

USC Mann's School of Pharmacy Presentation

11/13/2023

Start time: 6:10 PM

End time: 7:00 PM

Why is PharmD Special?

- Versatility
 - Pharmacy is an interdisciplinary field within healthcare
 - Easier to switch between fields in pharmacy (e.g. pediatric to veterinary)
 - All patients of different specialities end up at pharmacies
 - A lot of career potential within pharmacy
 - Can approach any field in healthcare through pharmacy lens
 - Pharmacists play primary role in health of patients
 - Check up on patients + talk to patients about side effects
- Diverse career spectrum in pharmacy: industry, consulting, business + marketing, compounding, long-term patient care, drug discovery + development
 - Top 2 choices of USC graduates in 2023 = hospital or chain community pharmacy
 - 1/3 of USC graduates go to personalized, non-traditional field
 - EX: clinic-based pharmacy, managed care, consultant, academia

General Information

- #1 private PharmD program in nation
- 100+ years of innovation/training in pharmacy
- Vast alumni network that spreads across world (10,000+ alumni)

Curriculum

- 4-year PharmD curriculum
 - Benefit = get breaks (winter, spring, summer)
- Personalized paths
 - Areas of concentration (6 total)
 - Modifies elective curriculum to cater towards that area
 - EX: pharmaceutical entrepreneurship
 - Dual degrees
 - Includes PhD + master programs
 - Accelerated so complete two degrees in around 5 years
 - Speciality electives
- Clinical experiences start in 1st semester

- All practice rotations coincide with what students are learning in class
 - EX: students first learn about medical history, vaccinations
- 4th year = series of advanced rotations
 - 7 six-week rotations (3 are mandatory: hospital, ambulatory, community)
 - Other 4 can be personalized
- 14 assigned mentors over 4 years
 - Includes alumni, faculty, upperclassmen
- Diverse student org opportunities
 - Many opportunities turn into paid internships (up to \$25-\$45 per hour)
- Interprofessional education integrated into curriculum

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA + pre-req GPA
 - Only take highest grade (retake a class to help improve GPA if feasible)
- Pre-pharmacy required courses must be completed with a "C" or higher BEFORE entering PharmD program
- Official transcripts
- 3 letters of recommendation
 - *Highly* recommended that 1 letter of rec is from a science-based professor
 - Be active in building a relationship with profs (e.g. through office hours)
 - Anyone that can speak highly of your character + academics
- Mandatory interview (in-person + virtual)
 - Want to know more about you (why pharmacy? why USC?)
 - December = 1st virtual interviews
- Applications are reviewed holistically
 - GPA, extracurriculars (research, volunteer, student clubs/orgs, etc)
 - Experiences don't have to be pharmacy-related
 - Don't have to come into program with 2-year pharm tech experience or 100 hrs of volunteer work at local pharmacy
 - Any extracurriculars will look good on application (e.g. skills learned from experiences/positions)
 - Skills can be articulated into why you would make a good pharmacist
 - Should have good communication skills
 - Need to be able to communicate with future patients
 - Many applicants come into interview with high GPA but lack in interpersonal communication

- Take communication/humanities courses if feasible
- Can mention during interview that you took courses to improve your communication skills

How to Apply

- Apply via **PharmCAS**
 - Application opens: July 13, 2023
 - Application priority deadline: November 1, 2023
 - Application final deadline: February 1, 2023
 - Submit all application materials (e.g. essays)
- Interview
- Rolling admission
 - Results typically come out within 2 weeks after interview

Pre-Pharmacy Requirements

- [Link to course equivalencies](#)

Tuition Cost

- \$64,914 per year (\$259,656 in total)
- Make impact on financial obligation through:
 - Outside scholarships
 - Apply to many throughout year to reduce loans
 - USC scholarships
 - Offered on per year basis
 - Each subsequent year in program, students have the opportunity to apply for new scholarships
 - On average: \$15k-20k per year given to students
 - Financial aid loans
 - Internships & employment opportunities (\$15k-30k per year)
 - Director of career support services for PharmD receives many opportunities from local pharmacies
 - Asks for USC pharmacy students to work (\$25-45 per hour)

Return of Your Investment

- 6 figure salary
 - Average salary for pharmacist in CA = \$160,000 per year
 - Varies depending on speciality
- Job placement + rapid career growth

- Lifetime member of trojan family
- Professional connections

USC Community Commitment

- Over 1.5 mil vaccines given to community
 - USC took over Dodger's stadium in LA at peak of pandemic
- Diverse communities served via student health fairs
- 3 owned + operated pharmacies

Contact

- Dominique Beale (dbeale@usc.edu)
 - Assistant Director of Recruitment and Outreach
- Murad Dibbini (dbbini@usc.edu)
 - Director of Enrollment Management
- Alexis Harvey (harveya@usc.edu)
 - CRM Specialist and Admission Recruiter