

## 1. UOP Pharmacy Selection Criteria 3/07

2. Pacific places emphasis on the following selection criteria:
  1. **GPA** \* A student should have at least a 3.0 with a Bachelor's Degree to be considered competitive. Students applying from junior colleges should have a 3.7 or above. Heavy course loads of 16 or more units per term are favored. Students who have weaker loads, are below the suggested GPA or who have an inconsistent/downward grade trend should strengthen their academic profile by enrolling in at least two years (4 semesters/6 quarters) of heavy science course loads (16 units or more) with grades of all A\*s and B\*s. The committee will want to see this as demonstration you can handle an accelerated curriculum of strictly science courses. Anything you can do to show the committee success in this area will make you stronger academically.
  2. **Extra Curricular Activities**- Demonstrate through your activities that you are committed to being a pharmacist. Extracurricular activities should reflect your interest in health care and show human service aspects of your personality. You should also look for activities that show interests in other areas outside of healthcare and the sciences. The committee will consider you a more well rounded candidate, making you stand out among other applicants. You may feel as if everyone does extra curricular so this won\*t really make you stand out. It\*s really all the more reason to be sure you have plenty of this on your resume so you will not stand out as having less. We also suggest picking one area that you really like and spending more time there to stand out. If you love compounding pharmacy, put in more than the one-year minimum. If you love community pharmacy, become a pharmacy technician and work behind the counter rather than volunteer. If you have a passion for music or theater, do all that you can in that area to show commitment and social involvement.
  3. **Leadership Demonstration**- Your resume should reflect at least one position within the past three years. Multiple officer positions will make you stand out in the pack. Get involved in groups, clubs, and/or organizations on your campus. Be the founding member of a club in an area you have a great interest in. Run for president of your student body or health professions club.
  4. **Pharmacy Experience \* A must!** Pacific won't seriously consider you a strong candidate if you have never been in a pharmacy setting. You should have at least one year in some sort of pharmacy capacity. This will allow you to work side by side with a licensed pharmacist and learn about the profession with hands on training. Many students are earning a technicians license; however, we also consider volunteer or other pharmacy related positions (cashier, clerk, ancillary) as appropriate experience.
  5. **Communication Skills** \* Be sure to polish writing and oral address skills. Enroll in additional composition courses and join the Toastmasters International Chapter in your area. You want to stand out at the interview by supplying an excellent on- the -spot writing sample and also in the ratings that you receive in your oral interview.
  6. **Recommendation Letters** \* This is a very important aspect of the review process and students should select recommenders who will be willing to write strong detailed letters on their behalf. Letters should enhance what we already know about you from your transcripts, resume, and application.
  7. **Always apply early** no matter what situation you are in. Pacific encourages students to meet the first tier deadline of August 1. This ensures there is plenty of time for the processing of the paperwork in your file and you will have time to respond to us if we find there is something missing. Students who apply during first tier enhance their chances of being offered an interview. Enrolling in the first semester of organic chemistry in the fall prior to entering may be a disadvantage as fall grades will be required. This should not discourage a student from applying early and there is a chance you may still be considered for an interview if you are strong in all other areas as well.

If a student is interested in discussing ways to strengthen, they are encouraged to schedule an appointment with me after the review cycle in mid-April. I am always happy to schedule phone appointments as well. If counselors would like to schedule a conference call from their office, they are welcome to be a part of the discussion.

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