order to be considered.

<sup>3</sup> As an alternative, you may complete two courses in algebra-based physics to fulfill the prerequisite.

<sup>4</sup> Recommended Courses: psychology, sociology, economics, epidemiology, human development, anthropology, global issues. Other courses that will meet the requirement: education, geography, journalism, law, linguistics, management, political science, archaeology, etc.

<sup>5</sup> If you are completing a bachelor's degree and your school has an advanced writing requirement to graduate, the prerequisite may be waived.

## Pre-Pharmacy Student Resources

## Visit Us

**PREVIEW DAY:** Come visit us to learn about career options in pharmacy, the Pharm.D. curriculum, admissions, student life and have a tour of the College of Pharmacy. Preview Day is offered once per semester on a Saturday on both campuses. All applicants are strongly encouraged to visit both campuses before applying to the program.

*Register here:* [Z.UMN.EDU/VISIT](https://z.umn.edu/visit)

**PHARMACY ADMISSIONS INFORMATION SESSIONS:** This 90-minute session provides in-depth information about the admissions process, a video of pharmacy career options and the opportunity to meet with an Admissions Counselor and current students. Held once per month on weekdays on the Minneapolis campus.

*Register here:* [Z.UMN.EDU/PHARMINFO](https://z.umn.edu/pharminfo)

## Online Info Sessions

**PHARMACY ADMISSIONS INFORMATION ONLINE SESSION:** This short online session provides in-depth information about the admissions process and how to be strong applicant.

*Register here:* [Z.UMN.EDU/INFO](https://z.umn.edu/info)

**PHARMCAS APPLICATION ONLINE SESSION:** Tips from an Admissions Counselor on the important sections of your PharmCAS application and how to avoid common mistakes.

*Register here:* [Z.UMN.EDU/PHARMCAS](https://z.umn.edu/pharmacas)

## Online Resources

**ADMISSIONS:** Access all information about the admissions process including prerequisites, tips for applicants, admissions statistics, supplemental application questions, etc.

[Z.UMN.EDU/PHARMACY](https://z.umn.edu/pharmacy)

**EMAIL LIST:** Sign up to receive about 10 emails per year about pharmacy admissions information and invitations to upcoming events.

[Z.UMN.EDU/BRIEF](https://z.umn.edu/brief)

## Pre-Pharmacy Student Resources

### Online Resources *(continued)*

**UNDERGRADUATE PHARMACY COURSES:** A great way to learn more about pharmacy and get credit for it! Most courses are two credits and are offered online.

*Info here:* [ELEARNING.PHARMACY.UMN.EDU](http://ELEARNING.PHARMACY.UMN.EDU)

**PERSONAL STATEMENT & INTERVIEWING SKILLS:** Online workshops to help you prepare your personal statement and interviewing skills for a health program. Free for U of M students, only \$15-25 for all others.

*Info here:* [Z.UMN.EDU/HCCONLINE](http://Z.UMN.EDU/HCCONLINE)

**VIDEOS:** Learn more about Pharmacy career options and students at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

[Z.UMN.EDU/VIDEOS](http://Z.UMN.EDU/VIDEOS)

**FACEBOOK:** Read about current events in pharmacy and stay up-to-date about admissions information by liking us on Facebook.

[Z.UMN.EDU/FACEBOOK](http://Z.UMN.EDU/FACEBOOK)

**PHARM.D. STUDENT BLOGGERS:** Read posts from students in all four years of the program and both campuses to learn about life as a pharmacy student.

[Z.UMN.EDU/BLOGS](http://Z.UMN.EDU/BLOGS)

### On Campus Resources

**PCAT PREP COURSE:** Taught by current pharmacy students that scored high on the PCAT. Six sessions before the September PCAT. Course cost of \$580 includes all course materials.

*Register here:* [Z.UMN.EDU/PCAT](http://Z.UMN.EDU/PCAT)

**PRE-PHARMACY CLUB:** Meetings are every other week at Coffman Union, with pharmacist guest speakers, volunteer activities and networking with other pre-pharmacy students.

*U of M – Duluth:* [Z.UMN.EDU/CLUB](http://Z.UMN.EDU/CLUB)      *U of M – Twin Cities:* [PREPHARM.WORDPRESS.COM](http://PREPHARM.WORDPRESS.COM)

## PCAT Blueprint

## PCAT Test Blueprint

PCAT Subtests	Number of Test Items and Approximate Percentage of Item Type or Content Area in Each Subtest
<b>1. Writing (30 Minutes)</b>	<b>1 Writing Topic</b>
Conventions of Language	
Problem Solving	
<b>2. Verbal Ability (25 Minutes)</b>	<b>40 Items</b>
Analogies	62%
Sentence Completion	38%
<b>3. Biology (35 Minutes)</b>	<b>48 Items</b>
General Biology	50%
Microbiology	20%
Human Anatomy and Physiology	30%
<b>4. Chemistry (35 Minutes)</b>	<b>48 Items</b>
General Chemistry	50%
Organic Chemistry	30%
Basic Biochemistry Processes	20%
<b>Rest Break</b>	
<b>5. Reading Comprehension (50 Minutes)</b>	<b>6 Passages &amp; 48 Items</b>
Comprehension	30%
Analysis	40%
Evaluation	30%
<b>6. Quantitative Ability (45 Minutes)</b>	<b>48 Items</b>
Basic Math	15%
Algebra	20%
Probability & Statistics	20%
Precalculus	22%
Calculus	22%

## PCAT Dates &amp; Resources

TEST DATE	RECOMMENDED REGISTRATION
JULY 17 - 18, 2014	MAY 2014
SEPT 3-5, OCT 6-16, 27-31, NOV 3-7, 2014	JULY 2014 AND OCT 2014
JANUARY 6 - 7, 2015	NOVEMBER 2014

- When registering for the PCAT, select PharmCAS (code 104) as the score recipient
- PCAT scores are valid for five years, all scores will appear on your transcript

## PCAT PREPARATION RESOURCES

*PCAT Prep Course*  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

[Z.UMN.EDU/PCAT](http://z.umn.edu/pcat)

*How to prepare for the PCAT:  
Pharmacy College Admission Test*  
PUBLISHING CO.: BARRON'S  
ISBN: 0-7641-1713-0

[WWW.BARRONSEDUC.COM](http://www.barroneduc.com)

*Complete Preparation for the PCAT*  
PUBLISHING CO.: LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS &  
WILKINS  
ISBN: 0-7817-2841-X

*PCAT: The Official PCAT Practice Test*

[WWW.PCATWEB.INFO](http://www.pcatweb.info)

*PCAT Success*  
PUBLISHING CO.: THOMSON - PETERSON  
ISBN: 0-7689-1010-2

[WWW.PETERSONS.COM](http://www.petersons.com)

*PCAT Comprehensive Review*  
PUBLISHING CO.: KAPLAN  
ISBN: 0-7432-4755-8

[WWW.KAPTEST.COM](http://www.kaptest.com)

## Selection Criteria

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

- OVERALL GPA (3.53 IS AVERAGE OF ADMITTED STUDENTS)
- COURSE SELECTION (COMPLETING HIGHER LEVEL SCIENCE COURSES IS RECOMMENDED)
- COURSE LOAD (FULL COURSE LOADS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)
- PCAT (AVERAGE SCORE OF ADMITTED STUDENTS: 82%)
- BACHELOR'S DEGREE IS PREFERRED (90% OF ADMITTED STUDENTS HAVE BA OR BS)
- PERFORMANCE IN SCIENCE AND MATH COURSES

**UNDERSTANDING & MOTIVATION FOR PHARMACY**

- EXPLORE MANY DIFFERENT PHARMACY CAREER OPTIONS
- INVESTIGATE CURRENT EVENTS AND CHALLENGES IN THE PROFESSION
- BE ABLE TO ARTICULATE WHAT AREA OF PHARMACY YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE AND WHY

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

- PHARMACY OR HEALTHCARE WORK EXPERIENCE IS PREFERRED (NOT REQUIRED)
- AVERAGE AMOUNT OF PHARMACY OR HEALTHCARE WORK EXPERIENCE OF ADMITTED STUDENTS: 2 YEARS
- LIST ALL PAID WORK EXPERIENCE ON YOUR PHARMCAS APPLICATION TO SHOW DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

**COMMUNITY SERVICE / EXTRACURRIC. ACTIVITIES / LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

- HUMANITARIAN AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS ARE PREFERRED
- FOCUS ON HELPING PEOPLE AND CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

- CHOOSE PEOPLE THAT KNOW YOU WELL IN PROFESSIONAL/ACADEMIC CAPACITY
- OBTAIN A BROAD RANGE OF RECOMMENDATIONS
- EXAMPLES: EMPLOYER, VOLUNTEER SUPERVISOR, COLLEGE PROFESSOR, RESEARCH SUPERVISOR

**ESSAYS (PERSONAL STATEMENT & SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAYS)**

- DEMONSTRATE YOUR MOTIVATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF PHARMACY
- COMMUNICATE HOW YOUR EXPERIENCES AND STRENGTHS RELATE TO YOUR FUTURE CAREER IN PHARMACY
- MAKE SURE ESSAYS ARE CLEARLY WRITTEN WITH ZERO ERRORS

**UNIQUE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO A DIVERSE STUDENT BODY**

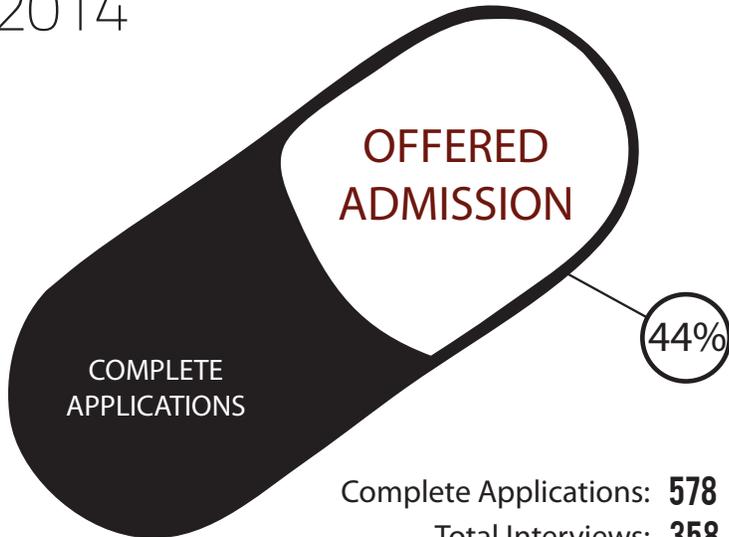
- UNIQUE FACTORS ARE ANY QUALITIES, EXPERIENCES OR SKILLS THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROFESSION AND HELP SERVE PATIENTS BETTER
- EXAMPLES INCLUDE: ACADEMIC BACKGROUND, PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND, RACE/ETHNICITY, GEOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND, FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT, CHALLENGING OR DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUND, ABILITY IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES, ETC.

**INTERVIEW**

- BE YOURSELF, AND BE PREPARED TO ARTICULATE TO A FACULTY MEMBER WHY YOU WANT TO BE A PHARMACIST AND WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PROFESSION
- BE READY TO DISCUSS WHY THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA IS A GOOD FIT FOR YOUR CAREER

Pharm.D. Admissions Statistics

FALL  
2014



Complete Applications: **578**  
 Total Interviews: **358**  
 Offered Admission: **254**  
 Actual Seats in Class: **168**  
(Duluth: 60 Twin Cities: 108)  
 Percentage of Applicants Offered Admission: **44%**

FALL 2014  
ADMITTED APPLICANTS  
INFORMATION

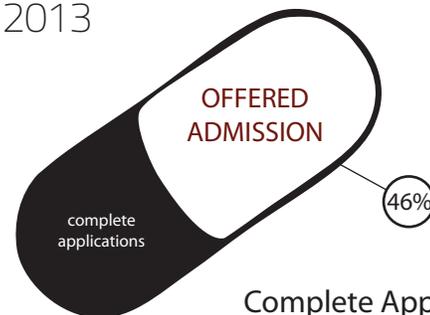
Average GPA: **3.53**  
 GPA Range **2.5-4.0**  
 Average PCAT : **82%**  
 PCAT Range **25-99%**  
 Bachelors Degree: **90%**  
 Female/Male Ratio: **64/36%**  
 Average Age: **22**  
 Age Range: **19-39**

FALL  
2012



Complete Applications: **419**  
 Total Interviews: **325**  
 Offered Admission: **236**  
 Actual Seats in Class: **168**  
(Duluth: 60 Twin Cities: 108)  
 Percentage of Applicants Offered Admission: **56%**

FALL  
2013



Complete Applications: **534**  
 Total Interviews: **358**  
 Offered Admission: **244**  
 Actual Seats in Class: **168**  
(Duluth: 60 Twin Cities: 108)  
 Percentage of Applicants Offered Admission: **46%**

For more information about the admissions statistics, visit our website: [Z.UMN.EDU/STATS](http://Z.UMN.EDU/STATS)

## Application Checklist - Fall 2015 Admission

This list is provided to help applicants organize the required materials for a complete application. It is not a step-by-step checklist. Unless explicitly stated, the items do not need to be completed in the order listed. These steps apply to all applicants, regardless of campus choice.

*All application materials must be received by the college before your application will be reviewed.*

### PREREQUISITE COURSES

- Visit the prerequisites webpage to make sure you are on track to complete all prerequisite courses before beginning the Pharm.D. program: [z.umn.edu/prereqs](http://z.umn.edu/prereqs)  
All prerequisites do NOT need to be complete at the time of application, but must be done before you begin the Pharm.D. program.

### PHARMCAS APPLICATION

- Complete the PharmCAS application (available July 2014). The application and instructions are available at [www.pharmcas.org](http://www.pharmcas.org). Applicants must submit their PharmCAS application six weeks in advance of the supplemental application deadline (*March 3, 2015*) at the very minimum. (*Waiting for the PharmCAS deadline of February 2, 2015 may not give you enough time to complete the supplemental application*).
- Pay the PharmCAS application fee.
- Send official transcripts from each college attended to PharmCAS.
- Arrange for three people to submit recommendation forms through PharmCAS. Instructions on submitting recommendations are located on the PharmCAS website. The University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy requires 3 letters of recommendation.
- Frequently check your application status through PharmCAS to track status of transcripts, recommendations, and PCAT scores to make sure they were received by PharmCAS. Contact PharmCAS regarding any materials not received.

### PHARMACY COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST (PCAT)

- Register for the PCAT and pay the registration fee. Registration information and test dates are available at [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info). Applicants must take the PCAT by January 2015 for consideration for fall 2015 admission.
- Enter your PCAT CID into the "Account Information" section of your PharmCAS application.
- Send PCAT scores to PharmCAS (*code 104*). PCAT scores expire after 5 years.

## Application Checklist (*continued*)

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

- Review the supplemental application questions at: [z.umn.edu/pharm](http://z.umn.edu/pharm)  
Begin preparing essay responses when questions are available to view in mid-summer (THE APPLICATION BECOMES AVAILABLE TO SUBMIT IN LATE-AUGUST).
  
- Once your PharmCAS application has been verified and sent to the College of Pharmacy, you will receive an e-mail indicating you may complete the supplemental application online. You will need your PharmCAS ID number to access the application. **THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 3, 2015.**
  
- SUBMIT \$75 FEE IN THE ONLINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION.

### ROLLING ADMISSIONS

Please note that rolling admissions means we accept and review applications on a first-come, first-served continual basis beginning in August. Applicants who submit their application earlier will have priority in selection. The college may stop accepting applications before the deadline if all interview spaces are filled, and positions in the college become limited as the March 3 deadline approaches.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

College of Pharmacy, Office of Student Services  
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