

Frequently Asked Questions about Applying for Admission

What are the criteria for admission?

Our admission criteria include academic strength (science GPA, math GPA, prerequisite course grades, and overall GPA), motivation to pursue pharmacy, maturity, communication skills, special talents, achievements, and the unique contribution we expect you to make to the school and the profession.

Can a student with a foreign bachelor's degree apply?

Foreign residents eligible for F1 status may apply.

How can I obtain a list of the prerequisite courses required to apply for admission?

A list of our prerequisite courses and application information can be found on our web site at pharmacy.cnsu.edu under Prospective Students/Admission Steps/Step 1, and on our school page on the PharmCAS School Directory at www.pharmcas.org.

Where can I find your application for admission?

CNUCOP participates in the pharmacy school application service known as PharmCAS. Applicants must apply through PharmCAS. Letters of recommendation and transcripts must be submitted directly to PharmCAS. You are *not* required to send transcripts to our school during the application process. Admitted students will be required to submit official and degree conferring transcripts before starting school. The PharmCAS application can be found at www.pharmcas.org or on our website pharmacy.cnsu.edu under Prospective Students/Admission Steps/Step 2.

Do you require a supplemental application?

Yes. The web-based [Supplemental Application - Step 3](#) is available on our website.

Is there a supplemental application fee?

Yes. The supplemental application fee is \$50.00. The fee can be paid using PayPal.

Is the supplemental application processing fee refundable?

No. The supplemental application processing fee is non-refundable.

Do you offer application fee waivers?

Early Decision candidates waive the \$50.00 PayPal processing fee during the application process. We do not offer fee waivers to Regular cycle applicants. DO NOT designate "Early Decision", unless you are applying to California Northstate as an "Early Decision" candidate.

Can I submit the supplemental prior to being invited to submit the application?

Yes, but it is very important you check our admission requirements prior to applying.

What is the College of Pharmacy's policy regarding submitting supplemental applications?

Applicants are responsible for making sure they meet the admission criteria, prior to submitting their application. Candidates who submit the supplemental without meeting the criteria will either be denied or a review of their application may be suspended until additional information is provided.

Will I be offered an interview without submitting my supplemental application?

Applicants are not required to submit a supplemental prior to our preliminary review of their PharmCAS application. The supplemental application is an admission requirement, but an interview may be offered prior to receipt of the supplemental application.

How and when will I know if I've been invited for an interview?

Early Decision and Regular Applicants who apply early and are being considered for admission will be invited to early fall interviews. These interviews will occur during the months of September and early October. If you are an Early Decision applicant, the PharmCAS application must be "verified" prior to the final Early Decision interview session held October 19th. Early Decision and Regular cycle applicants with PharmCAS applications "verified" after October 19th will be considered for late-October through summer interview sessions. Information about the interview process can be found on our website under Prospective Students. To insure prompt delivery of interview invitations and notifications, please add our URL to your browser and check your Spam email box regularly.

What is the School's GPA requirement?

The overall GPA is **2.60** on a **4.00** scale.

What are the major changes to your admission requirements?

A bachelor's degree is not required but preferred. Economics is no longer required but preferred. Psychology is no longer required. Applicants must complete all of the general education requirements, with or without the bachelor's degree. Please review our website for the College's admission criteria. Applicants should review both the PharmCAS School Directory and the College website for the most up-to-date admission requirements.

Is a bachelor's degree required?

No - it is preferred.

Will you accept prerequisites which were taken over 9 years ago?

Prerequisite courses must be completed between 2008 and 2017. Applicants who have been working in the healthcare field with older coursework will be reviewed case-by-case.

Do you give preference to any major?

No. There is no preference of degree major. However, most applicants are science majors. The most common majors are biology, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology, psychobiology, etc.

I have a bachelor's degree. Do I still need to complete all of the prerequisites and general education requirements?

Yes. Applicants must review our admission requirements to make sure they will have everything completed prior to the deadline stated on the college's website and PharmCAS School Directory. This includes any student who previously received a BPharm or other bachelor's degree outside of the United States.

I planned to take a prerequisite course my last semester of school but was unsuccessful in finding a class that was not full. Can I take the class after I start school?

No. All prerequisites must be completed prior to the first day of new student orientation. Please note that enrolling in certain courses, such as biochemistry, can be highly competitive. We suggest you plan to complete those type courses as early as possible.

Do you accept on-line or distance-learning courses?

With the exception of public speaking and science courses which require a lab, we accept on-line or distance-learning coursework that meets our equivalency standards. Equivalency will be determined by the Admissions Office.

If I am accepted before I complete all my prerequisite courses, do I still need to complete them?

Yes. You are required to complete all of the prerequisites. The offer of admission is conditional based on the successful completion of all prerequisites. Failure to complete such prerequisites by the deadline may subject the student to forfeiture of the student's seat or such other remedies within the sole discretion of the University that may be necessary to correct such failure.

Is preference given to California residents?

No. We use the same criteria to evaluate out-of-state applicants as California residents.

Do California residents pay less tuition than out-of-state students?

CNUCOP is a private university; therefore, tuition and fees are the same for all students regardless of state or country of residence.

Do I need to take the PCAT?

No - but we prefer applicants take the PCAT.

Can I enter in the spring semester?

New applicants can only enter during the fall semester. Transfer students are eligible to enter in the fall or spring, based on recommendations made by the Office of Academic Affairs after a thorough review of the student's academic record.

How do I know if my application is received?

Once PharmCAS has verified your application, PharmCAS releases the application to CNUCOP. An email notification is sent to all applicants who submit their PharmCAS application to let them know the current status of their application.

Do you have rolling admission?

Yes. Offers of admission will be made until all seats are filled. This typically occurs from September through the end of the admission cycle. After each interview session, the most highly qualified candidates from each interview session are offered acceptance. All other applicants interviewed on that day are either placed on an alternate list or denied. Students placed on the alternate list may be accepted up to the first week of classroom instruction.

Do I need to send my transcripts to Admissions when I apply?

No. Applicants must submit all transcripts to PharmCAS while in the application stage. Once admitted to the College, matriculating students will be required to submit official transcripts from all institutions attended which include courses which were not verified by PharmCAS. If you received a degree, a transcript with degree confirmation must be sent to verify the degree was awarded if not previously verified by PharmCAS by September 30th. Once again, this is only required after a student is accepted.

How many applications do you receive, interviews do you grant, and applicants do you accept in an average year?

We typically receive more than 1100 applications a year, grant approximately 800 interviews, and offer acceptances to seat a class of 120.

Should I still apply if my grade point average is just above the minimum 2.60?

Admission is competitive and our evaluation is based on all aspects of the application, in addition to your grade point average. This includes your science grades, curriculum, recommendations, essays, involvement in clubs, organizations, and community service, as well as interview results. Competition also varies from year to year depending upon the size and strength of the applicant pool. You should consider all of these factors and should not base your decision solely on your GPA.

I am a re-applicant. How may I improve my application or chances of gaining admission?

Make a critical review of the information you submitted in your application for admission to see if there are any obvious voids. For example, maybe you had one or two low grades that lowered your overall and/or science GPA, or maybe you weren't involved in community service, or merely forgot to include it on your application. As mentioned in the requirements, we highly suggest applicants obtain some experience in health care or research to be considered a competitive applicant. Did you obtain this experience and did you mention it in the application? If you interviewed you may want to review what questions were asked and compare them to your answers. Remember the interviewer is gauging your ability to do well in the program and in the profession by assessing your communication skills. You would be surprised at how much you can learn about the strengths and weaknesses of your application simply by looking at it from an admissions perspective. It's important to realize sometimes there isn't one obvious thing you can change to be admitted. Every case is different and every year the competition is different. Above all else, it is important to understand we receive applications from many highly qualified applicants each year and are only able to accept about 20 percent of that pool. If this is the path you are committed to then keep trying!

Does it matter that I'm older than your average applicant?

Definitely not. Students of all ages make unique contributions to the class. We encourage applications from qualified applicants, regardless of age.

Can I transfer into your Pharm.D program from another Pharm.D program?

Applicants interested in applying as a transfer student must complete a Transfer Student Application which is found on our website under "Prospective Students/Admissions/Transfer Admissions".

Can I transfer from your Pharm.D program to another institution?

The transferability of credits you earn at California Northstate University College of Pharmacy is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you seek to transfer. Acceptance of the degree and diploma you earn in the doctor of pharmacy program is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer.

What is CNUCOP's deadline to submit the two required letters of recommendation?

At least one of the two required letters of recommendation must be on file with PharmCAS for the Admissions Office to complete the review of your application. Both required letters must be received by June 1, 2016, which is also the extended deadline for both the PharmCAS and the Supplemental application. Contact COPadmissions@cnsu.edu to request an extension to submit your PharmCAS application to CNUCOP after March 1st.

Can I submit more than the required number of recommendation letters?

Yes. However, it is advisable to limit the number to four, since a total of three or four well-chosen recommendations will usually paint a clear picture of the candidate. Two letters of recommendation are required: (1) from a science course instructor and (1) preferably from a health care professional. If you have not worked with, volunteered for, or shadowed with a health care provider, we will accept a letter from an employer or supervisor. All letters of recommendation must be sent directly to PharmCAS.

What should I bring with me to the interview?

You should bring a valid photo ID and a pen.

What if I am late for my interview? What if I miss my interview?

If you fail to appear at your assigned interview day and time without any prior notification, your application will most likely be cancelled. Extenuating circumstances beyond your control will be

considered. If you know you will not be able to attend, please contact Admissions or the staff person who scheduled your interview immediately. Leave a message or email COPadmissions@cnsu.edu. This e-mail address is being protected from Spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

Can I contact the Admissions Office to find out if I have been accepted?

We notify every applicant, as soon as possible. Please do not call our office to check on your status. This hinders the process and delays notification for all applicants. Be patient and wait to hear from us.

How does the Admissions Committee decide which applicants will be offered seats?

The Admissions Committee will review all completed applications and select candidates who most closely fit our criteria to interview. After the interview is completed, the application and interview summary information will be reviewed and a determination made to admit, deny, or place the candidate on the wait list. Interviewed candidates will be notified of the admission decision by a faculty or staff member by phone, email, or regular mail. Applicants will be notified immediately, as Admission Committee decisions are released to the Admissions Office.

If I am offered acceptance, what paperwork and fees must I return to the Admissions Office to confirm my enrollment?

The accepted candidate is emailed the enrollment materials, which include the Student Enrollment Agreement, the School Performance Fact Sheet, the Enrollment Fee Deposit form, and the Media Consent form. The agreement and three forms must be completed and returned, along with the non-refundable \$250.00 enrollment fee deposit, within the time period designated by Admissions.

How much time does the accepted candidate have to confirm their enrollment with the required paperwork and non-refundable fee?

The time period to respond will be included in the "Acceptance Checklist Letter" which will be sent by email to accepted candidates.

Is the Enrollment Fee Deposit refundable, if I decide to cancel my enrollment prior to the start of classroom instruction?

No. The Enrollment Fee Deposit is non-refundable.

Will there be any other fees associated with my acceptance to your school that I will need to be responsible for before school starts?

The first tuition payment (Seat Commitment Fee) deadline occurs late June. The Seat Commitment Fee will be applied to your tuition as a credit. The Enrollment Fee Deposit submitted with your enrollment paperwork upon your acceptance is **not** applied to your tuition. The Student Enrollment Agreement includes the tuition payment deadlines and refund criteria.

What if I am accepted late in the cycle, after the Seat Commitment Fee deadline has already passed?

The candidate who is offered acceptance after the Student Enrollment Agreement deadline for submitting the Seat Commitment Fee has passed will be assigned a reasonable deadline for submitting both the Enrollment Fee Deposit and the Seat Commitment Fee together. The deadline will be based upon how close to the first day of classroom instruction the offer is made.

Do I need to request official transcripts be sent to your College, even though my transcripts were received by PharmCAS?

We will accept the electronic PharmCAS transcript, if the information on the verified transcript has not changed since it was verified by PharmCAS. If changes have occurred on the transcript since the transcript was verified by PharmCAS, you must order the transcript again. Your permanent admissions record must include final transcripts which contain all courses, grades, and degrees completed since you graduated from high school.

What is a degree conferral transcript?

A degree conferral transcript is an official transcript through the final term in which you enrolled that posts all of the following:

Grades for the final term

- * The degree you earned (BS, MS, etc.);
- * The major in which your degree was earned (e.g., Biological Sciences, Art History), and;
- * The date the degree was awarded.

A transcript that does not satisfy all of these is not a degree conferral transcript.

I graduated 3 months ago, but according to your office I do not have a degree. Why do you say this?

Our policies allow us to consider that a degree was earned only if the degree and the date it was awarded are posted on your transcript. The transcript you submitted probably shows only the grades for your last term, and may not show your degree conferral (see previous question). To resolve this problem, contact the registrar's office at the school you received your degree, to request a degree conferral transcript be sent to CNUCOP Admissions.

The registrar from my school gave me a statement that verifies I have completed all the requirements for my degree. Can I submit this statement instead of waiting for the degree conferral transcript to become available?

Yes. This will be accepted while the degree conferral is being processed. A degree conferral transcript must be requested and received by our institution, as soon as it becomes available. Completing the requirements for a degree and being awarded the degree are not the same thing. The only document we can accept as a final document is a degree conferral transcript. Even though we do not require a bachelor's degree, the degree conferral information must be included if a degree was earned.

I graduated this winter but my final grades and degree conferral information will not post to my transcript before your August deadline. What do I do?

Your degree may not be posted, but your final grades for winter, spring, and in some instances, summer term, must be available before the first day of new student orientation. As you complete courses winter, spring and early summer, email the Admissions Office an unofficial grade report from your college portal. Ask your school to send us a letter verifying the date your degree (after your final term) will post to your transcript. These are the only methods to extend the receipt of your conferring degree transcript and/or official transcript(s) with your final term grades.

Are you on a quarter or a semester system?

CNUCOP uses a Semester system.

How do spaces in the entering class become available?

Admitted applicants decline, usually for personal reasons; or, the offer is withdrawn due to admission requirements not being completed as required. Financial issues, personal issues, or medical issues sometimes prevent an applicant from accepting an offer. Every year some applicants are also administratively cancelled. This could be for failing a prerequisite, not completing all the prerequisites prior to the start of school, or not submitting documents or other verification materials required by CNUCOP.

How do I know if the college I am taking prerequisites at is a regionally accredited institution and will meet the equivalency for your prerequisite courses?

You can refer to <http://www.worldwidelearn.com/accreditation/accreditation-associations.htm>. This site provides a list of regionally accredited institutions. There are some short term certificate classes and programs (Example- 6 weeks) that do not meet our College's prerequisite requirement criteria, even though the school may be regionally accredited.

When is CNUCOP's new student orientation held for students matriculating Fall 2017?

Orientation for Fall Semester 2017 will be held Tuesday, August 15th through Friday, August 18th, 2017.

When does CNUCOP's Fall 2017 semester begin?

Classroom instruction will begin Monday, August 21st, 2017.

What are the laptop requirements upon matriculation into your pharmacy program?

Students are responsible for providing their own laptop. Our Information Technology Department will provide them with the recommended laptop specifications prior to matriculation.

Experiential Education Questions**Where and when will I complete my pharmacy practice experience?**

Pharmacy Practice experiences will begin the first term of the second academic year. During the second and third years of study, students will complete their introductory pharmacy practice experience (IPPEs) in the area community, institutional health settings concurrent with didactic (classroom) coursework. IPPE rotations are spread throughout the Greater Sacramento and surrounding areas. Unless requested by the student, reasonable efforts are made to place students within 70 miles of campus.

Advanced Pharmacy Practice experiences (APPEs) are primarily direct patient care experiences built on the introductory experiences and classroom instruction. APPE rotations are completed throughout the fourth year. APPE rotations are regionalized in various geographic areas throughout California and Nevada. Unless requested by the student, reasonable efforts are made to place student rotations within a 70 mile radius within their assigned region.

How do I get to my pharmacy practice experiences?

Each student is expected to have access to a car or other reliable transportation, in order to facilitate their experiential learning in a variety of practice sites off campus. Failure to provide independent, reliable transportation may lead to failure of the IPPE or APPE rotation and may further lead to a delay in graduation or dismissal from the program. Students should not depend solely on public transportation or shared transportation as these methods may not be suitable for many practice sites. All transportation expenses are the student's responsibility.