



PharmCAS
Pharmacy College Application Service

PharmCAS Training for AACP Annual Meeting

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Agenda

- **Benefits of PharmCAS**
- **Overview of the Application Process**
- **Demonstrations**
 - Applicant Portal
 - Admissions Portal
- **Questions**



PharmCAS Participation

**Launched on June 4 for
Fall 2011 Enrollment**

90 PharmCAS Institutions

**12– Partial Participating
78 – Full Participating**

**50 – Private Institutions
40 – Public Institutions**



Benefits of PharmCAS to Admissions

- No fee to join
- Single application and one set of materials for multiple schools
- PharmAdMIT
- Allows admissions staff to spend less time on clerical tasks and more time
 - Recruiting applicants
 - Reviewing files
 - Analyzing application trends
- Automatic set of reports
- Rich database of applicant information



Accreditation

- ACPE Standards Rely More Heavily on Metrics
- Peer Institutional Comparisons
- Regional Comparisons
- Trends
- Outcomes
 - How do graduates apply knowledge in practice?
 - Which student pharmacists are most likely to pursue graduate education?



Predictive Validity Study

GOAL: Better predict the academic success of student pharmacists on an institutional and national basis.

- Develop Study
- Identify Relevant Fields
 - PharmCAS and Institutional Data
- Determine Role of Pre-pharmacy Background
 - GPAs, PCAT, Previous Degrees
- Other Factors
 - Race, Gender, and Age



Future Vision

Expand services to include comprehensive longitudinal tracking of pharmacy graduates. Track pharmacists from their pre-professional education and throughout their careers.

Goals

- More data and analysis
- Better equipped for policy discussion
- Income for institutional research and student support



Overview of the PharmCAS Process



PharmCAS Application

- IE 5.0+ or Netscape 6.1+ with 56k modem or faster
- Access from any computer with Internet
- Pop-up blockers must be disabled
- Javascript and cookies must be enabled
- Reliable email address



Paper Application *Not Recommended*

- Paper copy available from PharmCAS
- Applicant contacts schools directly for program-specific requirements.
- Nearly 100% Web-based applications

PharmCAS will key enter data from paper applications received, if received



PharmCAS Central Processing



Submission of Documents

- Application
- U.S. Transcripts
- References
- PCAT, TOEFL, TSE
- Fee
- Foreign Transcript Evaluations

PharmCAS

- Supplemental Application
- Supplemental Fee
- Other Tests

School



Transcripts Sent to PharmCAS

- Official accredited U.S. postsecondary transcripts for every institution attended
- No "Issued to Student" transcripts
- Transcript deadline **NOT** enforced by PharmCAS
- Transcript Request Form recommended.
- Spring, summer 2011 transcripts sent directly to schools



Transcripts for Matriculated Students

- For accreditation purposes, institutions may be required to collect official transcripts from MATRICULATED students
- Do **NOT** require all applicants to send official transcripts to your school
- PharmCAS cannot send archived transcripts to schools



International Coursework

PharmCAS School Options

- **Foreign Transcript Evaluation Report**
(sent to PharmCAS)
- **Original Foreign Transcript**
(sent directly to the school)
- **Neither**
(only U.S. credentials considered)




Test Scores Sent to PharmCAS

- **PCAT:** PharmCAS Code **104**
- **TOEFL:** PharmCAS Code **8246**
- **TSE:** PharmCAS Code **8246**


PharmCAS will NOT "HOLD" a file for missing PCAT or other test scores


GRE, SAT, ACT, AP and other test scores sent directly to institution
 Applicant **MUST** enter in PCAT CID!



References


- **Paper and eLOR** (preferred)
 - If paper reference, only one copy needed
- **Up to 4 per applicant**
- **Composite and committee letters count as one (1) reference**
- **PharmCAS reference form**
 - Required for eLORs
 - Encouraged, but not required for paper references.





Foreign Transcript Evaluation Reports

- **IF REQUIRED BY SCHOOL**, applicant arranges for *course-by-course* foreign transcript evaluation report to be sent to **PharmCAS**
- Foreign transcript reports are **not** required for
 - "Study-abroad", if courses appear with grades/credits on U.S. transcript



PharmCAS Application Fee Send to PharmCAS

- **\$150** to Apply to One (1) School
- Plus **\$50** Fee for Each Additional
- **Payment Options**
 - Credit Card: Visa / MasterCard*
 - Money Order
- **PharmCAS Payment Form**
- **No Refunds for Withdrawn Applications**



Deadline Extensions

- Only pharmacy school can grant extensions for full pool or individuals
- Individuals given **48-hours** to e-submit once extension is granted
- No extensions past April 1



PharmCAS Application Deadlines



November 1, 2010
December 1, 2010
January 5, 2011
February 1, 2011
March 1, 2011

**Date
Applications
Must Be
Received**

- Applicant cannot e-submit application after deadline passes
- Allow up to 4-5 weeks for PharmCAS processing



Early Decision

- Early Decision Deadline: **SEPTEMBER 3**
- Applicant may apply to only **one (1)** school
- **Denied** ED applicant may apply to more schools.
- **Accepted** ED applicant cannot apply to other PharmCAS schools
- For 2010-11: **21 ED institutions**



Re-Applicants

- Submitted and paid to roll-over from 2009-2010
- Carry over: Applicant Information, Academic History, Additional Information, Transcripts, PCAT scores
- Will NOT carry over: Personal Essay, Payment, Letters of Recommendation, Designations
- Will be assigned new 2010-2011 ID





PharmCAS Application Complete

PharmCAS Receives...

- ✓ Completed PharmCAS **Application**
- ✓ **Transcripts** from All U.S. Postsecondary Institutions Attended
- ✓ Correct PharmCAS **Application Fee**





What Is Transcript Verification?

- Applicant-reported course history compared to official transcripts
- Transcript grading scheme verified
- Grade/credit conversion verified
- Degrees earned verified
- Discrepancies reported to applicant and selected pharmacy programs
- Missing courses added (limited)



Course Fields Verified

- INSTITUTION
- TERM (e.g., spring)
- TERM TYPE (e.g., semester)
- YEAR
- TITLE
- PREFIX AND NUMBER
- GRADE
- PHARMCAS GRADE
- CREDIT
- SPECIAL CLASSIFICATION (e.g., honors)
- COURSE SUBJECT



Course Fields **NOT** Verified

ACADEMIC STATUS

- Undergraduate
- Graduate
- Professional
- Post-BS Undergraduate

TEST SCORE

- AP
- CLEP
- IB

COURSE LEVEL

- Freshman / Sophomore
- Junior / Senior
- Graduate
- Technical
- Remedial
- Professional



Items **Not** Verified by PharmCAS

- College prerequisites
- Failed / Repeated Grade **IF** original credits unknown
- Narrative transcripts
- Courses from unaccredited institutions
- Military transcripts not affiliated with accredited U.S. institution
- Transcripts with non-standard grades or credits



PharmCAS GPAs

- **Undergraduate**
 - Science
 - Non-Science
 - Math
 - Undergraduate Cumulative
- **Graduate/Professional**
 - Science
 - Non-Science
 - Math
 - Graduate/Professional Cumulative
- **Overall Cumulative**
- **GPA for Each College Attended**

Total Credit
Hours and
Quality Points
Reported to
PharmCAS
Schools



PharmCAS Grading Scheme

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 4 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.3 |
| A+ / A | A- | AB | B+ | B | B- | BC | C+ | |
| | 2 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0 |
| C | C- | CD | D+ | D | D- | DE | F | |




GPA Calculation Rules

INCLUDED:

- Repeated Courses
- Failed Courses
- Study Abroad
- Freshman Forgiveness/Academic Bankruptcy

- GPAs rounded to the hundredths place (e.g., 3.43)
- Quarter hours multiplied by 0.667


**Customized
GPAs in
PharmAdMIT**



Academic Update


December 15 – February 15

- Initial (1st) application is verified and mailed
- Applicant invited to enter any new fall grades
- Updated fall transcript is required
- PharmCAS verifies fall grades against transcripts
- School receives updated course history and GPA



Investigations

- PharmCAS conducts an investigation if transcript falsification is suspected



Admission Decisions

- Action on Early Decision applicants by **OCT 22**
- At Least One Application Decision for Each Applicant Reported to PharmCAS by **MAY 25**
 - Under Review (*not final action*)
 - Withdrew
 - Denied
 - Wait List
 - Offer Made
 - Offer Accepted
 - Offer Declined
 - Offer Rescinded
 - Matriculation



Reporting Shared Admission Decisions

- PharmCAS Provides Data for Shared Applicants Only:
 - Offers Made and Offers Accepted
 - Competing Schools Not Identified
- PharmCAS Reports Multiple Acceptances
- Year-End Reports - October



Completed Files to Schools

- New/Revised Files Available Weekly
- Paper Mailings Include...
 - Rosters
 - Application Folder
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Photocopies



End-of-Year Reports

- **School and Applicant-Specific Reports:**

- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity
- Age
- State of Residency
- Citizenship
- GPA
- PCAT
- Degrees Earned
- Offers Summary
- Applicant Summary





PharmCAS Customer Support

Applicants and Advisors

- **Customer Support Staff** (9-5, M-F)
 - 617-612-2050
 - info@pharmcas.org
- **FAQ**
- **Online Status**



www.pharmcas.org

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Admissions Portal

- Dynamic, Real-time Application Data
- Aggregate Summary of Applicants by Status
- Search Tool
- On-line Reports



Questions?