



JULY 17-18, 2026
GRAPEVINE, TEXAS

Please join us for the 2026 AACP Admissions Workshop in Grapevine, Texas! We invite all administrators, faculty, and staff who play a role in recruitment, admissions, retention, and student affairs to this two-day event. The goal of the Workshop is to provide attendees with the opportunity to learn and network, so the academy can collectively promote the profession and respond to challenges facing pharmacy education.

Session topics will include addressing financial barriers to pharmacy education through creative approaches to affordability, financial literacy, and cross-campus partnerships; enhancing the interview experience by reimagining interview formats, assessment methods, and holistic practices; and advancing recruitment strategies that strengthen connections with prospective students, families, advisors, and communities. The workshop will also feature interactive case studies on unique admissions challenges offering participants the opportunity to exchange insights and develop effective strategies through dialogue and shared problem-solving. Don't miss this exciting and engaging experience!

The Workshop will precede the 2026 Annual Meeting.

- **Friday, July 17, 2026:** Workshop Programming
- **Saturday, July 18, 2026:** Workshop Programming

Full Workshop Fee: \$475 (stand-alone); \$425 (with full conference registration)

Registration includes select meals and refreshments, as outlined in the conference schedule.

Registration: [Register today!](#) Members and non-members at colleges and schools of pharmacy are invited to attend, including professional and graduate students. Pre-registration recommended; space is limited. Registration for the 2026 Annual Meeting and corresponding events is separate. For more information, see the [AACP Annual Meeting page](#).

Questions: For general questions about the Admissions Workshop, please contact us at cas@aacp.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

4:00-6:00 pm *Registration Desk Open*

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026

8:00-11:00 am *Registration Desk Open*

Stop by the registration desk to pick up a food and beverage voucher and enjoy breakfast on your own before the Workshop begins.

8:45-10:30 am **CAS Pre-session*: Enhancing Your Efficiency with WebAdMIT, Analytics, and More (*included with Workshop registration)**

Join us for an exploration of effective strategies for using Liaison Analytics, WebAdMIT, and more! This session will highlight ways to leverage the Liaison Analytics tool, feature a peer panel discussion on valuable reports, and explore current approaches and emerging options for holistic scoring models. The session will also include dedicated time for audience Q&A to address your specific needs.

- Speakers:

1. Deborah Erdner (Liaison International)
2. Morgan Ely (University of Houston)
3. Analisa Garcia (Texas A&M University)
4. Brittney Jackson (Liaison International)
5. R. Jason McGlothlin (Appalachian College of Pharmacy)
6. Katelyn M. Sanders (Shenandoah University)
7. Kelly Sugrue (Liaison International)

10:30-10:45 am *Break*

10:45-11:15 am **Welcoming Remarks and Icebreaker**

- Speakers:

1. Joel W. Gonzales (University of California, San Francisco)
2. Heidi Fuchs (Touro College of Pharmacy)

11:15 am-12:15 pm **Navigating the One Big Beautiful Bill Act: Preparing for the 2026 Federal Loan Changes**

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act introduces sweeping changes to federal student loan programs beginning July 1, 2026, reshaping how students and families finance higher education. This session will provide an overview from the lens of the financial aid office. We will discuss the new borrowing structure, including capped Parent PLUS Loans, revised undergraduate and graduate loan limits, the introduction of professional program borrowing categories, and the elimination of the Graduate PLUS program. Attendees will also learn about the new lifetime borrowing maximum and the streamlined repayment system that consolidates current options into a tiered standard plan and a single income driven plan.

Beyond policy changes, the session will highlight expected challenges for institutions, such as increased reliance on private loans, access concerns for high-cost programs, the need for updated advising strategies, and operational

adjustments driven by reduced federal borrowing capacity. Participants will leave with a strong understanding of what the 2026 transition means for enrollment management, student support, and campus planning—along with practical steps institutions can take now to prepare.

- Moderator: [Gwen Chretien \(University of Southern Florida\)](#)
- Speaker: [Ben Montecillo, MPA, FAAC \(University of Houston\)](#)

12:15-1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30-3:30 pm

Theme: Enhancing the Interview Experience.

Presentations will showcase strategies for designing and delivering engaging, equitable, and effective interview experiences. Sessions may explore approaches such as rolling interviews, virtual or hybrid formats, and the use (or non-use) of Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs). Presentations highlighting creative methods for assessing applicants' professional and interpersonal skills, integrating holistic admissions principles, or improving the overall interview day experience are encouraged. Programs that have successfully restructured their interview process—or have navigated challenges and lessons learned along the way—are invited to share their processes and outcomes that can inform and inspire peers across pharmacy admissions.

1:30-2:00 pm

Beyond the Interview, from Transactional to Transformational: Humanizing the Pharmacy School Admissions & Interview Experience

Last admissions cycle, Touro College of Pharmacy increased enrollment by 43.1% and had a yield of 73.68% on offers made. This was a record for our program. The session showcases strategies for high-touch relationship-building by redesigning and delivering engaging pre, on, and post interview experiences/interactions and will highlight creative methods for assessing applicants' professional and interpersonal skills and improving the overall interview day & admissions experience, leading to increased yield/enrollment.

- Speaker: [Heidi Fuchs \(Touro College of Pharmacy\)](#)

2:00-2:30 pm

Reimagining Interview Day: Designing a High-Impact, High-Efficiency Admissions Experience

This session will describe a redesigned interview process that offers virtual and in-person formats, enabling applicants to engage with multiple facets of the school while allowing admissions teams to efficiently assess a large pool of candidates in minimal interview days. Attendees will learn strategies for creating engaging, and informative interview experiences that assess professional and interpersonal skills, and provide applicants with meaningful insight into the school's culture, curriculum, and community.

- Speaker: [Christina Rose \(Temple University\)](#)

2:30-3:00 pm

Evolving Admissions: Lessons from an Interview Process Overhaul

The USF Health Taneja College of Pharmacy transitioned from 15 years of MMIs to a Two-to-One, 45-minute faculty interview model. This session outlines how they redesigned the process, shifted from offering in-person or virtual options to fully virtual interviews, and evaluated the impact of these changes. Presenters will

discuss the benefits, challenges, and outcomes of the new approach.-to-One, 45-minute faculty interview model. This session outlines how they redesigned the process, shifted from offering in-person or virtual options to fully virtual interviews, and evaluated the impact of these changes. Presenters will discuss the benefits, challenges, and outcomes of the new approach.

- Speakers:

1. Gwen Chretien (University of Southern Florida)
2. Ericka Zetz (University of Southern Florida)

3:00-3:30 pm

Waivers, Worries, and What-ifs: Risk Management in PharmD Admissions

Have you ever worried about what colleagues say on interview day? How about interviewer scoring, evaluator grading, or applicant responses? Both colleagues and applicants could prove to be a legal liability. While we are all busy keeping up with the Kardashians (and changes in the pharmacy academy), enrollment pressures remain. This session examines how three institutions are crafting admissions processes in ways that mitigate organizational risk and legal liability while also considering political pressures.

- Speakers:

1. Locke DeMark (Chapman University)
2. Amy Diepenbrock (University of the Incarnate Word)
3. Jeremy A. Hughes (University of Washington)

3:30-3:45 pm

Theme: Enhancing the Interview Experience Q&A

- Moderators:

1. Locke DeMark (Chapman University)
2. Pamela Newsome (Palm Beach Atlantic University)

3:45-4:00 pm

Friday Wrap-up

- Speakers:

1. Heidi Fuchs (Touro College of Pharmacy)
2. Pamela Newsome (Palm Beach Atlantic University)

4:00-5:00 pm

Happy Hour with Exhibitors

Unwind and connect during our Workshop Happy Hour, designed to bring admissions professionals together in a relaxed, informal setting. Enjoy light refreshments while networking with peers and exhibitors, sharing insights, and continuing conversations sparked throughout the day.

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

7:45-8:45 am

Breakfast

8:45-9:00 am

Welcome Back

- Speaker: [Gwen Chretien \(University of Southern Florida\)](#)

9:00-10:00 am

What Will Pharmacists Be Able to Do? Framing the Future of Practice for Prospective Students

As pharmacy practice evolves, so must our recruitment and admissions messaging. Prospective students are increasingly focused on scope of practice, prescribing authority, and clinical impact.

This session will explore emerging pharmacy regulatory models, including full practice authority and expanded technician delegation, through the lens of Idaho's experience. We will discuss how these changes redefine professional identity, increase career flexibility, and create new patient care opportunities. Admissions officers will leave equipped to confidently answer the question every applicant is asking: *What does the future look like for pharmacists and how does your program prepare me for it?*

- Moderator: [Joel W. Gonzales \(University of California, San Francisco\)](#)
- Speaker: [Jennifer L. Adams \(Idaho State University\)](#)

10:00-10:15 am

Break

10:15-11:15 am

Theme: Addressing Financial Barriers to Pharmacy Education.

Presentations will focus on strategies to help applicants understand and access various financial resources (e.g., scholarships, grants, work-study, loans). Proposals may highlight innovative approaches to educating applicants about funding their Pharm.D., addressing financial barriers, and fostering collaborations between admissions, university foundation, and financial aid. Topics may also include promoting financial literacy, timing financial aid education, and advancing practices that support affordability and access.

10:15-10:45 am

First Year Free: Evaluating the Structure, Outcomes, and Sustainability of a Novel Pharmacy Scholarship Program

In this session, presenters will offer details regarding the University of Utah's First Year Free (FYF) scholarships program. The session will cover structure and funding of the FYF program as well as associated outcomes. Presenters will discuss successes and challenges in program development, deployment and sustainability and provide attendees with the opportunity to consider how to create similar funding mechanisms.

- Speakers:
 1. [Joseph T. Mattingly \(University of Utah\)](#)
 2. [James Ruble \(University of Utah\)](#)
 3. [Kyle Turner \(University of Utah\)](#)

10:45-11:15 am

Reducing Barriers to Enrollment: Promoting Practical Cost of Education Containment Strategies in Recruitment Efforts

Pursuing a PharmD is rewarding but financially demanding. Today's generation is especially focused on financial prudence, more so than previous generations. This presentation highlights ways that pharmacy schools can support students through practical debt-management strategies, individualized guidance, and intentional application. By leveraging seven key mechanisms to promote financial wellbeing, institutions can reduce financial anxiety of their current students and subsequently strengthen prospective students' confidence and affinity for pharmacy school.

- Speaker: Jeffrey A. Bates (Cedarville University)

11:15-11:30 am

Theme: Addressing Financial Barriers to Pharmacy Education Q&A

- Moderators:
 1. Amy Diepenbrock (University of the Incarnate Word)
 2. Pamela Newsome (Palm Beach Atlantic University)

11:30 am-12:00 pm

Day One Ready: Viewing Admissions Through Pre-Professional Competencies

What should a student pharmacist be able to demonstrate on the first day of the professional phase of the Pharm.D. program? This session centers on AACCP's Student Affairs Committee work which defines the essential pre-professional competencies students need at entry and explores how colleges and schools can use those competencies to shape admissions requirements and prerequisite coursework. Designed as an interactive dialogue with admissions professionals, the session invites participants to examine current practices, challenge assumptions, and consider strategies to modernize admissions standards. Together, we will explore how competency-informed approaches can strengthen student readiness and better align recruitment and selection processes with the evolving needs of the pharmacy workforce.

- Speakers:
 1. Renee Acosta (The University of Texas at Austin)
 2. Keith Christensen (Creighton University)
 3. Sara Dugan (Northeast Ohio Medical University)
 4. Cynthia Sanoski (The University of Iowa)
 5. Kyle Turner (University of Utah)

12:00-1:15 pm

Lunch

1:15-2:00 pm

Theme: Case Studies in Unique Admissions Situations.

Presentations will share interactive case studies highlighting unique or complex situations encountered in the admissions process. Accepted cases will be featured in a roundtable discussion session designed to foster dialogue and shared problem-solving. If selected, presenters will collaborate with committee members and fellow case contributors to design a cohesive session that allows participants to engage with multiple cases and conclude with a brief, facilitated wrap-up discussion summarizing key takeaways.

1:15-2:00 pm

Case by Case – What would you do?

This case study-based session will focus on two complex scenarios that have been

brought to an admissions committee. The first case surrounding the complex issues of academic dishonesty and the second focusing on an applicant who has completed most of the required prerequisites through AP and dual credit classes in high school. Help! How do these cases move forward in a way that is fair, ethical, and aligns with the mission of the institution.

- Speakers:

1. Elizabeth Davis (The University of Iowa)
2. Brooke A. Swain (The University of Iowa)

2:00-3:45 pm

Theme: Innovative Recruitment and Marketing Strategies

Presentations will highlight strategies for strengthening pharmacy school recruitment and marketing efforts. Sessions may explore resourceful approaches to engaging prospective students, families, and influencers through outreach initiatives such as K-12 programming, advisor partnerships, and community engagement. Proposals that address challenges like undergraduate advisor turnover, sustaining long-term relationships with applicant pools, and tailoring recruitment for diverse audiences are encouraged. Presenters are invited to share their successes, data-driven outcomes, and lessons learned that can inspire fresh approaches to recruiting the next generation of student pharmacists.

2:00-2:30 pm

From Focus Groups to Classrooms: What K-12 Teachers Actually Want in Pharmacy Career Awareness Programming

This session will explore how middle and high school teacher perspectives can inform the creation of meaningful pharmacy career awareness programming for their students. Using an evidence-informed process, we examined teacher input on best practices for student engagement, relevant pharmacy career-related content, and challenges teachers face in implementing career awareness programs. An activity created based on the evidence will be demonstrated to attendees, followed by a discussion on potential adaptations.-related content, and challenges teachers face in implementing career awareness programs. An activity created based on the evidence will be demonstrated to attendees, followed by a discussion on potential adaptations.

- Speakers:

1. Katherine A. Kelley (The Ohio State University)
2. Nicole C. Kwiek (The Ohio State University)

2:30-3:00 pm

One Team, Two Roles: Leveraging an Advisor-Recruiter Partnership to Strengthen Recruitment and Retention

This session highlights an innovative advisor-recruiter partnership model that strengthens pharmacy school recruitment and retention through shared responsibility and collaboration. By integrating recruitment and student success efforts, this approach creates a seamless support system from prospect to pharmacy student—reducing melt, improving yield, enhancing persistence, and building trust with students and families.

- Speakers:

1. Lindsey Cooper (The University of Mississippi)
2. Kristen Pate (The University of Mississippi)

3:00-3:45 pm

From Classrooms to Careers: Strengthening Pharmacy Recruitment Through Engagement and Experience

This session examines a collaborative, experience-based recruitment strategy designed to increase undergraduate exposure to pharmacy career pathways. Presenters will share how they engaged prospective students using the Florida Pre-Pharmacy Student Conference as a marketing strategy. The session will highlight how a profession-forward atmosphere can build early awareness, strengthen career identity, and foster sustained relationships among students, faculty, and admissions professionals. Emphasis will be placed on early exposure, collaboration, and lessons learned.

- Speakers:

1. Rigo A. Chaparro (University of Florida)
2. Pamela Newsome (Palm Beach Atlantic University)
3. F. Jouseph Sliba (Nova Southeastern University)
4. Ericka Zetz (University of Southern Florida)

3:45-3:55 pm

Theme: Innovative Recruitment and Marketing Strategies Q&A

- Moderators:

1. Ronald J. McGlothlin (Appalachian College of Pharmacy)
2. Nathaniel Rickles (University of Connecticut)

3:55-4:00 pm

Workshop Wrap-up and Closing Remarks

- Speaker: Amy Diepenbrock (University of the Incarnate Word)