

R&E: Navigating PharmCAS

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PharmCAS

- Pharmacy application
- Centralized application site for pharmacy schools
- JULY 14, 2020 is when 2020-2021 cycle opens
- Several universities that offered pharmacy education
- www.pharmcas.org
 - Hit launch application and made an account
 - Get an individualized PharmCAS ID
 - Main Page: Personal Info, Academic history, supporting info, program materials
 - Select which schools to apply to (can search by state or program)
 - Shows you how much the application fees will be

4 Main Sections

- Personal Information
 - Address, background, contacts etc.
- Academic History
 - One of the more important sections
 - Input all high school and colleges attended (even community college)
 - Put in all grades as exactly stated on transcript
 - MAKE SURE IT IS ACCURATE
 - Must get transcript from all schools attended
 - Order an official transcript for yourself. Names for classes are different than transcript codes
 - <https://registrar.ucdavis.edu/records/transcripts/order> is where you go to get transcripts
 - Input future classes you will take that are not listed on transcript
 - Section for standardized tests (PCAT)
 - Set up score delivery to PharmCAS when you register for PCAT
- Supporting Information
 - Submit evaluations from letter of recommendation writers
 - Select Yes on “I waive my right to access this evaluation”
 - PharmCAS will accept up to 4 evals per applicant
 - Make sure your letters satisfy all the requirements for the programs you are interested in
 - Give your letter writers a deadline of at least 2-3 weeks before the application is due!
 - Include experiences, achievements, licenses, and certifications

- Jobs, internships, community service, all extracurriculars
 - Add any honors, publications, and scholarships, 600-character description
 - Add professional licenses like PharmTech license or EMT
- Personal Essay
 - A page long (4500 characters including spaces!)
 - Prompt: Why pharmacy and how will getting a pharmacy doctorate degree help you achieve your future goals?

Program Materials Section

- Shows the schools' requirements and will check off everything you have satisfied as you fill out your application
- There may be additional essay questions for the pharmacy schools that you are applying in
 - Some schools may ask you to show proof of your license or hours of service

Application Fees

- First application is \$175 and gradually adds. There are also fee waivers
- Schools may also have a supplemental application fees
 - Ex) UOP has a \$60 supplemental application fee
 - The supplemental application fee may be different

Tips

- Start early!!
- Ask for advice on the essay
 - Can talk to HPA for personal statement help
- Have patience
 - Transcript entry is tedious
 - You can add classes, but you cannot edit already submitted grades
- Know each schools' application style
 - Rolling (USC, most schools) (sooner you apply, the better chances to get in)
 - Tiered (UOP) (like rolling admissions)
 - Non-rolling (UCSD, UCSF) (application is due at one time, no priority to those who apply early)
- Prioritize what applications you work on first
- Block off interview dates for school
- Reach out to HPA or other pharmacy students for advice
 - Email the club or message us on Facebook!
- If you are set on one school, take advantage of early decision
- Make sure to proofread your application before submitting!
 - You can submit to schools at different times
- Practice interview questions and make sure you make a list of question that you want to ask the school

- Google or youtube for questions
- You can also check forum pages for more info on other peoples' experiences with interviews
- Check your emails regularly

Timeline

- Throughout freshman and sophomore year
 - Build relationships with profs or faculty for LORs
 - Gain experiences and write them down
 - Update your CV/Resume
- Junior/Senior Year
 - Spring-Summer
 - Ask for LORs
 - Schedule/Take PCAT
 - Application opens July 14, 2020!
 - June-Sept
 - Have LORs sent to PharmCAS
 - Send in transcripts!
 - Aug-Oct
 - Prepare for interviews and apply for early decision for schools that you are interest in

Q&A

- Contact Lauren (lcreynolds@ucdavis.edu) or Sally (sntran@ucdavis.edu) for application advice.
- When signing up for PCAT you have to say which schools to send your score to. You can choose later whether to send the school to. There is additional fee to send your score to schools you have not
- Since there is a max of 4 letters, would you recommend sending 2 or 3?
 - Each school has a unique requirement of LOR. If you believe that 2 or 3 people can represent yourself stronger then do that (if they satisfy program requirements?)
- How and when can we access fee waiver?
 - Do not submit application until PharmCAS tells you if fee waiver application as been accepted or denied. There should be an assistance program tab to fill in your tax information. If your waiver is approved, you have a max of 14 days to send in your application. If you do not do it within 14 days, your waiver will get forfeited.
- How long did you study for the PCAT?
 - Studied all summer (2-3 hrs a day) and took the exam in October?
- If someone filled out PharmCAS in a previous year, then will a draft get saved if you apply for a future year?

- PharmCAS deletes the previous drafts. Copy and paste questions in a separate document. The personal essay prompt has stayed the same for the past five years so that is a probable prompt for future years.
- How long before admissions deadlines would you recommend taking the PCAT?
 - PharmCAS gives you your standardized score immediately. Lauren took the exam at the end of October.

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