

Professional School Information Session: Pharmacy

Transcript

To be a Pharmacist, you need to earn a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) in Ontario, Quebec, and the US, or a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy (BScPhm) in other provinces

In Ontario the University of Toronto and the University of Waterloo have programs

PharmCAS is the centralized application system for US Pharmacy schools

For your GPA, U of T: requires a minimum B- (70%); however the average for candidates offered admission has been in the A- (80%) range; they use a cumulative average of all years; Waterloo's GPA range is about 75-94%, with the average around 81%

Some institutions require you to write the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT); half of the US pharmacy schools and U of T require it.

The PCAT is a computer-based test and consists of 240 multiple-choice items and two Writing topics. Candidates are given four hours to complete it (plus administrative time for instructions and time for a short rest break about halfway through the test).

You can write the PCAT up to 5 times.

Waterloo doesn't have an admissions test. If invited to the interview stage you will have to complete a "Reading Comprehension/Writing Test". This requires you to read a scientific article & summarize in order words for a newspaper article; it is not necessarily related to pharmacy, but you need to analyze if the information is accurate. Also, there is a basic math test.

Relevant health-related experience is important to get for a strong understanding of the profession; it can be difficult to find, but necessary to have. Waterloo also likes to see any kind of work experience that shows you can manage in a fast-paced, and/or customer driven environment

Ensure that you have completed the appropriate prerequisites for each university that you are applying to; Applicants will have completed at least 2 years of their UG in order to have the pre-reqs; and you can apply during 2nd year

For References Waterloo prefers a pharmacist; and no references are required for U of T.

Waterloo has an Admissions Profile which is very similar to a personal statement

For interviews, U of T uses the Multiple Mini Interview format for interviews while Waterloo uses a standard panel with a 5-10 minute presentation at the beginning.