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BILL GATTON  
COLLEGE *of* PHARMACY

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EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

# **Admissions Information**

## **2023 – 2024**

## APPLICATION PROCESS AND ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Admission to East Tennessee State University Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy is based on a competitive selection process involving applicants who meet the minimum requirements for admission. The Admissions Committee endeavors to select for admission those applicants who are the best qualified, with an emphasis on those who demonstrate a desire and propensity for rural pharmacy practice and an interest in rural health. ETSU Gatton College of Pharmacy uses a rolling admission process that allows for interviews and final action on applications throughout the admission cycle. The College is committed to increasing the number of qualified pharmacists from currently underrepresented minority groups and from disadvantaged backgrounds. The school actively promotes and encourages applicants from these groups.

**Pre-Pharmacy Studies:** Pre-professional preparation should be in an area chosen strictly according to the interest of the individual student. A specific major or minor course of undergraduate study for entering students is not advocated. A well-rounded undergraduate education is highly desirable, and students are encouraged to pursue the undergraduate program of their choosing. In addition to acquiring specific knowledge, the pre-pharmacy student should acquire certain basic skills and aptitudes such as the ability to read with speed, comprehension, and retention; the ability to understand concepts and draw logical conclusions; the ability to adapt quickly to new and different circumstances; and the ability to communicate effectively in all circumstances. Evidence of these abilities is sought throughout the admission process. These skills and abilities are essential in becoming a practicing pharmacist and a self-directed, lifelong learner.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The minimum admission requirements set forth the criteria that must be met before the applicant can be considered for admission.

- I. **Citizenship:** Applicants may be U.S. citizens, U.S. Permanent Residents, or Canadian citizens; have been granted political asylum or refugee status; have been granted DACA status; or be eligible for an International Student Visa.
- II. **PharmCAS Application:** Application is made using the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) via their website, [www.PharmCAS.org](http://www.PharmCAS.org).
- III. **Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT):** The PCAT is not required.
- IV. **English Language Proficiency:** International applicants whose native language is not English must submit one of the following to certify English language proficiency:
  - Proof of degree from an accredited U.S. institution; OR
  - TOEFL score must be at least 79 on the internet-based examination or 550 on the paper-based examination; OR
  - IELTS score must be at least 6.5; OR;
  - PTE Academic score of 53 or higher; OR
  - Successful completion of an ELS program at the highest level.
- V. **Supplemental Application:** A supplemental application is not required.

- VI. Letters of Reference:** Two letters of reference are required and must be submitted through PharmCAS. Letters from the following evaluators will not be counted toward the two letters of reference: family member, clergy, co-worker, friend, and politician.
- VII. Interview:** An in-person interview with members of the Admissions Committee is required. Only selected applicants will be invited to interview (all related expenses are the sole responsibility of the applicant). An invitation to interview does not guarantee admission or imply any specific action on the part of the Admissions Committee. Interview dates are scheduled directly with the applicant by the Admissions Office. Travel arrangements are the responsibility of the applicant.
- VIII. Background Check:** Prior to being allowed to enroll, all accepted applicants will be required to undergo and successfully pass a background check. All offers of acceptance are contingent upon satisfying this requirement.
- IX. Pre-Pharmacy Course Prerequisites:** The completion of at least 61 semester hours of specified undergraduate coursework is required for admission. All prerequisite coursework must be completed with a grade of C- or higher and prior to enrollment.

**Applicants who have or will earn a baccalaureate degree by the end of the spring 2023 term are considered to have met the general education requirements and only the math and science prerequisites are required.**

**Applicants are expected to have completed all math and science prerequisites by the end of the spring 2024 term. With permission, summer coursework may be allowed; however, all courses must be completed prior to August 2024.**

Be sure to include all courses—completed, in progress, and planned—on your PharmCAS application. During the PharmCAS “Academic Update” window, be sure to update your coursework on your PharmCAS application.

Prerequisite coursework must be completed at an accredited institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the equivalent authority in a foreign country.

<b>Required math and science courses for all applicants:</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
General Biology and Lab (Course must count toward a science degree or be designated for major in Biology/Chemistry.)	4
Microbiology and Lab (Course must count toward a science degree or be designated for major in Biology/Chemistry.)	4
Human Physiology (Course must count toward a science degree or be designated for major in Biology/Chemistry.) (May take 2 semesters of combined Anatomy/Physiology course in lieu of Human Physiology.)	4
General Chemistry and Lab (Course must count toward a science degree or be designated for major in Biology/Chemistry.)	8
Organic Chemistry and Lab (Course must count toward a science degree or be designated for major in Biology/Chemistry.)	8
Science Elective (Recommended courses include: Biochemistry, Genetics, Immunology, and Physics.)	3
Calculus	3
Statistics	3

<b>If no baccalaureate degree has been earned by the end of the spring term prior to starting pharmacy school, then additional required courses:</b>	<b>Semester Hours</b>
English Composition/Writing (Writing-intensive course in the English area)	6
Oral Communication (Verbal-intensive course; Communications, Speech, etc.)	3
Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and/or Humanities Electives	9
General Electives	6

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

**Applicants who apply for admission by the Priority Deadline of November 1, 2023, are eligible to receive the Dean’s Scholarship worth up to \$20,000 as funds are available. In-state students can earn \$5,000 per year; out-of-state students located in the southern Appalachian region can earn \$3,000 per year. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until funds are utilized. Academic merit will be a consideration.**

**I. Submission of all application materials (see pages 2-3 for details):**

- PharmCAS Application
- Letters of Reference
- For international applications, foreign transcript evaluation report and documentation of English language proficiency (if applicable)

<b>Application Deadlines</b>	<b>Priority Applicants</b>	<b>Regular Applicants</b>
<b>Receipt by PharmCAS of application, fee, and all transcripts</b> (including foreign transcript evaluation report to ETSU, if applicable)	November 1, 2023	June 1, 2024
<i>ETSU Gatton College of Pharmacy does not require the PCAT or a supplemental application.</i>		

**II. Interview (see page 3):** The Admissions Committee’s decision will be communicated to the applicant within one week following the interview date.

**III. Class Reservation Deposit:** ETSU Gatton College of Pharmacy follows the **AACP Cooperative Admissions Guidelines**. Upon notification of acceptance to ETSU Gatton College of Pharmacy, the applicant will be required to pay a **non-refundable class reservation deposit of \$200**.

**IV. Deferred Matriculation:** Accepted applicants may request deferred entrance into ETSU Gatton College of Pharmacy until the next class for previously unforeseen circumstances. In order to request deferred matriculation, the applicant must submit a written request explaining why a later matriculation is desired. The applicant, if approved for deferment, will be required to sign a contract agreeing to comply with specific conditions. Requests for deferred matriculation must be made in writing no later than June 30, 2024.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Admissions Committee evaluates applicants on the basis of demonstrated academic achievement, letters of reference, pertinent extracurricular activities, evidence of non-scholastic accomplishments, evidence of strong knowledge and understanding of the profession, and demonstrated motivation for the study and practice of pharmacy consistent with the mission of ETSU Gatton College of Pharmacy. Criteria for admission are integrity, willingness and ability to assume responsibility, high scholastic achievement, maturity, intellectual curiosity, and sound motivation.

**Academic Considerations:** In evaluating the applicant's coursework, the Admissions Committee examines the time frame and difficulty of the pre-pharmacy course schedule, the academic record, and extracurricular activities (particularly activities such as concurrent employment, collegiate athletics, and philanthropic/service activities) as an indication of the potential to succeed in the academically rigorous pharmacy curriculum.

Applicants are expected to possess a solid academic foundation, particularly in the sciences and mathematics. Applicants who have taken prerequisite coursework more than 10 years prior to the application deadline are encouraged to consult with the Admissions Office.

**Experience:** Applicants are expected to have a clear understanding of the pharmacy profession. Each application is examined for evidence of an applicant's firsthand exposure to health care as an indication of the applicant's motivation and that the applicant is familiar with the realities of pharmacy as a career. Applicants without pharmacy work experience should consider volunteering, shadowing a pharmacist, or extensively researching the profession prior to applying for admission.

**Residency:** The residency status (in-state or out-of-state) is initially determined for all students upon receipt of their application through PharmCAS. This determination is made in compliance with Regulations for Classifying Students In-state and Out-of-state for the Purpose of Paying College or University Fees and Tuition, as well as for Admission Purposes as amended and prepared by the Board of Regents of the State University and Community College System of Tennessee. Applicants from select border counties in North Carolina and Virginia should note that the policy waiving the out-of-state tuition differential is not applicable for pharmacy school. For insight into the University's policy, please visit [ETSU Admissions Residency FAQ](#) which provides informative answers to many of the common questions about residency.

**Reconsideration of Admissions Committee Decision:** The Admissions Committee makes every effort to consider all available information in making admissions decisions. It is the policy of the College that it will not review or reconsider any admissions decision unless significant new information which was not available at the time of the original decision is discovered. The College reserves the sole right to determine the significance of any new information presented.

## **TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND RETENTION**

Pharmacy education requires that the accumulation of scientific knowledge be accompanied by the simultaneous acquisition of professional skills. PharmD graduates must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care.

The Admissions Committee considers any applicant demonstrating the ability to perform or learn to perform the skills listed below. These skills and abilities are assessed during the interview and throughout the PharmD program. Students must possess the scholastic, physical, and emotional capacities to meet the full requirements of the school's curriculum. These standards describe the essential functions students must demonstrate in order to fulfill the requirements of a general pharmacy education, and thus are prerequisites for entrance to and continuation at ETSU Gatton College of Pharmacy. The Admissions Committee asserts that the following minimum technical standards must be present in prospective candidates and students continuing in the program.

Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in certain areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in an independent manner. ETSU Gatton College of Pharmacy, in conjunction with ETSU Office of Disability Services and in compliance with Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, will make appropriate accommodations to facilitate enrollment and program participation of qualified individuals with temporary or permanent disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to notify ETSU Office of Disability Services in a timely manner to determine if he or she is eligible to receive accommodations.

### **Observation**

Candidates should be able to use visual and other sensory modalities to observe demonstrations and experiments in the class-based setting and to make observations in practice-based activities. They should be able to observe a patient accurately. They must be able to note and interpret verbal and non-verbal communication cues displayed by the patient.

### **Communication**

Effective communication skills include the ability to ask questions and to thoughtfully receive, record, and disseminate information. Candidates should be able to employ speech, reading, writing, and computer literacy skills to communicate effectively in the English language with patients, caregivers, faculty and staff, peers, and all members of the healthcare team.

### **Sensory and Motor**

Candidates should have functional use of the senses of equilibrium, smell, and taste, as well as sufficient motor function (gross and fine) and coordination to execute movements required to carry out functions necessary to the practice of pharmacy. They must also have somatic sensation and the functional use of the senses of vision and hearing; sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch, pain, and temperature); and sufficient proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, vibratory).

### **Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative**

Candidates' intellectual skills and learning techniques must allow them to complete a rigorous and complex didactic and experiential curriculum. They must be able to learn through a variety of modalities including, but not limited to, classroom instruction, small group activities, individual study, preparation and presentation of reports, and use of computer technology. Candidates

must be able to consistently, quickly, and accurately integrate information regarding patient assessment and therapeutic planning, as appropriate for each stage of their education. They must be able to convey this information in a manner and speed appropriate to the situation. When appropriate, they must be able to identify and communicate the limits of their knowledge to others and be able to recognize when the limits of their knowledge indicate that further study or investigation is necessary before participating in decision-making.

### **Behavioral and Social**

Candidates must possess the emotional and mental health required for full utilization of intellectual abilities. They must cultivate and maintain a professional demeanor that is able to tolerate workloads that are physically, mentally, and emotionally taxing, and to function effectively under stress or with distractions. They must exercise good judgment and maintain professional ethical standards. Candidates must possess compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, and motivation to excel in the practice of pharmacy. They must be able to modify their behavior in response to constructive criticism.

### **Contact Information:**

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