

University of Wisconsin-Madison Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Admissions Planning Guide

Admit Term: Fall 2020



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy, located in Madison, Wisconsin, has been a world-class leader in pharmacy education, research, and service for more than a century. Established in 1883, it was the first School of Pharmacy to offer a baccalaureate degree in pharmacy. It was also the nation's first to award doctoral degrees in pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmaceutics, the history of pharmacy, social studies of pharmacy, and continuing education.

Our School of Pharmacy is a small community with the benefits of a large university. We are located in Rennebohm Hall and are a member of the Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC). The HSLC provides an integrated learning environment where students have access to healthcare professionals and a network of hospitals (UW Hospital & Clinics, William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, and American Family Children's Hospital). The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy is ranked 9th by U.S. News and World Report.

Students who pursue our four-year Doctor of Pharmacy degree will learn from outstanding and award-winning faculty. Our experiential learning program offers over 2,588 clerkship rotations throughout Wisconsin, in five states, and seven countries. The School sends roughly 15% of PharmD students abroad for Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs), compared with a national average of just 6% among pharmacy schools across the nation. In addition, our PharmD students have the opportunity to pursue a PharmD/MPH dual degree, a certificate in Global Health, Consumer Health Advocacy, Clinical Research, Leadership, or Patient Safety as well as a Pharmacy Operations Technology and Management Named Option through our partnership with the Wisconsin School of Business. All of our programs are driven by our mission to enhance the quality of life for the people of Wisconsin and the global community through improved health.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The University of Wisconsin-Madison was founded in 1848 and is located on 938 beautiful acres in the heart of Madison. For 171 years, this campus has been a catalyst for the extraordinary. As a public land-grant university and prolific research institution, our students and faculty members partake in a well-rounded, world-class education and solve real-world problems. UW-Madison's education prepares you not only for a better career, but also to be a better citizen. Wherever you are on your academic journey, a community of more than 400,000 Badgers around the world is waiting for you.

THE DOCTOR OF PHARMACY PROGRAM (PHARMD)

All students applying to the Doctor of Pharmacy program must complete our prerequisite courses, which typically take 2-3 years. The PharmD program is a full-time, four-year professional degree program that prepares students to provide high quality pharmaceutical care that has the patient as its focus and optimal drug therapy and health as its goal. Students begin to apply their knowledge and gain skills in real pharmacy settings during the first semester of the program through our Experiential Education Program known as Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE).

Our curriculum is based on the philosophy that a successful student builds expertise in many specific areas of pharmacy by gaining mastery of foundation material from the biomedical, pharmaceutical, social and clinical sciences. The School of Pharmacy embraces diversity in our teaching approach, including active learning, traditional teaching strategies, up-to-date laboratories, robust use of technology, and an emphasis on continual professional development.

THE PROFESSION

Pharmacists are the only healthcare providers whose education focuses solely on discovering, preparing, and providing complex medication therapy to patients. The pharmacist's ultimate goal is to help patients feel better. They use their knowledge of drugs and healthcare to help choose the best medications, avoid side effects, and determine the best approach for the individual patient's needs. While many pharmacists collaborate with a healthcare team to care for patients one-on-one, others fight disease by conducting pharmaceutical research and developing new drugs and delivery systems. The roles and opportunities for pharmacists are continually expanding. There are currently over 600 different career options for pharmacy professionals.

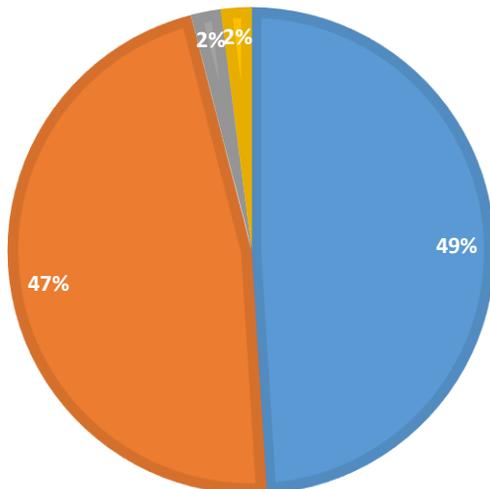
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT, & RESIDENCY PLACEMENT

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the median annual wage for pharmacists is \$122,000. Increased demand for prescription medications will lead to more demand for pharmaceutical services.

98% of UW-Madison PharmD graduates obtain employment or a residency within 90 days of graduation. In addition, UW-Madison School of Pharmacy leads in residency match rate with an 80% match rate (compared to 64% nationally). To view detailed UW-Madison PharmD student outcome data, please visit: <https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/programs/pharmd/student-outcomes/>.

PLACEMENT OF UW-MADISON PHARM D 2018 GRADUATES

■ Employment ■ Residency ■ Fellowship / Post-graduate Education ■ Unreported



Doctor of Pharmacy Prerequisite Courses

PREREQUISITE COURSES

You are ready to begin applying to the PharmD program after you have completed most of your 72 credits of prerequisite courses. Prerequisites do not need to be completed to apply, but must be completed before you begin the PharmD program in the Fall. We accept Summer coursework as well. The prerequisites can be completed at any accredited college or university.

Prerequisite Courses	Credits
Calculus for math/science majors	4-5 credits
General Chemistry I (with lab)	4-5 credits
General Chemistry II (with lab)	4-5 credits
Organic Chemistry I – Lecture	3 credits
Organic Chemistry Lab	2 credits
Organic Chemistry II – Lecture	3 credits
Physics I (with lab)	4-5 credits
Biology I (with lab)	4-5 credits
Biology II (with lab)	4-5 credits
Microbiology (lecture only)	3 credits
Humanities	6 credits/2 courses
Economics (Microeconomics or Macroeconomics)	3-4 credits
Statistics	3 credits
Communication A/English Composition	3 credits
Social Science	3 credits
Psychology	3 credits
Ethnic Studies/U.S. Diversity	3 credits

***You must complete 72 credits total (including elective credit) before you enroll in the PharmD program.**



Admission Selection Criteria

SELECTION CRITERIA

The PharmD Admissions Committee carefully considers ten selection criteria in the evaluation of all applicants. These criteria allow the Committee to use a holistic approach in reviewing applicants, which gives more dimension and breadth to the applicant review process. Applicants should do their best to address the ten selection criteria in their application, essays, letters of recommendation, and interview.

1. Academic Achievement

- The PharmD program does not have an explicit minimum GPA requirement. The GPA range for the entering class Fall 2019 was 2.8-4.0. The average GPA for the Fall 2019 entering class was 3.5.
- Aim for grades of B or better in all math/science coursework.
- Course load (full course load is strongly recommended, 14-16 credits).
- Grade trends and combination of courses.

2. Communication Skills

- Communicate effectively, efficiently, and sensitively in both oral and written form. The applicant should exhibit a mature, motivated, and professional attitude and demeanor.
- Interviews, recommendation letters, personal statements, and other essays are used to assess communication and interpersonal skills.

3. Completion of Prerequisite Courses

- The 72 credits of prerequisite courses must be completed before you enroll in the PharmD program in the Fall. We accept summer coursework. A grade of B or better is encouraged in prerequisite courses.

4. Cultural Awareness & Understanding

- Cultural understanding is the ability to interact skillfully and successfully with people from diverse cultural communities.
- Examples of how you can increase your cultural awareness: community service/volunteer activities, courses, seminars, workshops, clubs, social organizations, community civic and religious groups, and study abroad.



Admission Selection Criteria, Continued

5. Diversity of Background & Experience →

- We are committed to admitting a diverse student body. Please share your experiences with us.
- Examples: Racial/ethnic/cultural heritage, gender, socioeconomic class, age, first-generation college student, geography, historical underrepresentation, multicultural and/or international experience, sexual identity/orientation, overcoming adversity, unique life experiences.

6. Experience in Pharmacy, Healthcare, or Research →

- Applicants are encouraged to gain experience in pharmacy, healthcare, OR research.
- Examples: Talk to current pharmacy students or faculty, shadow pharmacists, conduct an informational interview with a pharmacist, volunteer or work as a pharmacy technician, work/volunteer in a lab setting, volunteer at a healthcare facility, join a pre-pharmacy club.

7. Extracurricular, Community Service, Volunteer Activities →

- Engage in learning opportunities outside of the classroom by getting involved with extracurricular activities/experiences that you're interested in or passionate about.
- Some examples of extracurricular activities include academic and/or social clubs, student organizations, civic groups, religious organizations, team or recreational sports, and fraternities/sororities.

8. Interest & Understanding of the Pharmacy Profession →

- The Admissions Committee will want to know what motivates an applicant to pursue a career in pharmacy. The Committee expects applicants to have a foundational understanding of the pharmacy profession, its place in the healthcare system, and to have a sense of some of the issues that pharmacists face.

9. Leadership →

- The Admissions Committee selects applicants who they feel have the potential to become future leaders.
- Examples of leadership roles: Executive board member, officer of an organization, captain, coach, teacher/mentor, supervisor/manager/team leader at a place of employment, organizer/initiator/creator of a project.

10. PCAT →

- The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) contains the following subjects: biology, chemistry (including general and organic), quantitative ability (including calculus), reading comprehension, and writing.
- 79% PCAT was average score of recently admitted students.
- There's no minimum PCAT score required. PCAT scores below the 50% will be viewed with particular concern.
- The Admissions Committee will accept the MCAT in lieu of the PCAT. Contact the Admissions Team for info.

Application Process

HOW TO APPLY

Students will apply to the Doctor of Pharmacy program approximately one year before they enroll. The UW-Madison Doctor of Pharmacy program participates in early decision and rolling admissions. Due to the rolling admissions process, students are encouraged to apply early as interview dates begin to fill and space in the class begins to fill as the deadline approaches. For detailed information on the PharmD admissions process, please visit our website: <https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/>

Application Deadline for Fall 2020 Admission: February 3, 2020. All the materials listed below must be submitted by the application deadline.

1. PharmCAS Application: The PharmCAS application opens mid-July prior to the year in which you are seeking admission. The PharmCAS personal essay cannot exceed 4500 characters, including spaces (this is about one page). All official college transcripts, letters of recommendation, and PCAT scores should be sent to PharmCAS. PharmCAS can take up to 4 weeks to verify your application. Your PharmCAS application must be complete and verified in order for the Committee to consider inviting you to an interview. www.PharmCAS.org

2. UW-Madison Application Processing Fee: The UW-Madison School of Pharmacy requires a \$75 application processing fee.

3. PCAT: The Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT) is required as part of our application process. Scores must be sent to PharmCAS using code 104. We will not accept scores that are over 3 years old. The PCAT includes the following subjects: Chemistry, Biology, Quantitative Reasoning (Basic Math, Algebra, Statistics, Calculus), Critical Reading, and Writing. Applicants who are applying as an Early Decision applicant are strongly encouraged to take the July PCAT. <http://www.pcatweb.info/>. The Admissions Committee will accept the MCAT in lieu of the PCAT.

4. Official College Transcripts: All official college transcripts are required and must be sent to PharmCAS. Transcripts sent to the University of Wisconsin during the application period WILL NOT be accepted. Official transcripts from International colleges/universities will not be accepted. International coursework must be evaluated by WES.

5. Letters of Recommendation: Three letters of recommendation are required and must be sent to PharmCAS. All applicants must use PharmCAS recommendation forms and should designate their evaluators as part of their PharmCAS application. Choose a recommender who knows your character/work ethic/interest in pharmacy/and things about you that aren't apparent in your online application. <http://www.pharmcas.org/preparing-to-apply/what-youll-need-to-apply/letters-of-reference/list-of-pharmcas-questions-for-evaluators/>

- One of the letters must be from a college-level math or science instructor (professor, lecturer, teaching assistant)
- One of the letters must be from a non-classroom setting (work/volunteer supervisor)
- The third letter can be from anyone EXCEPT a politician, friend, family member, co-worker (equal in standing)

* **U.S. Permanent Residents:** In addition to the materials list above, you must also submit a copy (front and back) of your U.S. permanent resident card/green card to our admissions office at apply@pharmacy.wisc.edu.

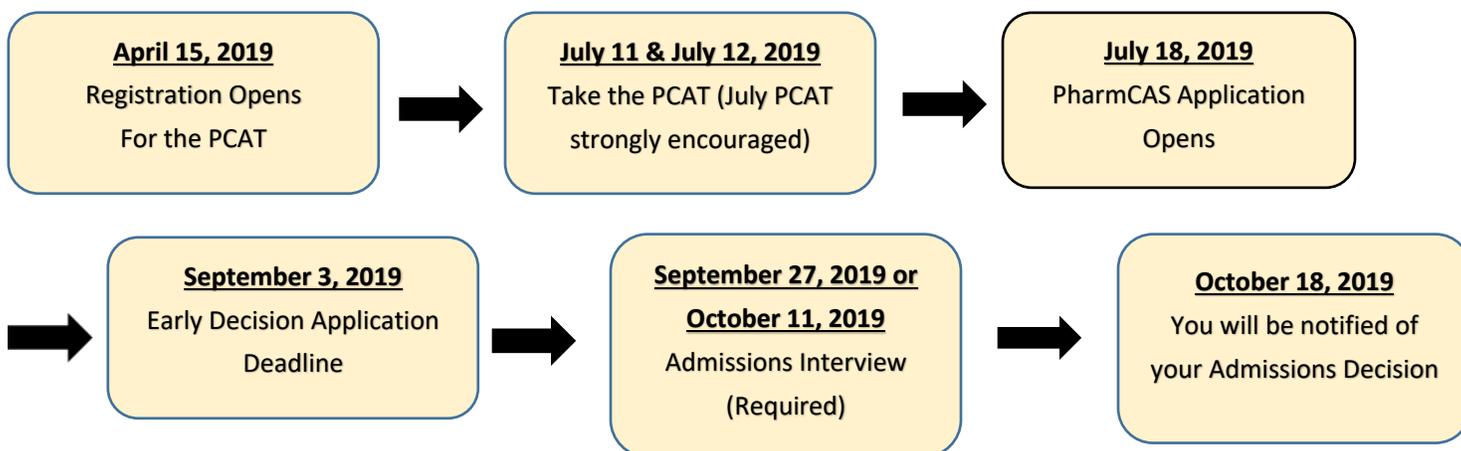
***International Applicants:** In addition to the materials list above, you must also submit I-20 documentation, a copy of your passport, financial verification form, funding documentation, a sponsor funding statement, and the TOEFL (if applicable). For more information, please visit <https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/programs/pharmd/admissions/process/application-process-materials-for-international-applicants/>

EARLY DECISION TIMELINE

The UW-Madison School of Pharmacy participates in the Early Decision program. The Early Decision program is a binding option for applicants who have decided that our pharmacy program is their first choice and they will enroll if accepted. As an Early Decision applicant, you can apply to only one pharmacy degree program. If you are denied admission through early decision, you will be allowed to apply to other pharmacy programs as a regular applicant. If you are placed on the wait list for our program as an early decision applicant, you will be moved to the regular applicant pool, which allows you to apply to other pharmacy programs while still being considered for admission to our program. PharmCAS can take up to 4 weeks to verify applications so you are encouraged to submit your complete application as soon as possible. UW-Madison School of Pharmacy guarantees interviews for early decision applicants who have a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher.

<http://www.pharmcas.org/preparing-to-apply/what-youll-need-to-apply/deadlines/early-decision/>

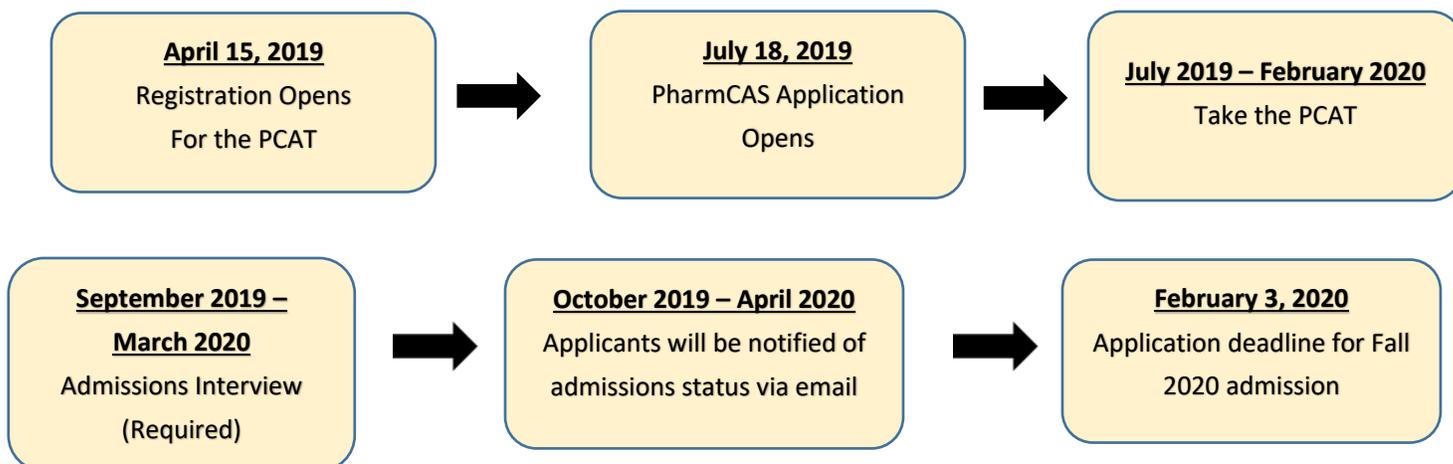
Early Decision Application Deadline: September 3, 2019



REGULAR ADMISSION TIMELINE

We encourage applicants to apply early because we participate in rolling admissions. PharmCAS can take up to 4 weeks to verify complete applications. We are not able to consider inviting you to interview until your PharmCAS application is verified, and all other required application materials are submitted.

Application Deadline: February 3, 2020



Decisions

INTERVIEW INVITE DECISIONS

After your application is complete and verified, the Admissions Committee will conduct a full review of your application and supporting documents. After this review and within approximately two weeks, you will receive one of the following decisions:

- 1. Interview Invite** – Please join us for an admissions interview at the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy (required to continue on in the admissions process). The interview day is a half-day event that includes a welcome from the Dean, 25-minute interview, extemporaneous essay, faculty panel, current student panel, admissions team meeting, and a tour. The interview day serves two main purposes: It gives us an opportunity to learn more about you, and it gives you an opportunity to learn more about our program.
- 2. Interview Wait List** – The Admissions Committee is still very interested in you as an applicant, however, we are not able to invite you to interview at this time. This could be due to several reasons. For example, the Committee may want to see your Fall grades, etc. The Committee will continually evaluate your application and will decide on whether or not to invite you to interview. If you are invited to interview, you will hear from the Admissions Committee in regards to your interview invite by the end of February.
- 3. Not Invited to Interview/Denied Admission** – After completing a careful and thorough review of your application and supporting documents, our Admissions Committee has concluded that we are unable to offer you an interview. The interview is required to continue on in the application process. Therefore, your application will no longer be considered for admission. This decision is not a dismissal of your academic ability or promise, but a reflection of the competition among the applicants for the limited space in our Doctor of Pharmacy class.

ADMISSION DECISIONS

After your interview, the Admissions Committee will complete another full review of your application and include your interview and extemporaneous essay (completed on your interview day). You will receive one of the following admission decisions approximately 3-4 weeks after your interview:

- 1. Admitted** – Congratulations! We hope that you will accept our offer of admission and join our program! We typically ask students to accept or decline our offer of admission within two weeks of receiving their offer of admission. Students admitted prior to March 1 are required to pay a \$200 enrollment deposit within two weeks of receiving the offer of admission. A second deposit of \$300 will be required on March 1. Students admitted after March 1 will be required to pay the entire \$500 enrollment deposit within two weeks of receiving the offer of admission.
- 2. Wait List** – The Admissions Committee was not able to make a final admissions decision on your application. They will continue to review your application throughout the admissions process.
- 3. Denied Admission** – The Admissions Committee completed a full and extensive review of your application, and we are not able to offer you admission into our program. This decision is not a dismissal of your academic ability or promise, but a reflection of the competition among the applicants for the limited space in our Doctor of Pharmacy class.

AACP COOPERATIVE ADMISSIONS GUIDELINES

In an effort to allow applicants the time and ability to explore multiple pharmacy programs, the following Big Ten programs are participating in the [AACP Cooperative Admissions Guidelines](#) (CAG's):

Ohio State University
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Iowa
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska
University of Wisconsin

There may be other programs participating in the CAGs; the [PharmCAS School Pages](#) provide a directory of programs.

- **Prior to March 1**, these programs will not require a deposit of more than \$200. Applicants to these programs may accept offers from multiple PharmD programs until March 1, at which point they may hold only one acceptance. If an applicant holds more than one acceptance, programs may choose to rescind admission offers.
- **After March 1**, applicants may continue to interview. If offered admission to a program after March 1, an applicant who had previously accepted another program's offer must withdraw from that program in order to accept the new offer.
- Be sure to check with each program on their specific deposit amounts and timelines.

For additional information on the AACP Cooperative Admissions Guidelines, please visit:

<https://www.aacp.org/resources/students/cooperative-admissions-guidelines>.

ADMISSIONS OFFER & DEPOSIT TIMEFRAMES FOR UW-MADISON APPLICANTS

(Not applicable to Early Decision Applicants)

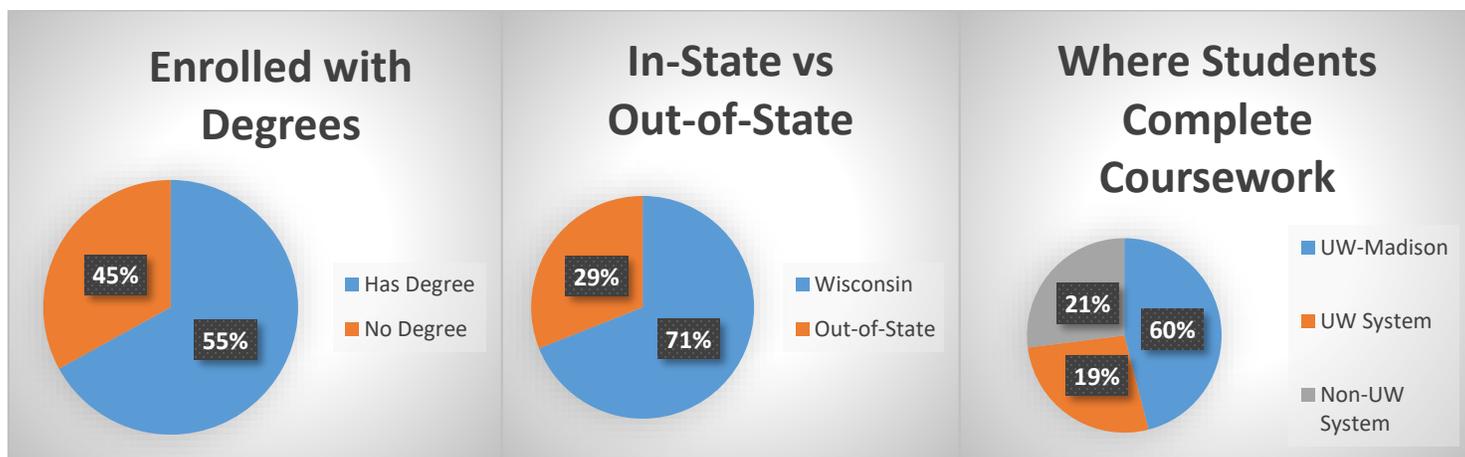
Before March 1:

- The University of Wisconsin-Madison Doctor of Pharmacy program requires a **\$200** holding deposit when an applicant accepts the offer of admission. This \$200 deposit is due within two weeks of receiving an offer of admission.
- Applicants may choose to accept multiple admission offers.

After March 1:

- The University of Wisconsin-Madison Doctor of Pharmacy program requires an additional holding deposit of **\$300**.
- Students who are admitted into the PharmD program after March 1, will be required to pay the total **\$500** holding deposit when the applicant accepts the offer of admission.
- Applicants may hold **ONLY ONE** acceptance. Participating schools and colleges may choose to rescind their offers to applicants holding multiple acceptances.

2019 ADMISSION STATISTICS (as of 4/15/2019)



Application Statistics:

- ✓ Total Applications: 357
- ✓ Interviewed: 227
- ✓ Enrolled: 137

2019 Entering PharmD Class:

- ✓ Average GPA: 3.5
- ✓ GPA Range: 2.8 – 4.0
- ✓ Average PCAT: 79%
- ✓ First Generation: 17%
- ✓ States Represented: CA, CO, IA, IL, IN, MD, MI, MN, PA, WA, and WI
- ✓ Country of Origin/Country of Birth: Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, India, Nigeria, Palestine, Philippines, United States, and Vietnam



Contact Information and Resources

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY ADMISSIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

For general admissions questions or to set up an appointment, please contact pharminfo@pharmacy.wisc.edu or 608-262-6234.

ADMISSIONS TEAM

Jeremy Altschaf, MA, Assistant Dean
Jannelle Frey, MS, Admissions Coordinator
apply@pharmacy.wisc.edu
608-262-6234

MEET WITH US

Interested in meeting with an advisor and/or visiting the School of Pharmacy?

- If you would like to meet with a Pre-Pharmacy Advisor, you can set up an appointment by calling 608-262-6234 or emailing pharminfo@pharmacy.wisc.edu
- Open House for Undergraduate Students (held biannually in the Spring and Fall):
<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/programs/pharmd/before-you-apply/open-house/>
- Preview Day for High School Students (held annually in the Spring):
<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/programs/pharmd/before-you-apply/preview-day/>
- If traveling to Madison is too difficult to squeeze into your busy schedule, no worries! Feel free to schedule a phone appointment with an advisor by calling 608-262-6234 or emailing pharminfo@pharmacy.wisc.edu.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND LINKS

- Our Website: <https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/>
- PharmCAS: <http://www.pharmcas.org/>
- PCAT: <http://www.pcatweb.info/>
- UW-Madison Scholars in Pharmacy: <https://students.pharmacy.wisc.edu/scholars-in-pharmacy/>
- Financial Aid: <https://financialaid.wisc.edu/>
- Estimated Cost of Attendance: <https://financialaid.wisc.edu/cost-of-attendance/>
- Campus Map: <http://www.map.wisc.edu/>
- Follow us on Social Media!
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UWMadPharm/>
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/university-of-wisconsin-madison-school-of-pharmacy/>
 - YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO9IohbXr8XFSCuxlNiZ0rQ>
 - Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uwmadisonpharmacy/>
 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UWMadPharmacy>
- School of Pharmacy Student Organizations: <https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/programs/pharmd/student-life/>
- UW-Madison Campus Life: <https://www.wisc.edu/campus-life/>
- University Housing: <http://www.housing.wisc.edu/>
- Campus Area Housing Listing Service: <https://campusareahousing.wisc.edu/>
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP): <https://www.aacp.org/>
- Transportation Services: <http://transportation.wisc.edu/>
- Madison Metro: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/>