



VCU

School of Pharmacy

VCU School of Pharmacy has a holistic admissions review process. This means we consider many factors to ensure we admit well-rounded students into our program, personal and extracurricular experiences, letters of recommendation and academic record.

We advise many students on applying to the Pharm.D. program who want to know, "How can I make my application compelling?" Below you will find a few tips on strengthening student applications for the admissions process.



Review our website and requirements: Everything you need to know can be found on our website. Be sure to check out our application timeline, admissions guidebook, and prerequisite checklist to make sure you are up to date on the latest information.

Schedule an appointment: Meeting with the Office of Admissions and Student Services allows students to learn more about how their application will be reviewed and receive advice on the application process.

Attend a virtual event: We host virtual events designed to inform prospective students on the application process and student life at VCU School of Pharmacy. Make sure you are subscribed to our mailing list to receive event notifications.

Request and submit strong recommendation letters: Select professors, faculty members, former employers, and/or current healthcare professionals that can speak to who you are and why you would be a good fit for our program.

Participate in community engagement: We understand that it may be difficult to secure shadowing or clinical opportunities in the setting of COVID-19. However, compelling Pharm.D. applicants are members of student organizations, volunteer regularly, and have experiences that demonstrate their interest in helping others.

Apply sooner rather than later. As of now, our application process opens in July and closes in May each year. We admit students year-round. Applying early guarantees there are more seats available and allows students to receive an admissions decision sooner rather than later.

Remember the Four No's:

- **No degree is required:** You only need to have 30 of the 53 required prerequisite credits to apply and do not need a bachelors degree.
- **No entrance exam is necessary:** The PCAT is optional for all cycles moving forward.
- **No waiting on recommendation letters:** After requesting your three letters of recommendation through PharmCAS you do not have to wait to hit submit. Submit as all the components you're responsible for are completed.
- **No health-related or pharmacy experience is required:** Commitment to your community through volunteerism is primarily what we're looking for.