



***PharmCAS Training
for AACP Annual Meeting***

Jennifer Athay, PharmD,
Director of Student Affairs, AACP

Agenda

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



PharmCAS Participation

Launched on June 2 for
Fall 2009 Enrollment

71 PharmCAS Institutions

11 – Partial Participating
60 – Full Participating

37 – Private Institutions
34 – 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

- **New 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

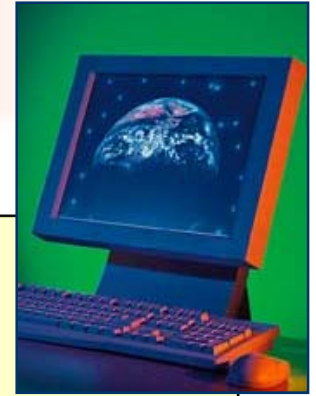
- More data and analysis
- Better equipped for policy discussion
- Income for institutional research and student support



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 2009 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

- 1. Foreign Transcript Evaluation Report**
(sent to PharmCAS)
- 2. Original Foreign Transcript**
(sent directly to the school)
- 3. 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



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



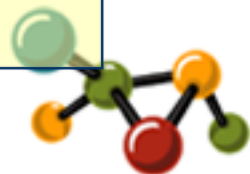
PharmCAS Application Fee

Send to PharmCAS

- **\$140** to Apply to One (1) School
- **Plus \$40** Fee for Each Additional
- **Payment Options**
 - Credit Card: Visa / MasterCard*
 - Money Order
- **PharmCAS Payment Form**
- **No Refunds for Withdrawn Applications**



** Preferred*



Deadline Extensions

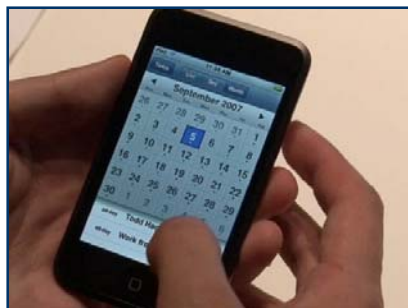
- Only pharmacy school can grant extensions for full pool or individuals
- Individuals given **48-hours** to e-submit once extension is granted
- No extensions past April 1



PharmCAS Application Deadlines

November 3, 2008
December 1, 2008
January 5, 2009
February 2, 2009
March 2, 2009

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 2008-09: 11 ED institutions



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

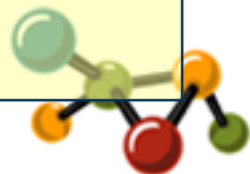
- College prerequisites
- Failed / Repeated Grade **IF** original credits unknown
- Narrative transcripts
- Courses from unaccredited institutions
- Military transcripts not affiliated with accredited U.S. institution
- Transcripts with non-standard grades or credits



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

EXCLUDED:

- Foreign Coursework
- AP/CLEP/IB
- Audit
- Deferred
- Inst/Dept Exam
- Incomplete
- Pass/Fail
- Withdrawn

**Customized
GPAs in
PharmAdMIT**



Academic Update

December 15 – February 2

- 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 4
- At Least One Application Decision for Each Applicant Reported to PharmCAS by JUNE 1
 - 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...**
 - Roster
 - Application Folder
 - Profile
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Photocopies
 - Labels: File and Mailing



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

Jennifer Athay, PharmD
Director, Student Affairs
703/739-2330, ext. 1024
JAthay@aacp.org

Jessica Colangelo
PharmCAS Team Leader
617/612-2055
jcolangelo@liaison-intl.com



Admissions Portal

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



Questions?

