



VCU School of Pharmacy

Tips for Creating a Compelling Pharm.D. Application

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 and the two questions we are often asked are, "What are you all looking for?" and "How can I make my application compelling?"

Below you will find a few tips on strengthening student applications for the admissions process.

- **Schedule an appointment**
[Scheduling an appointment](#) 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 several virtual events during the academic school year designed to inform prospective students on student life at VCU School of Pharmacy. Make sure you are [subscribed to our mailing list](#) to receive event notifications.
- **Review our website and requirements**
Everything you need to know about the application process can be found on our website. Be sure to check out our [application timeline](#), download the [admissions guidebook](#) and [prerequisite checklist](#), watch a few of our [videos](#), and review the [FAQs](#) to make sure you are up to date on all pertinent information.
- **Request and submit strong recommendation letters**
Recommendation letters should give the Admissions Committee a good understanding of a student's interest in Pharmacy, character, aptitude, and/or extracurricular experiences. Select faculty members, former employers, and/or current healthcare professionals that can speak to who students are and why they would be a good fit for our program.
- **Participate in community engagement**
Applicants to the Pharm.D. program are not required to have healthcare-related experience. We understand that it may be difficult for students to secure shadowing or clinical opportunities in the setting of COVID-19. However, we are looking for students who have extensive volunteer experience. 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. Please encourage students to apply early. As a school that utilizes a rolling admissions process, 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, students only need to have 30 prerequisite credits to [apply](#) and do not need a bachelors degree.